

Next issue:
Nov. 5-6

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044

Ryan Holds Open Forum, Asks Residents for “A Chance”



Margery Rubin

Says Resident Board Members To Be Confirmed Soon, Offers Reassurance on Public Safety and Development

Ryan: “Message Sent” to Drug Trade

“There’s stuff going on, and we’ll leave it at that,” Ryan said in response to a question from RIRA Common Council member Joyce Mincheff. Then, he added, “There have been some great results in the stuff that is going on. A message is being sent to anybody who’s involved in that trade, they’d better get off Roosevelt Island, and they’d better get off it quick. OK? It is being addressed.” Ryan did not elaborate beyond those comments, though some residents have been told that off-Island law enforcement has been brought to bear on the Island’s drug problem.

Earlier, Public Safety Director Jim Fry reported to the RIOC Board of Directors that his force is now at maximum strength, with new officers currently going through a training program. In response to the Mincheff question, Fry also revealed that new staffers are being deployed in Motorgate to stem auto burglaries there.

But Fry also chastised residents who leave valuables visible in cars parked at Motorgate, sometimes with a window rolled down. “When you do that,” he said, “you are attracting that kind of incident.”

Without giving details, Fry also told residents that “someone in the

community came forth with some information” on the possible arson at the Octagon, saying the matter is still under investigation by the Fire Marshal.

Ryan also addressed a complaint about Public Safety’s effectiveness in dealing with the impact of youth on the Island’s quality of life issues. “Maybe it’s something that has to come from the community,” he suggested, adding, Public Safety enforces laws, but they’re restrained by the laws. But maybe if people say, ‘Stop playing that boom box,’

maybe if people say, ‘Stop swearing.’ I walk down the street. I saw some kid throwing... napkins and stuff on the street, and I turned around and I said, ‘Pick it up. You’re not littering here.’ I got a wise remark back [but] the kid picked it up... It comes down to every person in this room... If you see stuff is going on, and you feel as a citizen you can’t address it, then call Public Safety.” Ryan lauded Public Safety for its work during and after a recent fire in Eastwood.

Gaspard Faults Ryan on “Vigilantism”

by Joyce Mincheff

“It’s ridiculous to encourage vigilantism.”

Byron Gaspard, Chair of the Residents Association Public Safety Committee, responded to RIOC President Robert Ryan’s suggestion that residents assert themselves with the Island’s youth. “It’s even more ridiculous to picture an elderly resident navigating a sea of teen-agers to enter her own building, and having to be responsible to get them away from her door,” Gaspard said. “We have handicapped people and seniors who feel intimidated when they find a knot of kids blocking their way in a hall.”

“Public Safety collects half a million dollars of our rent money to police the community and they’re not doing their job. That’s malpractice.”

Gaspard says that in a year-long effort, his committee has collected about 4,100 signatures on a petition demonstrating resident displeasure with Public Safety. “We’re asking the State of New York and the City to make changes here,” he says. “There are a significant number of residents dissatisfied with the Island’s growing rate of crime and we intend to do something about it.”

Still Open for Input On Development, Ryan Says

Ryan responded to several questions about Southtown, Southpoint, and the still-open proposal to convert the Island’s west shore minischools into luxury condominiums. One questioner, Nurit Marcus, called the announced plan for Southtown “horrendous, [a] disaster.”

“Give me a chance. Maybe I’ll surprise you,” Ryan said.

Common Council member Linda Heimer expressed dismay that the RIOC Board had lost valuable leverage by approving the Hudson/Related plans for Southtown while significant details remained unsettled. She urged that the Board’s Capital Planning and Development Committee be allowed to review and approve plan details before the Board approves developers in the future.

Rivercross resident Ed Hussey also asked about specifics of the Hudson/Related plan for Southtown, asking why construction couldn’t begin near the Tram station. Ryan explained that existing infrastructure (electric, gas, water, sewer, and the AVAC garbage removal system) ends just north of the Southtown area, making it the lower-cost point to start

building. “We would be spending a huge amount of money if we started... at the Tram,” Ryan said, “and we’d be throwing tax dollars away.”

Hussey asked Ryan how building materials would be brought on-Island during Southtown construction. Ryan had no specific answer, but told him, “We’re working with the developers, working with our consultant, to engineer an operation that will have the least impact on quality of life.”

Hussey also sought reassurance on trees and was told by Vincent Arcuri of Morse-Diesel (the RIOC representative on the project) that the current plan calls for all or nearly all existing trees to be saved.

