

Next issue:
Dec. 3-4

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044



Former Roosevelt Island resident Bob Sinclair and Mary Jo Schager reunite after many years to star as Albert and Rosie in the Main Street Theatre's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*, opening December 3 for a ten-night run.

Bye Bye Birdie Opening Dec. 3 in MST Fundraiser

by Deborah Drucker

Bye Bye Birdie opens December 3 at The Main Street Theatre. Written by Strouse, Adams and Stewart, it was the earliest musical about rock and roll and its effects on impressionable teenagers. It revolves around the singing idol, Conrad Birdie (suggestive of Elvis Presley) just as he was being drafted into the Army.

Bye Bye Birdie is also "Hello, Bob." The role of Albert McAfee is being played by Bob Sinclair, a long-time resident of Roosevelt Island who left, in 1993, after living here since the pioneer days of 1977. Bob hasn't moved back, but he says, "I couldn't stand it anymore just to be in the audience every year, and this is just the right show to *break* all my bones in." Bob had played lead roles in many Island productions.

Bob works in the New York City high school system, but also he coordinates the Brooklyn High School Shakespeare Festival, no small task. The festival involves over 400 students, from 20 schools, who perform scenes that include authentic costumes, props and complete scenery changes.

Bye Bye Birdie also brings back to the Roosevelt Island stage Mary Jo Schager, a multi-talented performer. She and Bob are reuniting after having played lead roles in Main Street Theatre's productions of *Anything Goes*, *How to Succeed*, and *Sweet Charity*. She's had a major role in just about every RI production, including the demanding and difficult role of Chairman in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, the Emcee in *Cabaret*, and (last year) the ever-present voiceless fiddler and a bottle dancer in *Fiddler on the Roof*. She also conducts the Roman Catholic Church Choir.

Since its inception in the early 80's, The Main Street Theatre (MST) has been producing Broadway musicals as an annual fund-raising event to furnish acting and dance class scholarships for Island children. In addition, proceeds go to maintaining the Cultural Center. MST is managed by Island residents Worth and Nancy Howe.

Bye Bye Birdie runs for ten performances on two weekends: Friday through Monday, December 3-6 and December 10-13. Tickets are \$15 at 371-4449. (See *ComingUp*, page 3, for performance times.)

Rivercross Suit Dismissed; Another Is Filed

A Rivercross group has been rebuffed by the court in its effort to increase the surcharges collected from over-income residents to a 1% to 50% scale. Meanwhile, two other residents have filed suit to force the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) to roll back a pending increase in the surcharge scale from 1%-10% to 1%-20%.

The suit of the Committee for Maintenance and Privatization Fair Play was dismissed by State Supreme Court Justice Nicholas Figueroa, who wrote, "This Court... finds the DHCR approval of a 20% maximum to have been made properly, after due consultation with Rivercross' duly elected Board of Directors," adding, in a footnote, "...neither the Board nor DHCR felt that an increase beyond 20% was warranted..."

The suit had asked that Rivercross' long-standing surcharge schedule, ranging 1% to 10%, be brought in line with surcharges at other Mitchell-Lama housing supervised by

DHCR. It also asked that a 4% maintenance increase be rescinded, saying increased surcharges would more than cover the increased income called for in the DHCR-approved maintenance hike. The court also rejected that request.

Fran Dym, who leads the Fair Play Committee, told *The WIRE* that a standing-room-only meeting of her group held in an apartment on Sunday night voted unanimously to appeal the decision. (A notice of appeal was filed Thursday, according to the group's attorney, Carol Ule.) "We raised many legal issues that were disregarded by Criminal Court Justice Figueroa," Dym said. "One example is the conflict of interest. Should Board members who are paying a surcharge make decisions regarding the surcharges that would affect them directly?"

In the new lawsuit filed by Attorney Robert Chira, a Rivercross resident, two other residents (Adriana Vink and Doris Chernik) seek to force DHCR to roll back



David Kramer of Hudson

less costly.

When one resident, Lee Edelman, asked, "If the community wanted and RIOC wanted, could the plan be changed at this point?" the answer, given by Wine of Related, showed a reluctance to consider changes. Wine said the developers had been to "ten or fifteen"

the surcharge increase it approved for a January 1 start. The suit claims DHCR improperly coerced the Rivercross Board to revise the surcharge schedule in response to pressure from the Fair Play Committee. It seeks a permanent injunction to prevent "DHCR from directing Rivercross to modify its 10% surcharge schedule..." The brief argues that the low surcharge schedule at Rivercross is justified because "Rivercross has been recognized by DHCR as occupying a unique role in the entire 'Mitchell-Lama' program of housing companies," and that "DHCR... has recognized Rivercross' [special] role, referring to it as an 'anchor' for the Island..."

In announcing the second suit to shareholders, the building's Board of Directors wrote in a Wednesday memo, "In view of the decision of Judge Figueroa in the lawsuit brought by the [Fair Play Committee], the Board expects this second lawsuit to be unsuccessful."

Developers: Southtown Will Include Transient Populations

by Dick Lutz

The developers of Southtown expect to reach "signature stage" on deals for as many as three Phase One buildings in about three months. Deals being considered include graduate student housing, employee housing for a medical institution, and – possibly – an assisted-living facility.

Under present planning, construction materials will roll down Main Street from the existing spiral ramp to the site.

