

Next issue:
Oct. 8-9

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044

Southtown Developers Get “Final Designation”



Model shown by developers at an April meeting looks south, toward Queensboro Bridge, from existing Northtown buildings. The first building to be built is the one nearest the camera, shown darkened in the diagram below, which shows it repositioned slightly, at an angle.

RIOC Board Gives Unanimous Go-Ahead; Site Work Is Likely to Start Within Months

Here comes Southtown. The Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation voted unanimously Wednesday morning to give “final designation” status to The Related Companies and the Hudson Companies as joint developers of the area from just north of the Tram station to just south of Rivercross. Though some items remain matters of negotiation between the developers and RIOC, and some design specifics are to be considered by the RIOC Board’s Capital Planning and Development Committee, construction is expected to begin soon – possibly before year’s end.

Hudson/Related has a tenant for the first building – employees of a thus-far-unnamed “major eastside medical institution.” The RIOC Board resolution authorizes expenditure of \$4.56 million on infrastructure – extension of utilities, the AVAC refuse removal system, roads, and a soccer field – but limits the pay-out to \$725,000 for engineering work until after RIOC has received reimbursement from the City for “certain seawall costs” associated with the construction of City Water Tunnel #3. That \$3 million payment is expected within 6-8 weeks, according to RIOC President Robert

Ryan. Overall, \$1.16 million in RIOC funds are to be added to the seawall reimbursement to cover infrastructure costs. The Board resolution authorizes higher infrastructure expenditures, but only if the funds become available from private sources. The RIOC vote approved “the Plan and Project for approximately 2000 units submitted to the Board dated April 20, 1999” (site plot, this page), which appears to lock in the locations and heights of the buildings, subject to future reconsideration. It appears unlikely, in particular, that the footprint of the first building will be changed, though Rivercross resident and attorney Robert Chira appeared at the Wednesday Board meeting to object that the structure would “erect a great wall” across Main Street just south of the turnaround where the existing Main Street splits. “Existing residents walking to the subway or Tramway will face a 16-story wall separating their part of the community from Southtown,” Chira said. Although Chira had to leave the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Steven Hicks of the State Department of Housing and Community Renewal, who chaired it, later responded by pointing out that no objection had been heard to the placement of the building in several community meetings held over the last two years, before calling for the vote that approved final designation status. The Board resolution provides that Southtown “shall maintain some form of mixed market rate affordable housing substantially consistent with the General Development Plan (GDP) as amended on See Southtown, page 7

Grannis Coming to Strategize on Self-Governance; RIRA Legal Group to Hold a Fund-Raising Meeting

Law Firm Hired to Fight Southpoint

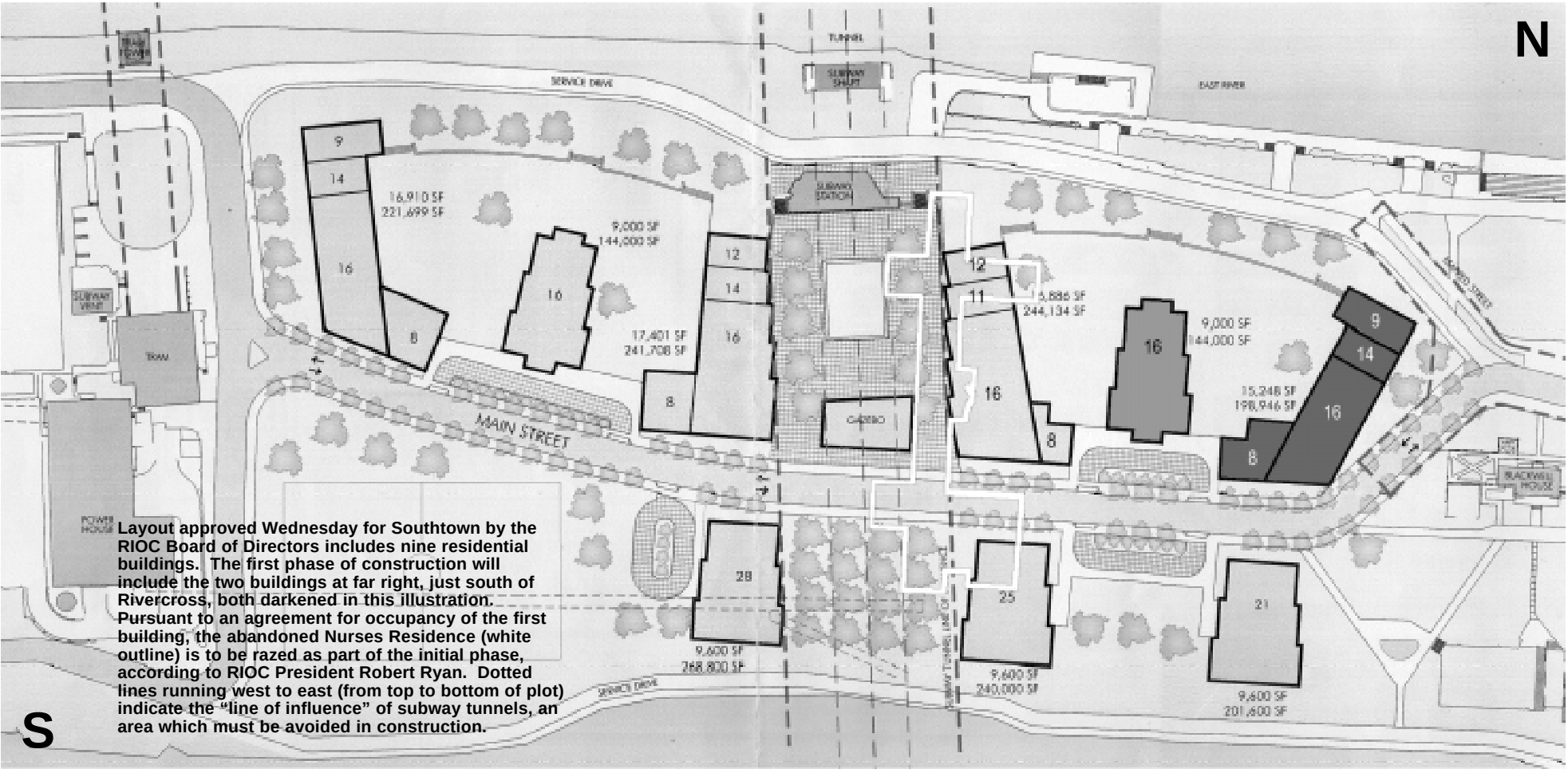
The Legal Action Fund Committee formed by the Residents Association (RIRA) has hired a law firm to lead its fight against twin-tower hotels at Southpoint and advise on other development. The committee has scheduled a community meeting to discuss the fight and raise funds, for Wednesday (Sept. 29), at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. “By retaining DeForest & Duer, the residents of Roosevelt Island will now have an expert legal voice in all development of our Island,” said Joan Christianson on Thursday. She chairs the legal committee. “We now need all residents to financially support this positive step forward,” she said.