Judith Berdy, President of the Historical Society and a member of the Residents Association Planning Committee, also sought to reassure residents about opportunities for input before Southtown construction begins. “We’re not going to let anything slip by,” she said. “Come to the RIRA [Common Council] meeting, and we’ll tell you when

See **Ryan**, page 6

Triplets Enjoy Their Own Parade As Parents Face Triple Duty

by Anusha Shrivastava

It is impossible to miss them on the street – their grand carriage moves gracefully as they sit upright and bask in the glory of being the only triplets on the Island. Adrian, Francis and Isabella Biagioli are all of fourteen months old. Isabella has little ringlets and is a tad plumper than her brothers. Francis has begun taking his first few tentative steps when made to stand and Adrian’s major concern is to save his toys and books from his sister. All three are as cute as can be. Kim, their mother, is a gregarious lady who has kept her chin up through a tough and very high-risk pregnancy. “I had always wanted three children so we were thrilled when we got to know that I was carrying triplets,” says Kim. An architect by profession, she wound up her business in preparation for the trio of arrivals.

Alex, their father, has done his bit by painting and furnishing the nursery and completing his MBA at night while working full time at Coopers & Lybrand. “My first reaction was, ‘Oh my God! Three of everything – how are we going to be able to do this?’ Oh well, at least we got it over in one shot. This is great,” recounts Alex.

“We used to live in a studio on 40th Street,” Kim says. “We knew we had to shift to a bigger place and we chose an apartment on Roosevelt Island because we had heard about it. I am really glad we didn’t move to a house in the suburbs like some people suggested we should because this place is so convenient. Everything we need is right next to each other. Despite being confined during my pregnancy, I did not feel cut off. For in-

See **Triplets**, page 6



Main Street Halloween Parade 11 a.m. Next Saturday

Pages of Thought and Opinion

On September 13 a young man named Lamont produced the best argument I know against Rob Ryan’s pitch for resident involvement in modifying the behavior of Island youth. As it happened, Lamont had some pretty effective help and support from Public Safety.

Here’s how it went. Returning from Manhattan on a Q train, a female companion and I joined others in a jammed elevator. Lamont was one of the passengers and he brought into that closed space some dispute he’d been having with another passenger, whom he ordered to stay off the elevator. She (a woman about half his size) got on anyway, so he spent most of the trip loudly berating her, challenging her to a fight with liberal shouted use of the F word. The young woman responded, somewhat meekly, defending her right to use the elevator.

Lamont continued his tirade and his loud swearing. Another passenger offered a suggestion: “Both of you, why don’t you hold it down?”

Lamont then turned his attention to that person, loudly informing him that he had no business involving himself, and – still using the F word at ear-splitting levels – telling the man to stay out of it.

I was uncomfortably aware of a diminutive woman in her late 80’s standing next to me. “Just keep it down. You’re in a closed space here,” I said. Of course, Lamont then turned his overbearing attentions and obscene language on me, just as the elevator reached street level.

Out in the air, as the crowd sorted itself out, walking, my companion ended up between Lamont and me. He continued his shouting and his obscenity-laced proposals that we fight it out, “right now, anytime, anywhere,” and I felt it necessary to change positions with my companion to put her out of his line of fire. Lamont took this as a challenge, put down his books, raised his fists, and again suggested a fight. Trying to ignore him, we continued walking. He continued his loud swearing.

A Public Safety Officer (PSO) was nearby, and she attempted to take control of the situation. Lamont complained to her, “He was gettin’ in my face.” It seemed prudent to take up the matter with someone in authority, so my companion and I stopped. Within moments, another Officer had joined the discussion, speaking from his seat in a patrol vehicle.

In Lamont’s presence, that second PSO patronizingly explained to me that, “It’ll do no good. Let me tell you what will happen. You’ll make a complaint. He’ll make a complaint. You’ll go to the Precinct. Nothing will happen.”

The PSO thus issued Lamont a license to misbehave.

It was a busy day for me, so I said something that indicated I didn’t care to follow through. Lamont walked away, tossing his head in a cocky manner that suggested he had quite thoroughly fixed my wagon. That did it: I told the PSO that I would make

a complaint, after all. My companion and I proceeded to Public Safety, where I filed a formal complaint.

The desk duty officer told me that Lamont and his mother would be called in, and I would be called in, and there would be a conference. Thirty-nine days later, that still hasn’t happened.