These points and others were discussed last week in a public meeting of the Residents Association Planning Committee. David Wine of The Related Companies and David Kramer of the Hudson Companies appeared, along with Vincent Arcuri of Morse Diesel. Morse is serving as owner's representative on the project, representing the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation. This was the first public appearance of the developers subsequent to their receiving the "final designation" status from the RIOC Board of Directors.

Southpoint Developer in Town Meeting Monday Night

The developer proposing a twin-tower hotel and luxury condominium complex for a ten-acre site at Southpoint will hold a Town Hall Meeting, open to the public, on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. (Also see RIRA President's Column, page 3.) RIOC posters announcing the event say SSJ Development will "discuss their plans for Southpoint and answer your questions."

community meetings, and responded, "Those are a lot of hypotheticals, and it's up to RIOC to come to us and to say, 'Wait a minute, we want to stop the process.' We have been operating under the assumption that it is desired that Southtown be built, and we have gone through a many-year process to get to this point, and what you are asking is whether or not we are willing to prolong the process even more, and that is not the message that we are getting from RIOC. If RIOC were to follow your desires then they would have to come to us and we would have to

evaluate it."

When Edelman pressed the point, asking, "If RIOC said to you, 'We want to reconsider the plan,' is that possible at this time?" Wine responded, "If RIOC said that to me? Absolutely possible."

[The full transcript of the meeting, site diagrams, and other coverage is available on Website NYC10044, at <http://192.104.18.139>.]

A number of members of the RIRA Common Council, as well as attending residents, asked questions driving at a concern about a plan relying on a transient population of residents. Jeff Hochman, who co-chairs the RIRA Planning Committee with Judy Berdy, and serves on the RIOC Board's Capital Planning and Development Committee (CPDC), an advisory body, told Kramer and Wine, "We don't want you to put in these condos for transient tenants just because that's what the market could build. I don't think that we residents of the Island care about that. We care more about the type of tenants that will be there." Larry Parnes, who serves with Hochman on CPDC, told the developers, "I don't think that's an appropriate use... I think it's wholly inappropriate... I would like to see you abandon [that idea]." Implicit in these questions and comments is the concern that a transient population might not become involved in the community or become invested in its future. Another resident, Steve Marcus, said such residents would be "a bunch of college students who certainly are going to contribute nothing to the social fabric of this Island... They're certainly not



David Wine of Related

going to contribute anything to the community... If we're going to get new residents, we'd very much like to see them in our churches, in our stores, on the street, in our Little League, and so forth, so that they make a contribution."

Wine responded to Hochman, "I have to tell you, quite frankly, you might not care about the marketability of Southtown as an overall development, but that is my concern... We do have to be responsive to the market, and we do have to be responsive to the economics."

The possibility of graduate-student housing was mentioned prominently for the first time in the meeting. As reported in previous issues of *The WIRE*, an "eastside medical institution" is discussing the possibility of taking an entire Southtown building for employee housing, but it's unknown whether that population is likely to be mostly transient or mostly stable.

Other points covered in the meeting:

- The developers are still weighing the question of rental apartments vs cooperatives, details not likely to be settled until they're nearer a conclusion on pending deals.
- The location of a soccer field planned for an area immediately north and east of the Tramway station was

See **Developers**, page 6

Pages of Thought and Opinion

Giving Thanks...

There is an overwhelming temptation, at this time of year, to compile one of those lists of all we have to be thankful for, and then write about it. The counter-temptation is to avoid the exercise, for fear of giving offense by missing something.

Personally, I know that one item high on my list of Roosevelt Island thank-you's would be for *The Main Street Theatre*, not just for what it provides those with a theatrical bent in our community, but for the quality of the productions it stages to raise the funds necessary. If you haven't found your way to the little theater behind the video store yet – if you haven't yet seen one of those spirited and clever productions staged by Worth and Nancy Howe and their dedicated band of followers – you should make it a point to catch *Bye Bye Birdie* sometime between December 3 and December 13.

But if you're searching further for something to be grateful for, here's a thought: Amid all the TV specials looking back 100 years, think of the fact that you are ideally situated in time and place to have an impact on the next century here on Roosevelt Island. *Much* is going on. Developers are putting plans in place for Southtown, and another developer is seeking the right to do that at Southpoint. In 2099, people will be looking back at what was done, here and now, that shaped their world.

If this reads like a pitch for involvement, it is. Monday night the developer who proposes twin-tower hotels for Southpoint will meet with the community, at 7:00 in Chapel of the Good Shepherd. It's a meeting that raises this question: What will the people of 2099 think of what the people of 1999 did to protect that last great piece of New York City parkland – the ten acres at Southpoint, opposite the United Nations?

...And Keeping Watch

There's a more immediate question, as well: What will the people of 2009 think of what we did, here in 1999, about Southtown.

Today, in 1999, we have both warm and critical thoughts about what the people of 1979 and earlier did in the process of putting this Island's residential future together.

It's clear, hearing the voices at the last RIRA Planning Committee meeting (story, page 1; transcript on *Website NYC10044* at <http://192.104.18.139>), that there is considerable unease about the way Southtown is being planned.

There's the fact that the RIOC Board voted an OK for both developer *and plan*, when its Capital Planning and Development Committee had recommended an OK only for the developer. There's the fact that the plan includes a building that just might wall off the existing community – and we should see some computer visualizations or serious modeling if the developer wants to demonstrate otherwise. And there's the drive to include transient groups – short-term residents unlikely to care about the state of the community in a time horizon going anywhere beyond a couple of years.