The Southpoint battle stems from a proposal, originated during the RIOC Presidency of Jerome Blue, to allow commercial development on the ten acres of designated open space at the Island’s southern tip. The current RIOC President, Robert Ryan, commented on the potential legal action, “An RFP process is taking place. In fairness to all – the developers, the community, and every other stakeholder on Roosevelt Island – we have to work through the process to insure that it is legal, just and fair to all concerned.” Posters announcing the Wednesday night meeting ask, “Bring your checkbooks.” The committee has about \$9,000 on hand, and another \$10,000 pledged, but anticipates a need for a much larger war chest.

MTG Seeks New Formula for a Law

Assemblymember Pete Grannis will meet Tuesday, October 5, with the Maple Tree Group (MTG) to strategize on self-governance for Roosevelt Island. The session at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Tuesday, October 5, at 7:30 p.m., is open to all residents. Grannis introduced a bill drafted by MTG in the last legislative session, and Senator Olga Mendez signed on to the lawmaking effort, but the bill foundered when changes imposed by the Governor’s office proved unacceptable to Grannis. The MTG effort had been endorsed twice by the RIRA Common Council after residents voted, 92% to 8%, to pursue

self-governance in an advisory question on the November, 1998, RIRA election ballot. Grannis’s concerns over changes imposed on the legislation by the Governor’s office centered on financial security for the Island, paralleling reservations expressed by RIRA President Patrick Stewart, who had abstained in February when the Common Council endorsed the MTG/Grannis bill. Stewart later mounted an effort to scuttle the bill when some fiscal safeguards were stripped from the bill under consideration. Stewart discusses his opposition in this issue of *The WIRE*, in the RIRA President’s column, page 3. MTG next meets Monday night (Sept. 27) at 7:30, at the Chapel. Its sessions are open to the public.



Southtown’s New Balance of Power

Southtown’s developers have a green light. Having reached the “final designation” stage, they now effectively “own” everything between the Tram station and Blackwell House for development purposes. In measurable ways, the balance of power in determining Southtown’s future has shifted to Hudson/Related, who now will have the upper hand in setting the pace of things, proposing specifics, and responding to expressions of the community’s needs.

RIOC President Robert Ryan has vowed that residents will have substantial and continuing input as Southtown development goes forward – a reassuring stance, but a determination that is bound to be tested repeatedly over the years of construction that are ahead.

That’s because so much remains to be fleshed out. Residents Association President Patrick Stewart, speaking at the May meeting of the RIRA Common Council, produced a list of questions he felt needed to be answered before he’d be comfortable endorsing the go-ahead Hudson/Related got this week. Community “give-backs” were one category. How construction traffic would be handled was another. Public facilities and stores were two others. It’s a tribute to the comfort level Ryan brings to the process that Wednesday’s vote was taken without Stewart raising those matters again.

Ryan’s presence has effectively broken a log-jam that his predecessor created by avoiding serious community input. The test Ryan, Stewart and all of us will face as Southtown is built is one of keeping Roosevelt Island liveable, both during construction and in the future.