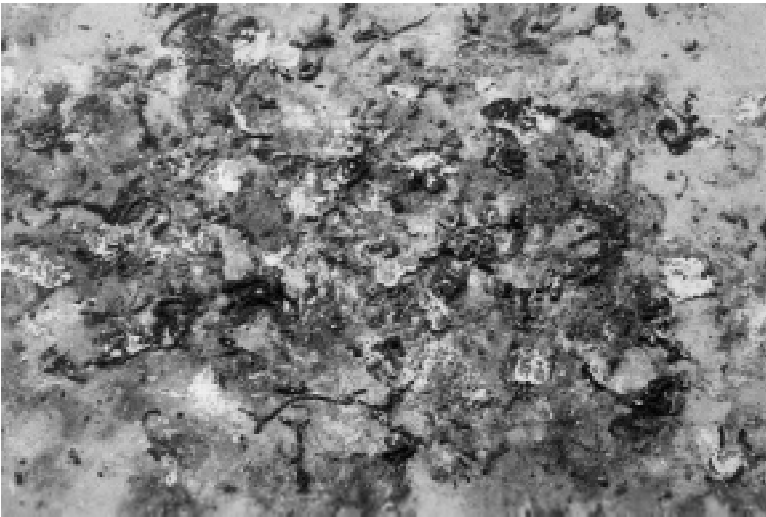
But Lamont’s mother did show up at Public Safety. My companion, who stayed after I left, suggested to her that Lamont would do more damage to himself with his antisocial behavior than to anyone else. The mother took her phone number, saying, “I’d like to talk with you. Maybe you can help me.” She never called.

And Lamont, apparently, is in the clear. Public Safety laid it out for him: He can continue to swear loudly in closed spaces and threaten those who object, and anybody complains will get no backing from Jim Fry’s Public Safety outfit.

I disagree with Rob Ryan’s generalization that “Public Safety is doing a fine job.” On some things, maybe, but certainly not in backing residents who try to moderate the behavior of the Lamonts among us – exactly the remedy Ryan proposed a week ago Thursday.

DL

Sidewalk Artists?



Photoeditorial by Harry Small

Guess the Sidewalk Artist(s):
a. Jackson Pollack b. Jackson Pigeon c. Pigeon Pollack d. Walter Pigeon
(Answer at bottom of page.)

Letters

To the Editor:

We would like to extend genuine appreciation for the community’s support, generosity and understanding. The last few weeks have been overwhelming and challenging. The sincere response from neighbors is like a ray of sunshine. We thank all the neighbors, organizations, and Island employees for devoting their time and energy to organizing the effort to collect for our family and the other victims of the fire. Everything that we received is a symbol of human concern and kindness. We are thankful for all the donations. Your thoughtfulness will be cherished and remembered always.

Dorothy Wilde and family

To Robert Ryan
President, RIOC

Dear Mr. Ryan,

Last Thursday’s meeting was the first one in a long time that I have been home early enough to attend. I have never met you and was hoping that I would leave the meeting feeling positive about you and Roosevelt Island’s future. I have to say, I left feeling very disappointed and disgusted with you – just another politician at work.

I’ve lived on this wonderful Island now for three years. My husband and I moved from Manhattan to escape the congestion, noise and chaos. Roosevelt Island has been our oasis. It’s now going to be changed into a mini-Manhattan, due to what I believe is greed. After all, the big people with the money always win.

What I’m really concerned about was your attitude in the meeting. Although you stated you’re here to listen to the people, it seems to me, and I’m sure to others, that your main concern was being out of there on time to see the Yankees game. How typical of a politician... “I want to hear what you have to say; however, I need to leave soon, I have something better to do.” I am watching the series, too, Mr. Ryan, but I decided to tape the game and watch it later that evening. After all, Roosevelt Island is important to me. I honestly feel that everything said to you went in one ear and out the other. How could you honestly care and concentrate when your eyes were watching the clock? Tick tock, tick tock, get me out of here.

I was really disgusted by how you *rushed* the 16-year-old, who obviously had a gripe that needed to be heard. I ask you, when is the last time you came across a teenager that had as much passion as she and gave a damn? Granted, she wasn’t well informed if she is just now hearing about these changes, but what matters is that she is *now* informed and has a gripe about it and wants to be heard. Don’t rush her out, Mr. Ryan, listen to her, and for heavens sake, get a VCR and tape what you don’t want to miss, like the rest of us do! Obviously, Roosevelt Island and its people aren’t as important as the Yankees. A typical politician at work. How disappointing.

Denise Larocque

Artists Contemplate Their Canvas



Website NYC10044 http://192.104.18.139

Here, the artists contemplate a new canvas. Their work (sample at top of page) is on continuing display on sidewalks outside the Post Office.

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.**

Your Dollars Needed Now:
Back a Resident Voice on Development

RIOC President Rob Ryan has promised a continued opportunity for resident input on Island development, and it’s a welcome change from his predecessor. But when the RIOC Board starts taking action on development proposals – as it already has – the Residents Association must not be caught flat-footed, without a legal war chest, if the decisions are too oriented to cash flow and not enough to preserving Roosevelt Island’s special qualities.

In short, your contribution is needed to provide the clout RIRA needs if and when RIOC or developers must be faced down in negotiations or in court. It’s your Island, your future, and your stake that must be protected. So, here’s a pledge form we hope you’ll use.