So there is something very special to be grateful for in this season – the opportunity to wield some influence, make your voice heard, and get behind the leadership that is in a position to demand that RIOC be sure of its moves in saying *yes* to the next steps on Southtown.

Meantime, see you Monday night at the Southpoint meeting.

DL



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Managing Editor – Dick Lutz
Chief Feature Writer – Anusha Shrivastava
Chief Proofreader – Kay Thompson
Advertising Manager – Ellen Levy
Circulation Managers – George Rubin, Sherie Helstien
Founding Publisher – Jack Resnick
Editor Emeritus – Jim Bowser

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island
observer

To the Editor:

I was fortunate to acquire a copy of the *Eye on the Isle* newsletter the other day. I say fortunate because the distribution seems to be somewhat arbitrary, with copies never making it up to my end of the Island at Manhattan Park. I had thought at one time that this publication was the house organ of some group of people (RICA perhaps?) but this issue indicates that it is the work of just one person – apparently, one angry person.

I'm a member of both the RIRA Common Council and Maple Tree Group, so I guess that makes me a member (according to *Eye on the Isle*) of the "elite 100 families." I've never been an elite before, and I'm not sure what it is. If it includes those Island residents who have devoted their time, talent, money and stomach linings to make this community better and to protect it from those who would exploit it, I'm proud to include myself in that number. Nor do I know who the "100 families" are. I just wish there were 100 *individuals* willing to volunteer their time at Common Council or Maple Tree Group instead of the small, hard-working, intrepid band of activists who try to make a difference.

I do know that community organizations will be stronger and more representative of the Island's diversity when people take the bit in their teeth and *volunteer*. Last November's RIRA elections happened during the general election because it made sense to kill two birds with one stone and because RIRA members *volunteered* to work at our voting booth. Where else would the Common Council's (not MTG's) ballot question on the Grannis bill rightly appear? The merchant discounts rewarded people just for voting, you know. We weren't buying votes with a free cup of coffee, for goodness sake. And by the way, the cost of the RIRA election was assumed by RIOC, not the Public Purpose funds. This is year-old news, Ms. Rademaker, and you're getting incensed about it now?

I know that my late colleague, Jessie Rademaker, thought enough of the Common Council at one time to run for its presidency and to serve as its treasurer, perhaps during the time that Octagon Park was being planned. I'm new here (we've lived here for a mere ten years) and I don't know all of that project's history, but it seems to me that its faults lie in the construction failures (surely RIOC's provenance) rather than in its planning. And, just as surely, this is ancient history, with much more pressing and immediate construction questions facing the community.

I would urge the author of this broadsheet, and any other of my neighbors who feel alienated by the current crop of concerned citizens, to attend Common Council and Maple Tree Group meetings. There is room in both forums for alternative points of view. At the very least, you'll get your facts straight. Please remember that our goals are exactly the same: the betterment and preservation of our unique home.

Matthew M. Katz

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 mainstreetwire@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.**

Letters

To our fellow Islanders:

The Oliver Chapin family sincerely wants to thank our many friends and neighbors on Roosevelt Island for the wonderful outpouring of love and kindness shown to us in this time of sorrow and loss.

As Oliver would say, thank you for helping us to "Keep on keeping on."

Gloria, Margaret, Joy and Oliver Paul Chapin

To the Editor:

Sure, we'd all love to be able to use our Metrocards to take the Tram. But if the MTA takes over operation of the Tram, it will not only lack experience. The question is, how low in its priorities will the Tram rank? I'm afraid things could get even worse than they were under Jerome Blue's administration.

Consider the way the MTA maintains the escalators in the Roosevelt Island subway station. Chilling thought, isn't it?

Name Withheld By Request

To the Editor:

We enjoyed reading the feature story in *The WIRE* about the new triplets on Roosevelt Island. It is so nice to read good news and learn about other Island residents. Anusha Shrivastava in this article, however, states that these triplets "bask in the glory of being the only triplets on the Island."



Remy, Dax, and Ali Armenakis

In any case, we were happy to learn that the Biagiolis share our view that Roosevelt Island is the ideal place to be raising children. Rearing triplets is a wonderful and overwhelming experience. Parents need all the help they can get.

Jim, Diana, Remy, Ali, and Dax Armenakis

Jim & Diana Armenakis
ali armenakis
Dax Armenakis
Remy Armenakis

To the Editor:

At the recent RIRA Planning Committee meeting, the proposed developers of Southtown received widespread criticism for the plan they are proposing, on many points. Some of these criticisms included an observation that the first building planned would sit astride the existing line of Main Street, creating not only a visual barrier that will add to the closed-in feeling of the existing Main Street, but a wall that will separate and divide Southtown from the rest of the community. There were objections to the way the open spaces are planned around the new buildings as replicating the "dead spaces" that exist in the courtyards of the current buildings. Some observed that the soccer field's placement at the far southeastern extreme of the development was an afterthought and virtually planned to cause inaccessibility and little use. It was pointed out that the plan would not only necessitate the moving of the toddler playground, currently located at the southern end of Blackwell Park, but would leave it constantly in the shadow of a large building. It was widely felt that the developers, stated desire to try and attract an educational and/or health institution as tenant(s) of the first building or buildings, and formulate the interiors to meet the desires of these institutions, to be a blatant example of the developers' disregard for the community's quality of life. Some pointed out that the soccer/baseball field at the south end of Main Street has become a

focal point for the community, deeply embedded in the hearts of those residents who have grown up with it, and, as a result, should not be so cavalierly jettisoned. Taken together, all these observations and objections show clearly that there are serious, profound, and widespread unanswered questions about the Southtown development as proposed.