Self-Governance, Continued

Pete Grannis is coming to the Island a week from Tuesday to pursue further steps in a process that began July 7, 1997, when a group of concerned Island residents started working on Roosevelt Island’s future beyond Jerome Blue. They took the name Maple Tree Group, and their work under convener David Bauer led to RIRA putting self-governance on the November ’98 ballot, and a 92% endorsement of the idea by residents. That was followed by multiple decisive votes by the RIRA Common Council, endorsing the effort.

But Grannis had warned residents in one of a series of open meetings that it wouldn’t be easy. That wasn’t news, but the sweet and seductive smell of a near success in the last legislative session meant genuine disappointment for those who had worked so hard on the process for so long.

But nobody’s giving up, least of all Grannis or the members of MTG, many of whom are also members of the RIRA Council. And the meeting October 5 is an important new beginning in finding the formula that will work in Albany, where Assembly Democrats are so often at odds with Senate Republicans and the Governor.

Whatever the missteps and disappointments of the past, a fresh start is a welcome opportunity to get it right in every reasonable way. You can be part of the process, or just monitor it, by coming to that MTG forum: The Chapel, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 5.

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Letters

To the Editor:

Wouldn’t it be terrible if we were all wrong? We’ve convinced ourselves that we need Southtown and, probably, the “we” who occupy the Island today do need it. If a different “we” lived here, the need for Southtown and any other additional sources of revenue would go away. That, of course, would require that all the buildings be converted to co-ops or condos, offered at market rates, reduced in number because many of the apartments would be combined into larger ones, etc., etc.

Nobody has the stomach to explore that very far, so let’s not pursue it, but it does remain an alternative. Let’s instead pursue the idea that Southtown is just around the corner. The mentality that says we need Southtown breeds a mentality that says we need all kinds of supposedly revenue-producing construction like the school-to-condo conversion, Southtown itself, Southpoint, the eldercare facility and just about anything else

that people can build putting one brick upon another.

There are, though, some other things to consider. We know for instance, that whenever the government is involved, three conditions always prevail:

- Nothing ever costs what it’s supposed to cost; it always costs more.
- Nothing ever produces the revenue it’s supposed to produce; it always produces less.
- Nothing is done in the timeframe that’s initially specified; it always takes longer.

Given that, it’s highly likely that almost everything that’s on the drawing board for Roosevelt Island will be disruptive in a major way, take longer than it’s forecasted to take and, in the end, will leave us with a significant operating deficit. Wouldn’t it be terrible if all the annoyance, aggravation and permanent disruption that this construction will bring would change the Island in a negative way forever and

yet still leave us dependent upon governmental sources of income to survive?

I wonder if anybody independent has really done the arithmetic to look at this thing. With seven to ten years of continual construction ahead, doesn’t it make sense to have someone who has no ax to grind look at the numbers, apply the government involvement factors above and tell us whether or not the tremendously disruptive and character-changing effort that’s about to start on the Island will make things really any better financially than they are now?

If the independent answer is yes, then I guess grudgingly I have to agree to proceed. But, my feeling is, knowing how government projects usually work out, that we’ll destroy the Island forever and still have to show up in Albany with a tin cup asking for a donation. I think that would redefine the word tragic. What do you think?

Name Withheld By Request

To the Editor:

It is hard for me to see why my opposition as expressed in *The WIRE* to the amendments to the Grannis Roosevelt Island legislation last summer has created such a fuss as to take up a full page of the last issue. But as the fellow who was being ridden out of town on a pole observed, “If it weren’t for the honor of the thing, I’d just as soon walk.” MTG leaders wandered into the usual closing days of a legislative session when bills are introduced, scrapped and amended by phone call, trading and sham. In the process they gave away the store without knowing it. The State simply dumped its responsibilities on a new RIOC with a majority elected by the residents. This was not self-governance but more nearly secession. Of course, I opposed it.

After the legislature went home David Bauer wrote me a letter suggesting that my position derived from my feeling “excluded” from MTG meetings. He then gave me a written invitation to its next session. Below is my response. Why all these letters suddenly appeared in *The WIRE* is baffling. I expected to hear from him.

Dear David:

Thanks for your note of the 27th and the invitation to attend your Monday evening meeting.

Where in the world did you get the idea that I felt “excluded from MTG discussions”? I never have and hence there is no need “to correct that.” Thanks to *The WIRE* I know more about its activity than I do about RIRA. I wish there were more such discussion groups but I have always devoted my civic time to the fully elected body on the Island (RIRA).

My problem with MTG is not with what it purports to be, “a public discussion about things important to all Roosevelt Island residents,” but when MTG moved into a legislative phase presumably speaking on behalf of all of us. It claims that the 92% who favored “self-governance” in the election invested the MTG with the authority to act for everyone. That is sheer arrogance. MTG was nowhere mentioned on the ballot. Since the central purpose of the vote was to elect RIRA officers, it was logical to assume that the new board would be the lead agency in RIOC reform. When MTG started to deal with Albany with its own bill it was obvious that its leaders were in over their heads. They allowed the State to shed any responsibility for the Island. One by one they allowed the State to pass financial liability over to the residents when it was manifestly clear that they could not bear it.