Incidentally, members of the Community will be out next Saturday during the Halloween parade to take contributions and pledges (and in lobbies November 6), but here’s a way to get ahead of the process.

RIRA Legal Fund Pledge Form

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

Please give what you can now: \$_____

☐ My check, payable to **SOS/RIDF**, is attached.

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

☐ By check. Bill me at the address below.

☐ 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.

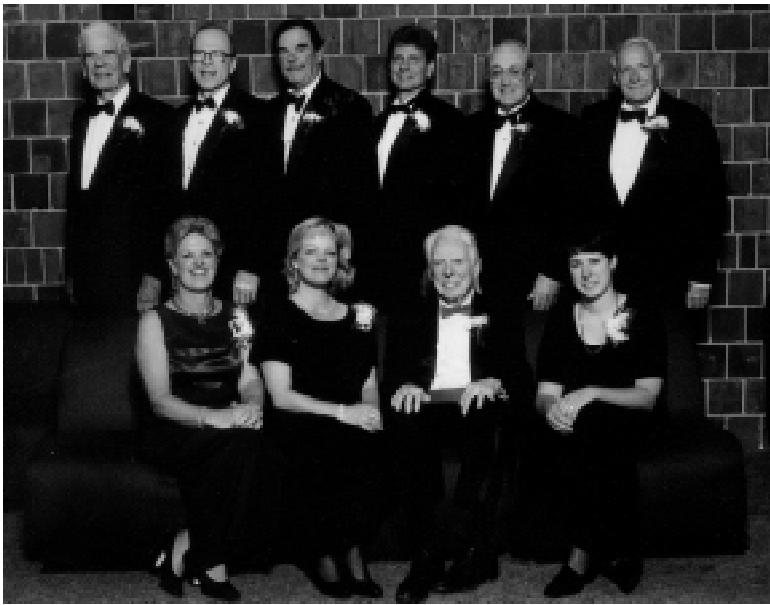
☐ Call me for another contribution if it's needed.

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
on Main Street

Wade Honored As College Sports Star



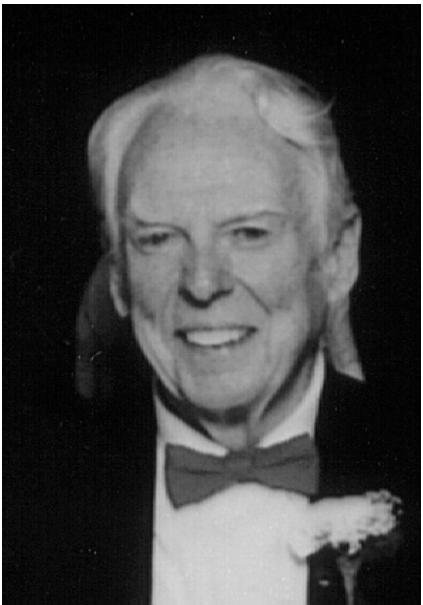
Dr. Richard Wade became a Hall of Fame athlete September 25. Wade, distinguished professor emeritus of the Graduate Center of the City of New York and formerly professor of history at the University of Rochester, University of Chicago and Oxford University, was inducted into the University of Rochester Athletic Hall of Fame.

A member of the Class of 1943, Wade lettered in football, basketball and tennis. A member of the USLTA's Junior Davis Cup Team, he was nationally ranked before coming to the University. While a history professor, he was also assistant coach of football during its "Golden Age" when the Yellow Jackets had seasons of 7-1, 7-1, 8-0, and was for over a decade a counselor to the University's scholar-athletes.

In remarks at his induction, he praised the University "for achieving what few, so few, other institutions have – the proper balance between academics and sports. This University very early taught us that being a good athlete – no matter how good – is a transitory part of life and surely not its most important." He remarked on the extraordinary number of students who "added Ph.D., M.D., engineer and law to their sports letters."

The full citation reads: "Member of USLTA Junior Davis Tennis Cup Team, Illinois State Champion and Central Alumni Scholar who unexpectedly traveled 'East' for the Yellow and Blue; Undeclared in Tennis; Nationals as a Freshman, shared tennis strategy with Albert Einstein; Three Varsity letters in Tennis, Basketball and Football; Honors Program Graduate, BA History 1943; MA History 1945; Ph.D. History, Harvard University 1947; UR Professor of History and Backfield Coach (22-2) under Elmer Burnham, '47-'60; Professor, Washington University of St. Louis '60-'61; University of Chicago '61-'71, Distinguished Professor, Graduate Center of the City University of New York '71-'94; Harmsworth Professor, Oxford University, England '74-'75; Published Author and Editor; Chicago Housing Commissioner '67-'71; Chairman for New York Governor's Commission of Historical Preservation '74-'78 and Commission on Libraries '89-'93; Resides Roosevelt Island, NYC."