The developers argued that the plan has gone through many community hearings and some revisions, that there will forever be those who object. Basically, they said "enough is enough" and it is time to act. They clearly demonstrated that they were present at the meeting simply to attempt to mollify objections and move their plan forward as quickly as possible.

The developers' stance is disingenuous and begs the questions. The point is they came to the community with their plan on which they asked for comment and then here and there modified and tweaked it slightly. It is a very subversive and co-opting approach. In effect, the whole discussion is on their terms. It is an extremely smart and crafty way to push a development that will suit their agenda. If they were sincerely interested in development that cared about community, quality of life and people, their approach would have been wholly different. They would have come to the community and said, "We have this wonderful space to build on the great start that has made Roosevelt Island the unique and extraordinary place it is. We

See **Letters**, page 7

The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) has proposed the development of a 350-room two-tower Marriott Hotel/Resort within Southpoint Park. In addition, the structures will house an additional 50 luxury condominiums.

The second RIOC meeting to allow community input regarding this project will be held this coming Monday night, November 22, at 7:00 in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

The first Community Meeting, held in June of 1998, was a typical Jerry Blue boondoggle, clearly held simply as a legal formality. Blue scheduled two hours for the community to vent, then went back to his office and did what he pleased, with no regard for the community.

Not a single note was taken. No minutes were recorded. Not one notation was made of anything said by the many residents who spoke.

Dave Kraut, one of RIOC’s Roosevelt Island resident board members, chaired the meeting in his position as the head of RIOC’s Development Committee. He acknowledged that, until four days earlier, neither he nor any other RIOC Board member had any knowledge that the project even existed. He also admitted that there had been no Development Committee meetings on the subject – that, in fact, with the single exception of himself as head, there were no members of the Development Committee.

Stephen Jemal is the principal of SSJ, the developer of the proposed Marriott project. He has met with the separate Planning and Development Committees of both RIOC and RIRA. He seems genuinely puzzled over why we wouldn’t want a two-tower resort (26 stories each) with 350 first-class hotel rooms and 50 condominiums in a gated community in our back yard.

What does it matter to him that our single street, which was designed and constructed for no vehicular traffic at all, would now bear the burden of the taxi traffic needed to maintain 350 hotel rooms, let alone ongoing employee, guest and service traffic?

SSJ would not extend the AVAC system and so plan to use dumpster garbage trucks. Want to guess how much garbage a 350-room, 50-apartment resort/conference facility can produce? And what goes out as garbage presumably has to come into the resort in the first place, presumably in ten times the quantity.



Patrick Stewart

Gifford Miller’s office and Virginia Fields’ Manhattan Borough President’s office have given us formal pledges to protect the parkland, as well as Community Board 8 and the Roosevelt Foundation.

Every one of RIOC’s own Request for Proposals for development here even states, as legally mandated:

“Development of sites, and each individual site, must be in accordance with the City Lease and the GDP.”

No modification of the GDP has ever been permitted without the approval of the City Council (formerly the Board of Estimate). It will be interesting indeed if RIOC takes this on now.

As you know, RIRA has retained legal counsel on this issue. The firm, DeForest and Duer, is widely considered to have some of the top land-use specialists in the city. And our community has indicated its willingness to support this legal fight if that is what is needed.

RIRA is not adamantly opposed to commercial development of part of our parkland if that’s what it takes to get the parkland itself developed. But any development here, on parkland or not, must be appropriate to this community. This proposal is ludicrous in its wanton disregard for those who live here.

I am not entirely convinced that Rob Ryan understands how strongly the community feels on this particular issue, so I ask that you come to the meeting Monday night and let him know.

RIRA President’s Column

Lois F. Schwab

Lois F. Schwab, a resident of the Island for 22 years and a familiar volunteer at the Roosevelt Island Community Library for 15 years, died November 8 at Coler Memorial Hospital after a three-year assault by a succession of orthopedic, neurological and other conditions. The immediate cause was respiratory failure following pneumonia. She was 76 years old.

At the Library, which was run by volunteers for some 20 years before recently becoming a branch of the New York Public Library, Lois worked largely as a reference librarian, helping students do research for school assignments; she also selected and catalogued, from among the thousands of donated books, those to be kept for the collection.

Born in New York City in 1923 to Sidney and Nathalie Goetter Feibleman, Lois grew up in Great Neck, New York, and New Orleans, was married in 1947 to Armand Schwab, Jr., and moved north. The couple lived in Mamaroneck, New York, for 25 years, where she raised three children, worked with her husband in local politics, and was a member and the president of the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Motion Picture Council.

The Schwabs spent a year in Sweden on leave from her husband’s job at *Scientific American*, after which she determined to resume her education. Having moved to Roosevelt Island in 1977, she earned a BA in art history at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York, in 1979, and an MS in library and information science at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in 1982.