To the Editor:

On Sunday, Sept. 12, about 4:15 p.m., I received an e-mail alert from a fellow resident about the imminent malathion spraying of Roosevelt Island. Going down-Island on an errand, I saw no notices of the spraying from RIOC or Public Safety on any kiosks, so I went to Public Safety. Officer Yee admitted that Public Safety had no knowledge of the spraying apart from a printed notice provided by a resident. He informed me that he was trying to call the 114th Precinct to verify the info, but said no one was answering.

Along with another resident, I implored Yee and a woman officer to have officers on duty let residents know about the spraying and to remind them to go inside.

Arriving home about 35 minutes later, I saw the first fly-by of the spraying helicopter from our Manhattan Park balcony. I called Public Safety, and Officer Yee told me he was then calling his supervisor! Officer Yee seemed to have no sense

of urgency or sense that he should act on what was now obvious.

RIRA President Patrick Stewart told me later that he had gone over to Public Safety in the morning to tell them about the spraying. Even with this early reminder they felt no need to act simply, quickly and decisively.

For our Public Safety and RIOC offices not to be aware of events such as those that directly impinge upon all our health and well-being gives me pause. At 4:00 p.m., Public Safety was still trying to find out about this event.

This incident gives further proof that there is, without a doubt, a major communications problem. Public Safety has no television set to check emergency news, no radio to the outside world, and no

computer to access the Web for news that would verify what residents tell them. They had no communication from RIOC or Chief Frye regarding this situation, no authorization to make simple decisions, and no person of authority in command in the office authorized to take an active, responsible role and make immediate decisions.

If the problem with Public Safety’s response to a simple event such as this spraying is due to lack of communication, then what exactly is our need of them? And if RIOC can’t/won’t get the equipment to help them run more knowledgeably and in a more up-to-date and hands-on fashion, then what exactly is our need of RIOC?

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 addressed to *The WIRE*; by e-mail to **nyc10044@rcn.com**; 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 are subject to editing for length and clarity.**

Assemblymember Pete Grannis is coming to Roosevelt Island to talk about self-governance, and that's a very good thing. He'll be here on Tuesday, October 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. You've heard a lot about self-governance over the summer... probably more than you wanted to hear. Certainly *The WIRE* has been full of it, for, as you know, Dick Lutz is an ardent member and supporter of the Maple Tree Group. And I have certainly made it clear as I could in this column that I am opposed to the legislation that the Maple Tree Group wants to accept, as I am disappointed in the manner in which Maple Tree has proceeded.

On behalf of the residents, all 8,500 of us, I take grave exception to a self-appointed group of ten or fifteen people deciding on their own that they somehow have the right to make fundamental decisions for the 8,485 of the rest of us.

The ballot question on self-governance was proposed by RIRA in a RIRA election and was specific to the legislation as originally submitted by Grannis, which was perfectly sound. When the legislation began to be drastically changed by the Governor's office removing financial safeguards, the Maple

Tree Group specifically chose to withhold that information from RIRA and the Common Council. When they were caught at it, and forced to discuss it with the Common Council, the Council continued to support it on the basis of the Maple Tree Group's assurances that certain deletions

did not matter because of other safeguard clauses that did remain in the bill.

The following morning, those very same protective clauses were themselves stripped from the bill by the Governor's office. The Maple Tree Group did not return to the Common Council with that critical information, but instead pressed on for its passage, adamant in their conceit that they themselves somehow had a "mandate" from the residents and that further approval from the Council was not necessary. They have done everything they could to get this bill passed, no matter how flawed it became.

At this point no one outside the small membership of the Maple Tree Group supports this bill. In the first place, the Assembly Committee on Corporations, Commissions and Authorities will not release the bill from committee because in its current form they judge it to be dangerous to the community. Pete Grannis, who has refused to support it in its current form, has made every effort to explain the financial repercussions to the Maple Tree Group, but they refuse to accept it. Olga Mendez, who originally sponsored the bill in the Senate, no longer supports it.



Patrick Stewart

Now Assemblymember Grannis is coming here to explain to the community exactly why he has withdrawn support from this revised legislation, and why any self-governance legislation must be based on sound fiscal principals, and what those principals should be as regards Roosevelt Island.

My entire term in office has been based upon the demand that the residents' voice be heard and followed in our local affairs because I believe so strongly in our right to self-governance. But governance, whether self or otherwise, must first be responsible governance. I believe we should listen carefully to Pete's advice on how to make full self-governance a reality, and I ask you to come to this important meeting and hear the facts from Assemblymember Grannis himself.

This coming week there will be another important meeting for the community. Next Wednesday, the 29th of September at 7:00 p.m., the RIRA Legal Committee will hold a community meeting, also in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, to explain to the residents what the Legal Committee has done, what it plans to do now, why it will be doing it and how it will be doing it.