Wade and his wife, Liane, are Rivercross residents. He was among the first occupants of the building.



I thought the Open Forum of the RIOCI Board of Directors meeting went very well, all things considered. Granted, Rob Ryan will come to know us better as time goes on, and we will come to know him better, as well. Certainly an Open Forum speeds up the process, and I sincerely hope the Board will see fit to hold others intermittently until RIOCI and the community become more comfortable with one another.

When you stop to remember that six months ago a resident would have had to fill out a Freedom of Information form to get RIOCI's phone number, it helps to put things in perspective. I don't think Mr. Ryan realizes quite how bad it was, or how widespread the genuine outrage was felt throughout the community.

I expect that, for those who were not personally deeply engaged in the process, there may be a suspicion that all the fuss was exaggerated. Certainly, there have been one or two public comments at recent Board meetings by State participants that, given the legend these meetings had become in Albany, things were seeming to go well since Ryan had arrived.

And, perhaps, Ryan himself may reasonably feel that it is only a 'political' minority on the Island who feel so strongly about the many issues we bring to his attention.

So it was certainly good for all of us that so many of you came to the meeting and spoke so articulately and so adamantly on a wide variety of subjects. Such wholehearted community involvement demonstrates clearly to the Board, and to Ryan, that our outrage was not directed at Blue personally, but was, and is, directed against the way the issues that concern us were handled.

Clearly Ryan felt personally that this was not entirely fair, and probably it's not entirely fair.

But my recommendation to Rob Ryan is not to take it personally. To most of the community he has yet to become Robert H. Ryan, the man. To the community, he is still simply RIOCI, and therefore still shrouded with the legacies of Jerry Blue. And those legacies mean that he will have to go the extra mile before he fully enjoys our confidence, fair or not.

It is clear to me that Jerry Blue strengthened this community in his opposition to us. He drove us to adequately arm ourselves with the relevant information,

RIRA President's Column

tion, the relevant laws, the relevant procedures. As a result, we are far more knowledgeable, and far more committed, than most other communities. It is a very good thing that Ryan understand that fact thoroughly, and this Board meeting was a fine demonstration of both our knowledge and our commitment.

Ryan has made clear that he holds himself accountable to the community. I, for one, believe him, and believe that his intentions are exactly what he says they are. I am not so sure about Pataki's intentions, however, and I think it would be foolish of us to change our stance until we have hard, clear evidence of substantive changes in the policies that got us to this point.

Ryan assured us that the community will continue to have meaningful input into the Southtown development process, and the RIRA Planning Committee will continue to work with him in making that a reality. The Common Council will request clearer information on his plans for Blackwell House and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. And we will continue to oppose the Marriott project, and monitor any and all development and infrastructure issues.

Ryan genuinely has not had time enough to resolve any major issues yet. But there are indications that things are moving in the right direction. For instance, my playground consultant, Zoe (who's not on the Common Council yet), reported that Ryan had fixed not only the gate at the Toddler's Playground, but the duck and seahorse too. "And that was the day after we told him, too," she said, "and they've been broke forever!" (She can swear to three years.)

As I said above, I do believe Rob Ryan's intentions are what he says they are. And I believe that as his intentions are translated into clear commitments, and those commitments are then translated into action, our community will support this reformed RIOCI as thoroughly and as successfully as we opposed Blue's RIOCI.

The means for making that a reality as quickly as possible lie entirely in RIOCI's hands.



Patrick Stewart

COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friedland – phone/fax 317-8523

Wed., Oct. 27, 8:00 p.m., Island History Lecture, *The Beginning of Social Work and the Metropolitan Hospital School of Nursing*, sponsored by Roosevelt Island Historical Society, Island House Community Room. \$10, but free to RIHS members. Reservations/membership: **688-4836**.

Thur., Oct. 28, 1:30 p.m., PTA of PS/IS 217 general membership meeting, with elections to fill vacancies on the PTA Executive Board; and **Family Math Tutorial** for parents of K-5 children. PTA Executive Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., followed by School Leadership Team meeting.

Wed., Nov. 3, 8:00 p.m., RIRA Common Council Meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Wed., Nov. 3, 8:00 p.m., Island History Lecture, *300 Years of Queens History*, an overview of neighboring communities through stories and pictures. (See listing above.) Reservations/membership: **688-4836**.

Sat., Nov. 6, next issue of **The Main Street WIRE**. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Oct. 29; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Nov. 1; bag materials due Nov. 4. **Future issues:** 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**.

Wed., Nov. 10, 8:00 p.m., Island History Lecture, *Archives Night – Island History from the 17th Century to Today's Community*, sponsored by Roosevelt Island Historical Society, Island House Community Room. \$10, but free to RIHS members. Reservations/membership: **688-4836**.