After a job running the patients’ library at Coler briefly, she devoted herself to volunteer work at the Community Library on Main Street and, for a time, in the School Volunteer Program, giving slide lectures to Island fourth-graders and conducting museum tours.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, her sons and daughters-in-law Tony and Deborah of Teaneck, New Jersey, John and Robin of Seattle, and Matthew and Valerie of Stone Ridge, New York, and six grandchildren: Andrew and Madeleine, Peter and Rachel, and Hallie and Nicholas.

A memorial service on the Island is planned for December at a place and time to be announced.



On Website NYC10044... <http://192.104.18.139>

There’s a tour of the Island’s history from pre-colonial times to the present, as well as the full text of last week’s meeting of RIRA’s Planning Committee. Of course, there’s this issue of *The WIRE*, along with several past issues. If you’re having trouble pointing your browser to <http://192.104.18.139>, send an e-mail to nyc10044@rcn.com, and we’ll help you out.

COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friedland – phone/fax 317-8523

Sun., Nov. 21, 10:00-4:00, Annual Bazaar of Roosevelt Island Jewish Congregation, Thrift Shop.

Mon., Nov. 22, 7:00 p.m., proposed Southpoint Hotel Developer SSJ in a RIOC-sponsored Town Meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Mon., Nov. 22, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters. For information, call **687-4010**.

Fri., Dec. 3, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (and successive Fridays), **Roosevelt Island Art Association** conducts sketch sessions with a live model in studio at 546 Main Street. All levels welcome. For information, call **921-5939**.

Fri., Dec. 3, 8:00 p.m., Main Street Theatre production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. Additional performances Sat., Dec. 4, 8:00 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 5, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.; and

Fri.-Mon., Dec. 10-13, same times. For information, **371-4449**.

Sat., Dec. 4, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Nov. 26; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Nov. 29; bag materials due Dec. 2. **Future issues:** 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 (no charge), **317-8523**.

Wed., Dec. 8, 8:00 p.m., RIRA Common Council Meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Public welcome to address the Council in the public portion of the session.

Fri., Dec. 10, 8:00 p.m., Main Street Theatre production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. Additional performances Sat., Dec. 11, 8:00 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 12, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m. For information, **371-4449**.

Mon., Dec. 13, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters. For information, call **687-4010**.

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

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.

The Island’s Little Chapel

On the main street of our town, amid the east-channel storefronts and arcade, there is a small chapel dedicated to the memory of Frances Xavier Cabrini, a saintly soul who strove in behalf of America’s turn-of-the-century immigrant population. When the community’s landmark “Chapel of the Good Shepherd” is in use by one of three congregations – Protestant, Catholic, Muslim – or by additional civic groups, choirs, or youth organizations that gather there, the “little chapel” is always available. Morning mass is offered there on Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

This “chapel of ease” is an auxiliary facility to the larger Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Dedicated by Terence Cardinal Cooke in August 1980, the space was designed by famed ecclesiastical architect and Roosevelt Island resident, the late John Mascioni, and furnished throughout by generous residents and friends of Roosevelt Island’s Catholic community.

Since November 7, the parish has offered an 8:30 a.m. mass every Sunday, intended for families with a busy weekend schedule.



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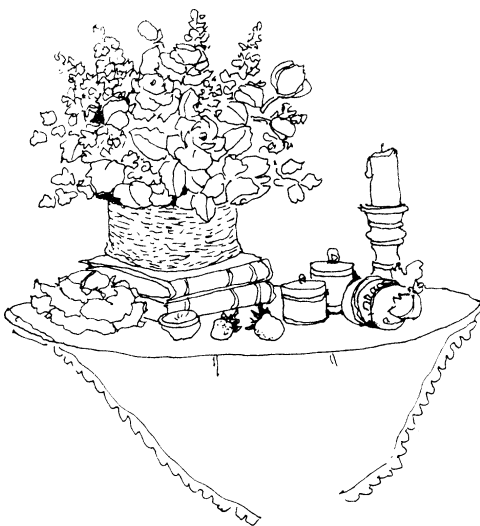
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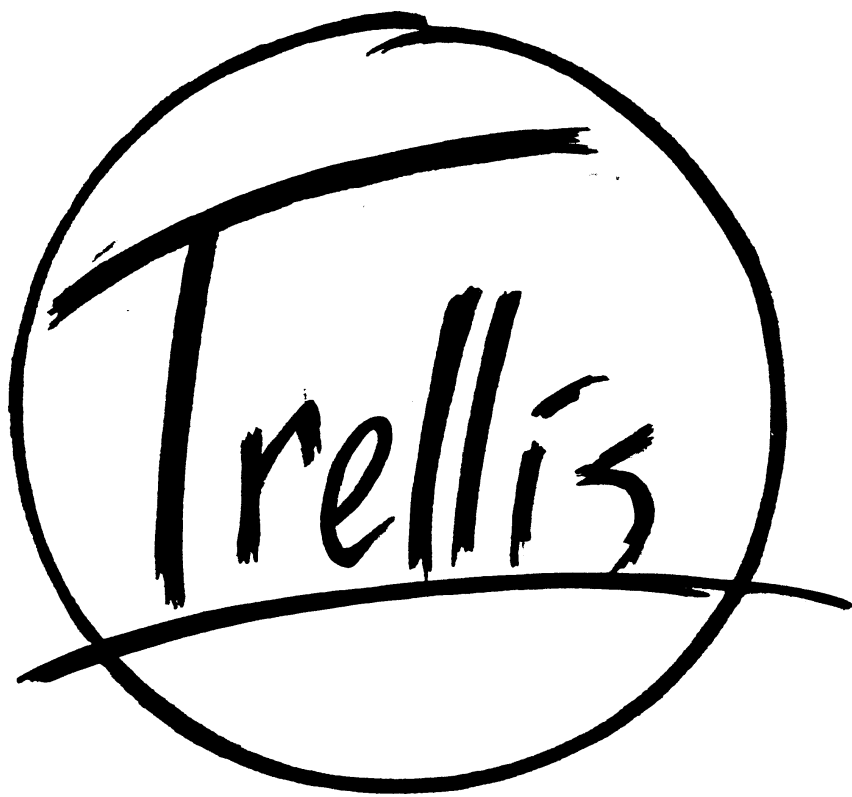
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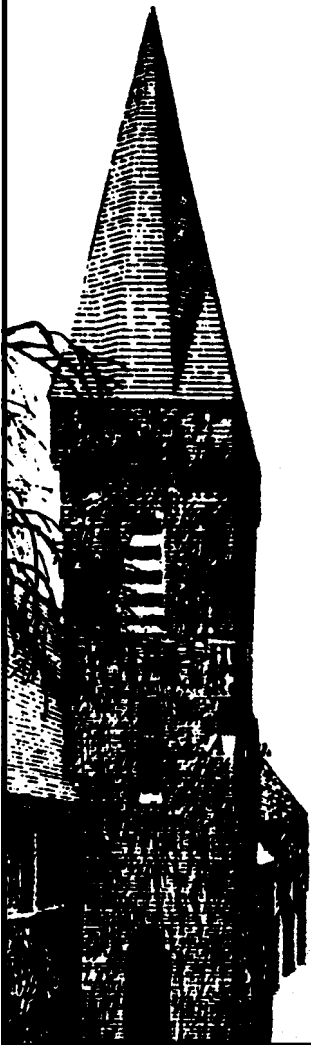
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The Church of the Good Shepherd