We very much need your support. As we have said before, the people who are contributing money to this essential fund have the right to know how and why this money is being used.

There is good news on the development front. The Capital Planning Committee of the RIOC Board has formally voted "No" on the issue of the mini-schools, and is issuing a formal negative recommendation to the RIOC Board itself. At this week's RIOC Board meeting, held this past Wednesday, the Board voted to approve formal designation of the Hudson and Related Companies as developers of Southtown. This formal designation allows Hudson and Related to obtain funding for this development, but it in no way signals the end of community input on this matter, In fact, if anything, we will move now to greater involvement in shaping both the final development itself, and the actual construction.

In closing, I want to offer my condolences to the family of Jessie Rademaker. Jessie devoted much of her adult life in dedication to the public causes she served. Few among us can be said to have given as much time and energy to political action as she has. She has been a force in this community for more than twenty years, and the community will not be the same without her. At least, as a legacy, Jessie has left us her daughter, Jessica, who already can be seen contributing exemplary public service in this same tradition.

Volunteer for *The WIRE*

The Main Street WIRE relies on many Island volunteers to fill important jobs in the distribution process, and there's a role for **you** if you're willing to help. On Fridays, when *The WIRE* comes off the press, we have a stuffing crew at work from about 9:00 a.m. to about 2:45 p.m. (lunch is provided). Later on Fridays (and early Saturday), volunteers deliver the newspaper to every apartment door on the Island, as well as to merchants, the hospitals, and other locations. It's hard work, but an important service to the community, and satisfying. If you'd like to join this dedicated group, please call **935-6043**, or 935-7534, or 826-9055. (Leave your number if a machine answers, and we'll call you back.) ***The WIRE* and Website NYC10044 also seek news and feature writers. Call 826-9055.**

Jessie Rademaker

Jessie Rademaker, a longtime Island resident and activist, died Saturday, September 18, reportedly during a medical procedure. She will be interred today (Saturday, September 25) in North Carolina (Walter Sanders Funeral Home, 302 South Bright Leaf Blvd., Smithfield, NC 27577). She is survived by her husband, Edward, and her daughter Jessica, who will reside at 560 Main Street #1028 after today. Family notices posted on Main Street ask "your prayers in memory of the passing of a neighborhood angel."



Isabel Adelson

Isabel Adelson, a nine-year resident of Roosevelt Island, died Sunday (September 19). She is survived by her daughters, Susan Sinisi and Gail Steiner, granddaughter **Domenica Sinisi**, sister Adelle Vincent, and Patric the cat. Isabel enjoyed being active in community concerns, such as Island safety, and daily interaction with other residents. Her charisma, charm, and enthusiasm will be greatly missed by her family and friends.



COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friedland – phone/fax 317-8523

Sat., Sept. 25, Exhibition, **Photographs by Margery Rubin**, *Houses of Worship in Great Britain and Ireland*, Quaker House, 247 East 48th Street. Opening Reception, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Exhibition (by appointment, **682-2747**) continues through Oct. 29.

Mon., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m., **Maple Tree Group** open meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Mon., Sept. 27, 8:00 p.m., **Roosevelt Island Toastmasters.** Information: **687-4010**.

Wed., Sept. 29, 7:45 p.m., **Roosevelt Island Photographic Society** meeting, Eastwood Community Room, 536 Main Street. Information: **752-5034**.

Thur., Sept. 30, 7:00-9:00 p.m., **Public Safety Fire Safety Meeting**, Senior Center, 546 Main Street.

Thur., Sept. 30, 7:30-9:00 p.m., **Roosevelt Island Greens Teach-In**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, lower community room. Q&A on goals, principles and history of the Green Party.

Oct. 1-Nov. 1, Rivercross Main Street window gallery, **Photo Exhibit**, *Photographs of Posted Bills of New York City* by Niguel Long.

Fri., Oct. 1 (and **Sat., Oct. 2**), 8:00 p.m., **Main Street Theatre Fundraiser**, Anita Michael performs her cabaret act, *A Hairdresser Looks at Her Roots*. Suggested donation \$15 or more. Information, **371-4449**.

Tue., Oct. 5, lecture, ***Writing Fiction That Sells***, part 2, 6:30 p.m., Library.

Tue., Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m., **Assemblymember Pete Grannis, Maple Tree Group** public meeting on **Self-Governance**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Wed., Oct. 6, 8:00 p.m., **RIRA Common Council meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Sat., Oct. 9, 10:00 a.m., **Fall Tree Walk** sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Tree Board, leaving from Main Street in front of PS/IS 217.

Sat., Oct. 9, next scheduled issue of ***The Main Street WIRE***. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Oct. 1; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Oct. 4; bag materials due Oct. 7. **Future issues:** Oct. 23 (Halloween issue), Nov. 6, Nov. 20 (Thanksgiving issue), Dec. 4, Dec. 18 (Christmas/New Year issue); Jan. 8, 2000, Jan. 22, 2000, and generally every two weeks thereafter. 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**.