Sun., Nov. 14, 11:00 a.m., Island History Tour and Lecture, *St. George's Episcopal Church and Cemetery and Hallett's Cove*, sponsored by Roosevelt Island Historical Society, Island House Community Room. \$10, but free to RIHS members. Reservations required; call **688-4836**.

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.

Wed., Nov. 17, 7:45 p.m., Roosevelt Island Photographic Society meeting, Eastwood Community Room, 536 Main Street. Night photography. 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)
11:00-12:30 (October 25), **Metrocard Bus**
12:45, **Arts & Crafts**

Tuesday
9:45-10:45, **Jazzercise with Barbara Parker**
12:30-2:30 (October 26), **VNS Service**
1:30, **Bingo**

Wednesday
9:00-10:00, **Stay Well** (Stretch)
10:00, **Friendship Doll-Making Workshop**
10:00-11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beg)
11:00-12:00, **English as 2nd** (intermediate)
1:30, **Games**

Thursday
10:00-11:00, **Tai Chi**
12:30, **Movie**

Friday
10:00-11:00, **Citizenship Class** (no class 10/29)
10:00-12:00, **Creative Arts Workshop**
10:30-11:30, **Blood Pressure Screening**
12:30, **Friendship Doll-Making Workshop**
7:00-9:00 p.m., **Korean English**

Saturday
7:00 p.m., **Bingo** (except 10/30)
7:00 p.m. (October 30), **Birthday Party**

Special Events

Call in advance for details: 980-1888
Wed., Oct. 27, 12:15 p.m., Voter Education Workshop for coming election
Sat., Oct. 30, 7:00 p.m., Halloween Party
Wed., Nov. 3, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Free Flu Shots



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Japanese Sushi

- Veggie Roll Combo \$5.99
- California Roll \$3.99
- Tuna Roll \$5.99
- Tuna Combo \$5.99
- House Moriawase \$5.99
- Super (Sushi Combo) \$8.99
- Veggie Tempura \$1.99

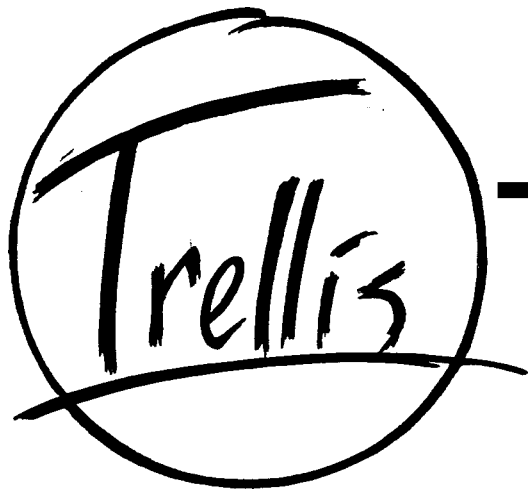
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- Snow Crab Legs
- Sea Food Mix

Ready to Eat (Microwave)

- Cajun Marinated Catfish
- Lemon Pepper Marinated Catfish
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Mon-Sat, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Closed Sundays



Hot Coffee...

...and a warm place to drink it.
It's the season for it, and for the rest
of the warmth Trellis has to offer:
Good friends, good coffee, good food,
and a few moments of peaceful
respite from the rush
of autumn life around us.
Come on by.
Good food, good friends, good coffee.

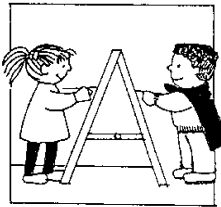
See you at Trellis
752-1517

*Better and better every day.
At the heart of the community,
next to the historic Chapel of the Good Shepherd*

Still a few openings for 3-4-year-olds

Roosevelt Island Day Nursery

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



4 RIVER ROAD 593-0750
FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE

JAMAICA HILLS FOOTCARE CENTER

Dr. Ronald J. Beauvais

Podiatrist / Foot Specialist

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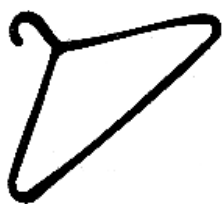
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Ryan In Open Forum

from page 1

we're going to meet with the developers."

Southpoint

Longtime resident Shirley Margolin drew applause when she asked Ryan about the status of a proposal to build a twin-tower hotel on the Island's southernmost ten acres of land, saying, "We believe we are entitled to that magnificent parkland."

Minicondos

Ed Eagle asked Ryan why an August recommendation of the RIOC Board's Capital Planning and Development Committee (CPDC) that plans to turn the Island's west shore minichools into luxury condominiums has not yet been acted on by the RIOC Board. Ryan responded that a resolution is being drafted for CPDC, and that it will then be considered by RIOC's Directors.