welcomes our interim Vicar, The Rev. Curtis W. Hart.

The full schedule of Good Shepherd services and programs continues under Father Hart’s able guidance.

Join us for Morning Worship this Sunday, and every Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, 543 Main Street. Ecumenical Worship and music from our Choir.*

*(*Ecumenical means “Embracing the entire Worldwide Christian Community”)*

Bring your children to our thriving Sunday School, which starts at 8:30 a.m. with donuts and milk. Classes for all ages, pre-Kindergarten to High School, begin at 8:45 a.m. Kids love our Sunday School, which is taught by dedicated volunteers using the best teaching material available.

Teens and Pre-Teens can’t get enough of our Venture group, which meets downstairs in the Oval Room at 11:00 a.m., immediately after Sunday Morning Worship. Teen Venture focuses on the challenges of teen life in a caring, Christian context. (Free Pizza and Soda)

Tuesday Evening Bible Fellowship meets at 8:00 p.m., in the Oval Room. Join your neighbors in learning more about our Lord, Jesus Christ, and his teachings. Free Bible for regular attendees, no obligation.

Check future issues of The Main Street WIRE for details about our Christmas Services, including our traditional Candlelight Service.

Public Safety Blotter

November 1-15, 1999

11/1/99, Domestic Dispute, 540 Main St., Resident phoned PSD, stated she’d observed male resident assaulting and dragging female into apartment. She heard crying sounds and sounds of someone being slapped. PSD responded, separated parties in order to speak with each person individually. There have been previous incidents of this nature. NYPD responded, victim refused to press charges. NYPD prepared domestic incident report. Perp. escorted out of apartment.

11/2/99, Assault, 560 Main St., Female resident entered PSD w/underage daughter, claimed underage female had struck her daughter, followed her to laundry room, where she tried to continue assaulting her. Mother of victim exited elevator, escorted her daughter home, the former refused NYPD, EMS. Youth Officer following up.

11/2/99, Harassment, 4 River Rd., Mother of youth entered PSD, stated resident youth and group of friends had threatened to cut her son, claiming they were “Bloods.” They also allegedly threatened to kill another youth boarding with her. She refused NYPD.

11/2/99 Smoke Condition, 534 Main St., RIHM supervisor entered PSD, reported smoke condition in 540 basement. FDNY responded, smoke was emanating from scene, glass was broken by FDNY, pizza was found burning in oven. Owner’s daughter on scene. Glass cleaned up, door boarded up by RIHM service personnel.

11/3/99, Criminal Mischief, 560 Main St., Resident entered PSD, stated she and daughter had been alarmed by loud banging noise at door, opened door, there was no one in hall. She went to RIHM to report it. PSD officer and RIHM super examined area, determined it had been a water balloon.

11/4/99, Smoke Condition, 580 Main St., Fire alarm box sounded at PSD, showed it was emanating from 580 Main. Officer responded,

was informed by tenant she’d left pot on stove. FDNY on scene. No damage or injuries.

11/4/99, Vehicle Accident, 20 River Rd., RIOC employee/reporter was driving RIOC vehicle with two other employees r/o 20 River Road and there was a male riding a bicycle swinging back and forth in front of them. As reporter tried to pass him, the bicyclist turned left and hit RIOC vehicle, causing him to fall. Employee exited vehicle, asked him if he was injured, he replied he was okay, refused EMS, NYPD. Vehicle was not damaged.