Thur., Oct. 14, 11:00 a.m., **RIOC Board of Directors meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Tue., Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m., **Book Discussion Group**, ***Black and Blue*** by Anna Quindlen, Library. Meets third Tuesday of each month; admission free but pre-registration suggested.

Wed., Oct. 20, 7:45 p.m., **Roosevelt Island Photographic Society** meeting, Eastwood Community Room, 536 Main Street. Information: **752-5034**.

Tue., Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m., **Book Discussion Group**, ***The Sun Also Rises*** by Ernest Hemingway, Library. Meets third Tuesday of each month; admission free but pre-registration suggested.

Tue., Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m., **Book Discussion Group**, ***The Stranger*** by Albert Camus, Library. Meets third Tuesday of each month; admission free but pre-registration suggested.

Wed., Nov. 17, 7:45 p.m., **Roosevelt Island Photographic Society** meeting, Eastwood Community Room, 536 Main Street. Night photography. Information: **752-5034**.

Wed., Dec. 15, 7:45 p.m., **Roosevelt Island Photographic Society** meeting. Field trip, shooting holiday lights at night. Information: **752-5034**.

At the Senior Center

Monday

9:00-10:00, **Stay Well** (Exercise)

10:00-12:00, **Computer Class**

10:00-11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beg)

11:00-12:00, **English as 2nd** (intermediate)

12:30, **Arts & Crafts**

Tuesday

9:45, **Jazzercise with Barbara Parker**

1:30, **Bingo**

Wednesday

9:00-10:00, **Stay Well** (Stretch)

10:00-11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beg)

11:00-12:00, **English as 2nd** (intermediate)

12:30, **Arts & Crafts** (RIDA)

1:30, **Games**

Thursday

10:00-11:00, **Tai Chi**

12:30, **Movie**

7:00, **Korean/English class**

Friday

10:00-11:00, **Citizenship Class**

10:00-12:00, **Creative Arts Workshop**

10:30, **Blood Pressure Screening**

Saturday

7:30, **Bingo**

Special Events

Call in advance for details: 980-1888

Fri., Sept. 24, 7:00 p.m., **Birthday Party**

Sun., Sept. 26, 1:00 p.m., **Champagne Brunch**

Mon., Sept. 27, 11:00-12:30, **Metrocard Bus**

Mon., Sept. 27, 12:30-2:30, **Health Fair**

Mon., Sept. 27, 9:30-2:30, **Free Flu Shots**

Thur., Sept. 30, 7:00, **Public Safety Meeting**

Sat., Oct. 2, **RISA Atlantic City Trip**

Tue., Oct. 5, 10:30, **Nutrition/Arthritis Talk**

Fri., Oct. 8, 10:00, **Trip to United Nations**

Tue., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m., **General Meeting**

Fri., Oct. 15, **Daily Double Luncheon at Belmont Race Track**

Wed., Oct. 20, **RISA Atlantic City Trip**

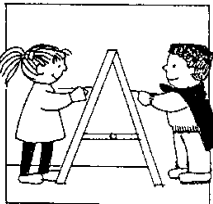
Sat., Oct. 30, 7:00 p.m., **Halloween Party**

Wed., Nov. 3, 9:30-2:30, **Free Flu Shots**

It's time to register for September 1999

Roosevelt Island Day Nursery

Part-time and full-time programs
for children ages 2.6 through 5 years



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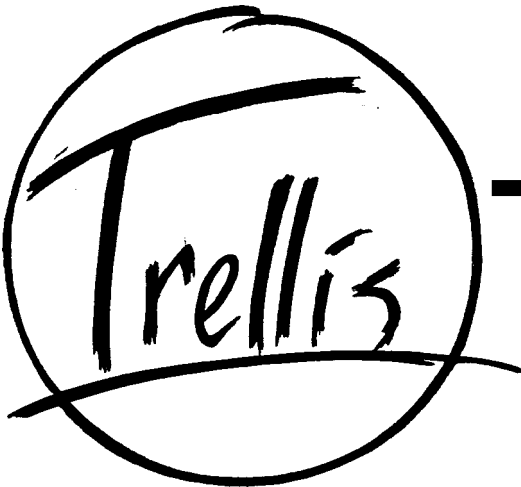
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Accounts Welcome
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...even as the seasons change... While the weather holds, Trellis still has music on the menu Friday and Saturday nights, outdoors. Our sliding windows mean you can enjoy it from inside, too. Come enjoy good sound, good food, good friends – at Trellis.

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Monday-Friday 12-7:30
Saturday 10-7:30

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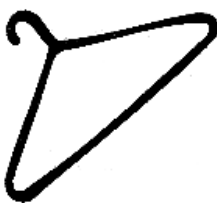
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Roosevelt Island Photographic Society

First meeting this new year: Wed., Sept. 29, 7:45 p.m., 536 Main Street, Eastwood Community Room. Bring enlarged pictures for critique and possible display in window on Main Street and **Learn a magic technique!** (Bring b/w FB photos if possible). **Oct. 20**, Portrait photography-shoot in studio - Bring camera and film. **Nov. 17**, Learn about night photography. **Dec. 15**, Field trip. Shooting holiday lights at night. For information, call Ghila at **752-5034**.