One questioner, Milt Marcus, excoriated the minicondo proposal as an "act of pure greed," and asked the RIOC Board to form a group to find a tenant who will make use of the properties without adding a second story.

Ryan added, in a comment bearing on both the minischools and Southpoint, that because RFPs (Requests for Proposals) were put out by RIOC and developers responded, the requisite process must be followed. While some have interpreted such responses as Ryan's suggestion that the proposals will ultimately be rejected, he has not dropped so much as a hint in answering questions. "My job is to work the process," he said.

Sports Fields

Ryan responded to questions about loss of the soccer field north of the Nurses Residence, rhapsodizing that a new field planned for the southeast corner of the Southtown property will "look like Yankee Stadium" by comparison with the present field.

Metrocard

Asked about the status of negotiations for use of MetroCard on the Tram, Ryan said he has talked with MTA Chairman Virgil Conway, but "the matter is far more complicated than people understand. It amazed me the number of influences that come into this process." He said he hopes for some word, "one way or the other," by year's end.

Budget Self-Sufficiency

Asked by Lillian Shaman if he intends to continue to maintain self-sufficiency, and not ask the State for funds, Ryan responded that in taking tax money from Albany, Islanders would be "reaching into your own pocket." He cited attempts to generate new revenue streams, then added, "There's nothing wrong with self-sufficiency as long as it doesn't impact quality of life."

Other matters

Ryan again reassured those concerned about deterioration of Blackwell House that the tenant will be out by November 1 and that RIOC will immediately begin to stabilize the structure. Ryan also promised work on Good Shepherd Chapel, where the Board meeting and open forum were held.

Triplets

from page 1

stance, I could go to get stamps. It helped that this is a doorman building. We are close enough to the heart of the City that I can get back to work easily. The Island is a great place for the kids to be and the fact that it is handicapped-accessible makes it easy for us to maneuver their stroller.

"I think living in an apartment is good because they are always within earshot, everything is at one level and child-proofing has been very simple," says Kim, her practical nature showing through. "As the pregnancy advanced, I was forced to rely on others to



run errands for me and even for them, the Island proved to be very convenient."

Kim was beginning to show signs of pre-eclampsia (pregnancy-induced high blood pressure) in week 31 of her pregnancy, so weekly visits to the doctor were replaced by home monitoring. "I used to be exhausted all the time and called myself 'one of four.' Alex used to come home after his night classes and cook the equivalent of six meals for the following day for me because that is what I was eating at the time. I lay on the couch with a cooler full of food, a microwave and the hospital equipment right next to me. My mother-in-law, my mother and my stepfather came to help. I could not have managed this without their help."

The babies arrived on July 9, 1998, weighing about five pounds each. "We were home in four days, maintaining charts about their food, sleep and dirty diapers. We would feed them together, change their diapers together and put them to sleep together. The rule continues to this day on my insistence and that's why I have been renamed 'little sergeant,'" says Kim. "That's the only way we could have done it without going insane."

What has been the greatest challenge for the couple? "Time-management," says Alex. "Not getting 'burned out' by all the work and

attention the babies need. Organization of all the things we need because no trip, however small, is simple. Also, remaining calm through it all and giving each child the attention he or she needs."

Kim says that, for her, being efficient occupies her mind all the time. "Coordinating an adult life with that of three babies is a challenge. I try to figure out what is recreation and that, too, is a task. As an architect, I am used to lists and projects and this is a huge project for me - raising and teaching my three babies. I had set up my own office three years prior to the millenium because I knew several projects would come up. Sometimes I can't believe I had triplets in the spring of the largest building boom in the history of New York City. My client base is gone. However, it is all well worth it because there would have been no point had I been very successful, forty-five years old and minus any kids at all! I have worked for about fifteen years and I know there will always be some work for me because people will keep building."

"Having the babies is the most exciting thing that has happened to us. We miss being just the two of us sometimes because now our lives are filled with people. Then again, we will never feel any isolation. Even the babies gain from being together all the time. From day one they have had playmates, they have something special and something extra," Kim says.

"I enjoy the fact that there are three of them and I love watching them interact. I never know which one to kiss first. They bring a lot of joy to our lives and that of their grandparents with their unconditional love," says Alex. "The hardest thing for us now is to treat each child as an individual as they grow up. What I do is determine what the child likes or what they are attracted to and spend some time alone with the child doing that task or play so that way each child has one-on-one time where it most counts and group time as well."

For Kim, the biggest concern is how to maintain their living standard in the future. "We are happy right now but how do we take them to an environment that they continue to have a good lifestyle? Their lives are very regular right now and I don't want to upset that by being gone. I want to maintain a hold on their lives so part-time work is good for me. What keeps me going is that I know that these three children are my project for right now."



Deolinda Leitao-Greene
Arlene Stock and Melissa Hodson of Roosevelt Island's Chapter of Toastmasters International. Stock won Wednesday night in a Division contest held in Manhattan.