11/5/99, Assault, 510 Main St., Female resident entered PSD, stated she’d been assaulted in her apartment Nov. 3 by male resident with who she’d had past relationship. Per victim, he’d knocked on apt door stating it was the police, upon opening the door, he started hitting her, asking, “Where is he?” Woman said she’d waited three days for bruises to heal, she also stated she was going to NY Hospital to see her physician and to 19 Precinct.

11/5/99, Water Leak, 609 Main St., Sgt. responded to location, found numerous RIHM workers at scene due to a severe water leak in basement under China 1 rest. Duty Officer contacted restaurant owner for access, but due to the severity of situation, RIHM super needed immediate access. FDNY responded. RIHM had leak under control.

11/8/99, Missing Property, 10 River Rd., Resident entered PSD, said that on 11/4 her 24k gold necklace w/medallion, valued at \$1,000, had been taken by unknown perpetrator. She’d signed a “permission to enter” form at Manhattan Park, granting permission to International Furniture Rentals to remove furniture. She said the necklace, medallion, were on top of toilet tank in clear view and bathroom door was open. Officer contacted Manhattan Park super who said Manhattan Park personnel did not accompany furniture people to apartment.

11/8/99, Reckless Endangerment, 20 River Rd., PSD officer responded to scene where he confirmed a shot had been fired through balcony glass door, making a hole in it and lodging in adjacent wall. NYPD responded, dislodged bullet from wall, prepared report. NYPD detectives and officer on scene; the latter searched area.

11/9/99, Disorderly Conduct, 506 Main St., PSD officers responded to Youth Center, Counselor informed them two underage youths were fighting. They were brought to PSD, Youth Officer escorted them home. Both parents agreed to mediation hearing on 11/10.

11/11/99 Domestic Dispute, 560 Main St., Officer responded to scene of domestic dispute, female was transported by EMS to Elmhurst Hospital, male, who also was lacerated, refused transportation. NYPD prepared cross complaint, advised woman to obtain order of protection.

11/13/99 Fire, 510 Main St., Resident entered PSD, stated apartment was on fire, officers responded, found a stove on fire, apartment full of smoke, however flames had been extinguished by neighbor. FDNY responded, turned off stove. EMS, NYPD responded, no injuries incurred.

11/14/99, Grand Larceny Auto, 688 Main St., Resident informed Motorgate manager that he had last seen his car at location on 11/13. Manager informed him vehicle had been driven out of Motorgate on 11/14. Victim stated following had been in his vehicle: driver’s license, Motorgate card, his Social Security card, US\$55 from the car. NYPD responded, prepared report. PSD officer confiscated Motorgate tape, which is secured at PSD. PSD officer did not see any broken glass in area where vehicle had been parked.

11/15/99, Grand Larceny, 619 Main St., Resident entered PSD, stated he had lost wallet a year ago containing his Social Security card, credit cards, bank card, check book. On 11/8 and 11/12 unknown person withdrew US\$803.75, US\$812.86 from his account. He also stated unknown person had tried to open credit card account using his Social Security number but with different name and address than his. He closed the account at Chase. NYPD responded, prepared report.

11/15/99 Vehicle Accident, 300 Main St., RIOC bus driver walked into PSD, stated that as he was approaching f/o Tram, too close to sidewalk, knocked down light pole. Bus stop was wrapped in caution tape, cones put up. No injuries incurred.

11/15/99, Harassment, 560 Main St., PSD officer responded to resident’s apartment where mother of underage youth informed him that underage youth regularly threatens her son with bodily harm if he does not give him money. The mother stated she repeatedly has spoken to other youth and his mother to no avail. NYPD responded. Matter is under investigation by PSD Youth Officer.

Developers from page 1

criticized as “anathema” and an “afterthought” that would not adequately replace the shore-to-shore open space just north of the abandoned nurses residence. The new field was described by Kramer as “grade A.” RIRA Vice President Joan Christianson told the developers it is imperative that the field be suitable for both soccer and baseball, and that no playing time be lost.

- There will be retail areas in the development, probably clustered around the public plaza planned for the area east of the subway station. “We’ve tried to strike a balance between having convenient retail near the subway, but not having so much that it overwhelms and penalizes... the [existing] retailers.”

- The nurses residence will be demolished if three buildings are put up in phase one. (Earlier, *The WIRE* had reported RIOC President Robert Ryan’s understanding that the derelict would come down if two Southtown buildings were built.)

- Committee co-chair Judy Berdy urged the developers not to concentrate “all one [kind of] people,” such as medical center staff, “in one building.” She added, “It’s like a ghetto.” She urged that such a population be spread among several buildings.

- Berdy said that RIOC President Robert Ryan would be asked to attend the next meeting between the community and the developers. (No meetings have yet been scheduled.)

NYC Marathon Results

A dozen Roosevelt Islanders – seven women and five men – ran the wind-lashed New York City marathon on November 7, clocking times from Eric Ohlson’s 3:26:37 to more than double that for Josephine Pottinger. Ages of the resident runners ranged from 23 to 51. Results, as provided by the Road Runners Club, are listed below. (The fastest times in the marathon were turned in by Joseph Chebet of Kenya, at 2:09.14, and Adriana Fernandez of Mexico, at 2:26.06.)