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Recent Fires Raise the Question: Can You Afford Not to Be Insured?

by Anusha Shrivastava

In the past few weeks, earthquakes have rattled parts of the earth, hurricanes have hit parts of the country and fires have destroyed some apartments on the Island. None of this has sent people scampering to get insurance coverage. “Ninety-five percent of people on the Island don’t have apartment insurance policies,” says Seymour Williams, the President of Accountable Financial Management Corporation, a small outfit on Main Street which offers various financial services including home insurance.

“The primary reason for this is that most people don’t know they need to buy insurance. They believe that management is responsible in some way,” says Williams. A careful reading of the apartment lease might dispense with such fallacies. In one apartment lease in Manhattan Park, for instance, the lease reads, “If the fire or other casualty is caused by you or your guests’ act of neglect, all repairs will be made at your expense and you must pay the full rent with no adjustment.” Further, it reads, “To the extent that such insurance is collected, you and the owner release and waive all right of recovery against the other or anyone claiming through or under each by way of subrogation.”

“People are often penny wise and pound foolish,” says Williams. “They will spend more on getting a premium channel on cable than on insurance. Immediate gratification and possessing things is more important than spending on something that may prove good only in an emergency. My advice is that the first step in building a financial plan is protecting what you have.”

An informal survey indicated that Williams is, indeed, right. “Except for some artwork and my two computers, I have nothing that I need to insure,” said Kitty Madeson, a writer who lives in 546 Main Street, justifying her decision not to buy insurance coverage. “I have given all my valuables away.” Another resident said, “I haven’t thought about insurance at all. It never comes up in conversations so I don’t really know if any of my friends has it either.” One Manhat-

tan Park resident who did not want to give her name said that insurance was not a priority for her family. “Where we live, I think the building is quite fire-proof. I’m not sure about this, but I think that, if we caused the fire, insurance would not cover us anyway.”

A homeowners insurance policy is divided into two parts – one that covers property losses and another that covers liability. Property-loss coverage includes losses to the dwelling, other structures on the premises of the dwelling like a garage, personal property and loss of use, which includes expenses incurred while the dwelling is uninhabitable due to damage caused by a covered peril. The liability insurance covers comprehensive liability and medical payments to others, claim expenses and damage to property of others.

For apartment dwellers, not all of this is relevant. For them, basic coverage is applicable. It includes ten perils – namely, fire and lightning, windstorm and hail, explosion, riot and civil commotion, vehicles, aircraft, smoke, vandalism and malicious mischief, breakage of glass and theft; and broad-form coverage which includes basic coverage and seven additional perils – falling objects, weight of ice, snow or sleet, collapse of buildings, accidental discharge or overflow of water or steam, explosion of steam or hot water systems, freezing of plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems and domestic appliances and damage from artificially generated electrical currents.

The average cost of getting such insurance is as low as \$300 a year. “If one possesses rare artwork, expensive musical in-

struments like pianos or fur, these items are listed separately and the cost of insurance may go up a bit. Fiscal prudence should motivate people to buy policies,” observes Williams.

The contact numbers for Accountable Financial Management Corporation are (212) **644-8231** and **718-361-9086**. The internet can be used to get quotes on insurance policies, as well. GoInsurance.com provides free insurance quotes through independent licensed agents serving the area.

Another Fire

Rainey Rolfe, a 13-year resident of Roosevelt Island, was burned out on Monday. Her studio apartment on the first floor of Westview was gutted. “I have absolutely no idea how it started,” she told *The WIRE*. “I was asleep. The alarm went off at 4:30. I went to the loo. When I came out, it was an inferno already.”

Rolfe was uninsured.

Firemen came immediately, and other apartments were spared in Rolfe’s fire. But in a fire less than a month ago in Eastwood, some 40 apartments suffered water damage as firefighters battled a blaze on the 7th floor of 560 Main Street.

Fire Safety Meeting

Public Safety is having a meeting on fire safety, open to all residents, on Thursday (September 30) at the Senior Center, 7:00 p.m. FDNY will make a presentation. In addition, the new Chief of Queensboro North NYPD will be introduced.

Next Weekend

Michael’s Cabaret Act As MST Fundraiser



Cabaret performer and Island resident Anita Michael will present her cabaret act, *A Hairdresser Looks at Her Roots*, Friday and Saturday, October 1 and 2, in a fund-raising benefit for The Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance. Suggested donation for tickets is \$15.

Reservations are required: **371-4449**.

Michael describes her act as “the sum total of 25 years of perusing and musings as a hairdresser” – and says the rest is a surprise for the audience.

MST&DA provides classes in dance, movement, and the theatre arts for Island residents.

Minicondos Get Thumbs Down from Development Advisory Panel

Addition of a second floor to the Island’s west shore mini-schools was voted down in a meeting of the RIOC Board’s Capital Planning and Development advisory committee Tuesday, September 14. The committee serves in an advisory capacity, with final decisions made by the RIOC Board.