Two Islanders Advance in Toastmasters Competition

by Jinny Ewald

When Melissa Hodson was in grade school, she won a spelling bee that would take her to the national championship in Washington, DC. But she didn't go because she was too terrified of "performing" before a crowd. This fear of public speaking haunted her until she decided to do something about it two years ago. That's when she joined the Roosevelt Island branch of Toastmasters, an international organization dedicated to improving speaking and leadership skills. Arlene Stock, another Toastmasters member, joined the group last year to overcome her discomfort when making presentations for the company she owns.

Today, both these Island residents are star performers. Each won an area Toastmasters contest - Melissa in the humorous speech category, Arlene in the difficult Table Topics contest, which calls on the ability to "think on your feet." At the larger division contest Wednesday night (October 20), Arlene Stock won first prize in her category. Melissa's speech, titled "Bon Appetit," deals with her culinary escapades through the years. For her, the best thing about the contest was hearing people actually laugh at the

humor. The worst? "The long walk up to the podium!" Arlene says the worst aspect was winning: "I had to do it again!" And the best part of the contest was actually getting through it.

Both Arlene and Melissa credit Toastmasters with their success. "At first, I had to force myself to do what is difficult," Arlene says. "But now I find the whole Toastmasters experience entertaining. What I like about the group is that the speeches themselves are educational and the diversity in the Roosevelt Island chapter is extraordinary. Being a member has expanded my horizons." Arlene owns a management company that assists not-for-profit associations across the country. She feels that her experience with Toastmasters has improved her ability to lead and to get new business.

Melissa is Vice President of Finance at Goldman Sachs. "Outside of work, I have gained self-confidence and improved my conversational skills. At work, I've learned how to run meetings effectively and express my opinion coherently," she says.

Toastmasters meets on the Island the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Call **888-8040** for more information.



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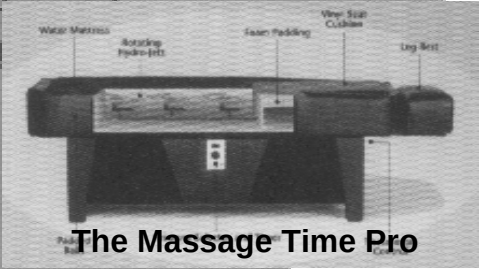


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SPORTSWIRE

The Roosevelt Island Tennis Association (RITA) recently held its annual club championships at the Octagon Park courts. Early rounds were fiercely competitive. Five categories and a consolation match were played. **Results:**

Women:	Jackie Amey vs Atsumi Kolba	9-8 (7-5)
Men A:	Jan Buenner vs Carlos Braune	6-1, 6-2
Men B:	Joern Kornhuber vs John Dougherty	4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5)
Men's Doubles:	Tom Smith/Jan Buenner vs Carlos Braune/Atul Gokhale	6-1, 6-3
Mixed Doubles:	Atsumi Kolba/Mike Kolba vs Jackie Amey/Arthur Alderman	9-8 (7-4)
Men's Consolation:	Karim Wazani vs Andrea Cuccolini	8-2

Winners and runners-up received trophies.

RITA will sponsor a doubles tournament at 12:00 noon Saturday, October 30 (a change of date), the last day of Daylight Savings Time. It's RITA's last event of the season, open to both men and women. Players can bring their own doubles partners, or be assigned a partner in a random drawing. The event is open to advanced players who don't have a current permit for the courts and who want to find out whether tennis might be a sport for them on Roosevelt Island next year.

RITA staged trophy playoffs last Saturday for the 53 competitors who participated in the tennis ladder during the past season. In ladder play, players move up or down a list based on wins and losses in matches against players in adjacent spots on the list. Finals contestants qualified by playing at least eight ladder matches during the season.

This year's winner in the A Division was Hanitra Rabeson over finalist Carlos Braune, 6-2, 6-7, 6-3. In the B Division, Willie Reese defeated John Dougherty in a set played to ten games, 10-3. Joan Pape-Uhle won the C Division by default (there were no other qualifiers).

In the consolation playoffs for players who lost their first round, Tom Smith defeated Nick Arvanitis 8-3 in a set played to 8 games, the standard format used for the ladder throughout the season.

Winners and finalists in the A and B Divisions were awarded silver bowls; the winner of the C Division and the consolation winner and finalist received engraved medals. The remaining qualifiers in all divisions also received engraved qualifier awards.

The finals were all played on Saturday, October 16, with the preliminary rounds played earlier by opponents making arrangements to play at their mutual convenience.

The Island's outdoor courts will remain open throughout fall and winter. For information, call RITA President Jan Buenner 250-6675 or Vice President Michael Kolba 980-3811.

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