Place Overall		Finish Time		Sex Place	Age	Age Place
2886	Ohlson, Eric R.	3:26:37	M	2684	50	166
3549	Gaffney, Michael A.	3:31:00	M	3271	30	1437
24548	Davenport, Maria	4:59:46	F	5887	25	1787
27377	McVey, Drew	5:19:31	F	7101	31	2771
27942	Dow, Kipchoge	5:24:34	M	20625	31	7425
28697	Renna, Jennifer	5:33:38	F	7648	30	2964
28698	Pepperman, Michael J.	5:33:38	M	21050	27	3143
28944	Herman, Briana	5:38:04	F	7760	23	2301
29693	Bdera, Karen P.	5:50:26	F	8112	38	3126
29694	Bdera, Nicholas	5:50:26	M	21582	51	2332
30891	Amiot-Priso, Yolande	6:30:48	F	8681	30	3283
31659	Pottinger, Josephine	7:47:17	F	9079	29	2543



Tired, happy, finished Islander Briana Herman, center, warms down with other runners after her Marathon finish November 7.

Sarah Johnson SPORTSWIRE

SOCCER

The Juniors consolation game last weekend, with aggressive slide tackling and similar tactics, could have been mistaken for a Seniors game, except for the constant clustering around the ball. Neither team was decisively dominant, but the ball stayed on Yellow’s half of the field, and Red finally managed to get a shot past Max McMillan, the Yellow team’s goalie, in the final five minutes of the game to keep Yellow from winning by a shut-out. The final score was 2-1, Yellow.

The Juniors championship game was very evenly matched. The ball bounced off player after player, fluctuating between the two teams. Players spent considerable time dribbling across the field and simply kicking the ball as hard and as far as possible. This determined playing resulted in a tie through overtime and a victory for Green, in a 3-2 shoot-out.

FOOTBALL

Flag Football season started last weekend with teams in two age groups, 11-13 and 14-16. Games are played on Saturdays through the middle of December. Look for standings and results in the next issue of *The WIRE*.



The Juniors celebrate third place after receiving their trophies.



Eric Nadel, Shivonne Berley, and Joelle Joseph of the Junior champion team show off their team spirit next to their banner.

Internet Buyers Helping School

PS/IS 217 hopes to cash in on Islanders’ Internet spending.

The school will get a part of every purchase made at certain sites. Web users, by designating “PS/IS 217 Roosevelt Island” as the beneficiary when buying at those sites, can make an indirect contribution to the school.

The sites cooperating in the program are accessible through www.schoolpop.com, and include Borders, Amazon, OfficeMax, JC Penney, eToys, Sharper Image, Omaha Steaks, Tower Records, Lands End, Planet Rx, Toys R Us, Drugstore.com, and others.

In addition, www.target.com is participating when site visitors sign up for a guest card and designate the school as the entity to receive the shopping reward.

Letters from page 2

need your ideas, concerns, desires, visions and dreams.” Then, through a slow and considered process of meetings and consultations with all members of the community, the ideas would be gathered and the deep well of creativity of visionaries in many fields (such as artists, architects, horticulturists, urban planners, sociologists, psychologists) would be tapped. Out of this process, a plan would develop worthy of the history of our Island, the community it has come to be and the vision we all share of what it can and should be.

The developers did not choose this approach, probably for a combination of reasons. Without a doubt, their primary and final objective is to make money, and as much as possible. If this requires some sensitivity to the community, it will be provided to the degree, and only to the degree, that is necessary to maximize

their profits. Witness the fact that their approach to development has been top-down: We know best; this is our plan. The fact that they steadfastly maintain this approach in the face of strong and widespread community criticism only underscores their lack of concern about community, quality of life, and people. Little do they realize that making an equitable return on investment is not necessarily inconsistent with sensitivity to people and community. Finally, there is a perceptual gulf between the developers and many of the residents that may well be insurmountable. Many of the residents approach future development with creativity and vision. It is obvious from the plan proposed by the developers and their heavy-handed and disdainful regard for the community that they lack both. People with passion, creativity and vision, even when they believe they are engaged in a dialogue with those lacking such attributes, can rarely communicate successfully with those who lack these attributes. Those without them quite literally

cannot understand what those with them are talking about. They hear something quite different from what is being said because they lack the depth of character and perceptual ability to do so.

Of course, all this is not surprising, given the even more sharply defined lack of creativity and vision, the contempt for and total disregard of the community that RIOC has consistently demonstrated. Witness Robert Ryan’s performance at the recent RIRA meeting, where he responded to financial and legal questions by claiming five months on the job was not enough to have any knowledge of the basic running of the Island, and besides these are not his areas of expertise. Such comments demonstrate either gross incompetence or a hidden agenda. I hope the former, but fear the latter. And the way Southtown is playing out, it seems apparent my hopes will be crushed, and my fears will come crashing down upon us.

Lee Edelman

Jack Resnick, M.D.

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November 1999
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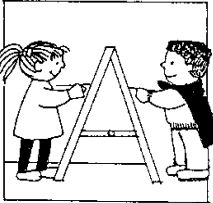
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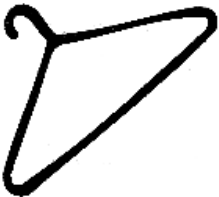
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