While the vote was an informal “sense of the committee” taken by its chair, Frank Angelino, he indicated he felt he could report the committee’s determination to the RIOC Board based on the sentiments expressed. While most members of the committee based their votes on the prospect of adding a second story to the buildings, several said that if that concern were cleared up, they would have other concerns that would need to be addressed.

The vote was not reported to the RIOC Board at its meeting Wednesday.

School Seeking Tutors

PS/IS217 is seeking volunteer tutors for its Learning Leaders Program to work one-on-one with children to improve reading, writing, math, or English skills. The school has scheduled three two-hour training sessions for volunteers, Thursdays, October 21, 28, and November 4. All three sessions are required.

School volunteers work individually with students, and help in the library, office, and cafeteria. On-site support is provided.

To register for the training sessions, residents may call the school guidance counselor, Susan Cohen, at 980-0294, ext. 2422.

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VOLUNTEER BOOKKEEPER – Roosevelt Island Residents Association seeks community-minded individual to donate less than 5 hours a month keeping our books and presenting Treasurer’s report to the Common Council at our monthly meetings. Qualified and interested applicants please call 212-**753-2952**

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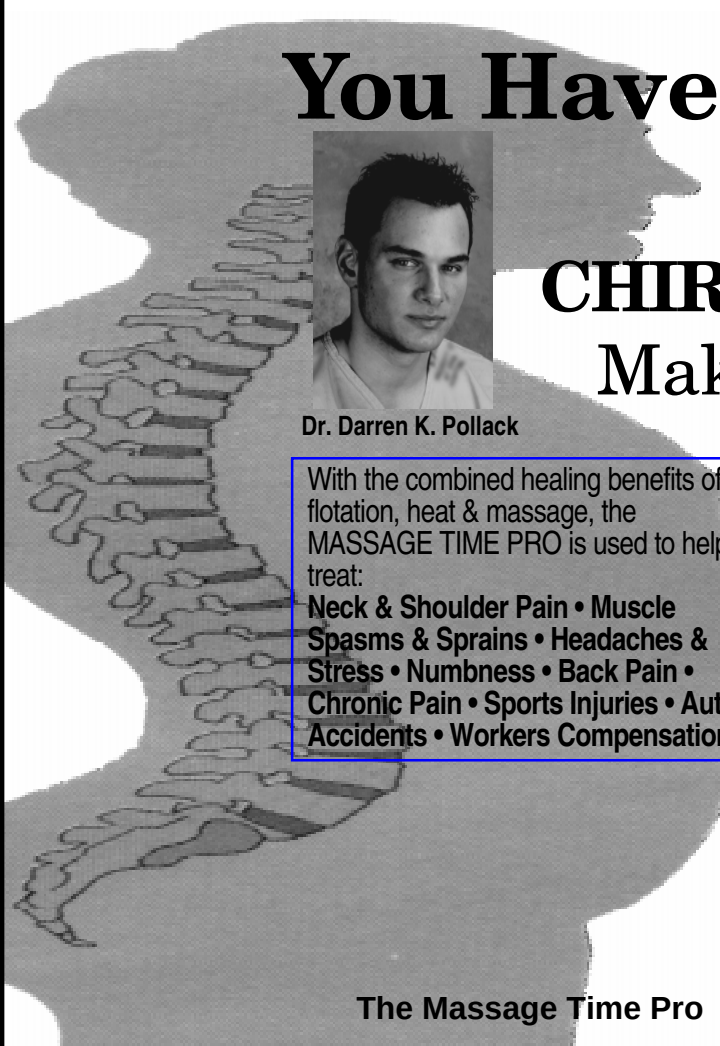
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Southtown from page 1

May 10, 1990.” This appears to provide for “affordable” housing in some form. At the Board meeting, Tony Morenzi, an aide to Assemblymember Pete Grannis, expressed Grannis’s concern that dedication of the first building to “medical professionals” aroused a concern that lower-income residents might ultimately be segregated in a separate building, as they are at Manhattan Park, in 2-4 River Road – a practice now largely discredited, and abandoned State-wide after construction of Manhattan Park.

A statement read for City Councilmember Gifford Miller by his aide, Jessica Lappin, called for the Board to work with the community to minimize the adverse effects of construction on existing residents. At the Board meeting, no information was presented on how Hudson/Related plans to deliver construction equipment and materials to the site, but it is widely expected that Capobianco Field, just north of Eastwood, will become the site of a ramp, since construction vehicles would be unable to negotiate the spiral ramp leading down from the 36th Avenue Bridge.

Miller’s statement also said, “...should this Board decide to move forward on this project in any way that is inconsistent with the spirit or letter of the GDP, the Board must seek an amendment of the GDP from the City in the appropriate fashion.”

Two buildings will be constructed in the first phase.

The current *Public Safety Blotter*, provided by RIOC, was not available in time for inclusion in this issue. It will be published next issue.

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