

Next issue:
Apr. 28-29

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044



John Mannix, Leo Kayser, and resident Kevin Fullington attended their first RIOC Board meeting Thursday night. Their presence on the Board brings it to its full complement of nine.

New Trio on RIOC Board Includes a Longtime Islander

Three new members joined the Board of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) Thursday night, a day after 58-0 confirmation by the State Senate. They bring the Board to a full complement of nine members.

One, **Kevin Fullington**, is a 20-year resident who grew up and went to school here, and played Little League ball and soccer. A Westview resident, he is Counsel to the Minority Leader of the City Council, Thomas Ognibene.

The other two are Manhattan residents, Attorney **Leo Kayser** and **John B. Mannix**, CEO and Founding Partner of the Merchant Equity Group.

Kevin Fullington, who is 26, was born in Ireland and lived in County Donegal to age six, when his family moved to the United States, his father's home. His mother investigated Roosevelt Island one day in 1979, decided it was just right for the family (Fullington has a twin brother), and they moved to 595 Main Street a few months later. He went to Island schools for nine years, and took First Communion here. He's engaged to be married.

Fullington told *The WIRE*, "No one's prouder than I when I see Roosevelt Island in commercials or movies. I'm proud of Roosevelt Island and what it has become, and hopefully we can make it even greater than it is." He says he brings an open mind to the Board, and has "a tangential understanding of the issues from living on the Island, and from discussing them with other Islanders," but he will now seek a great deal more detail. "I'm going to be guided by doing what's in the best interests of Roosevelt Island," he said.

Fullington holds a Juris Doctor degree from Fordham University School of Law, and received his B.A. from Providence College in Rhode Island.

Leo Kayser, who is 55, is a securities and antitrust lawyer, Senior Partner in Kayser and Redfern. He met Governor George Pataki at Yale when both were in their late teens; he also serves the State as a Director of the United Nations Development Corporation.

By telephone Thursday afternoon, Kayser told *The WIRE* that he sees a "basic structural problem in a corporation like RIOC," with appointed officials as Directors who "purport to come in and make policy decisions which traditionally have to do with very local matters... making decisions [for residents] that control their destiny." He continued, "I'm going to be looking for a major structural solution to that problem. I hope to frame that issue sharply."

Kayser is U.S. Counsel to a bank controlled by the Russian natural gas industry, and has worked with the Russians since 1982 in the transition to a free economy.

He was born and raised in Alabama, made Law Review at the University of Virginia Law School, and came to the City directly out of law school.

John Mannix's company, Merchant Equity Group, is an investment management and real estate development firm with a portfolio of \$500 million of commercial properties, many in California. After Thursday night's RIOC Board meeting, he said, "There are a lot of issues, and the Governor asked me to do this for my expertise in large-scale urban projects." He said service on the RIOC Board is a natural extension of his work on the Board of the State Housing Finance Agency, where he serves with Deputy Commissioner Steven Hicks of the State Department of Housing and Community Renewal, who chairs RIOC Board meetings.

Mannix holds a B.A. from Georgetown University, where he took a major in sociology and a minor in economics, writing a thesis on the effects of condominium conversions in Washington, D.C..

RIOC Board Gets Budget – And an Earful of Complaints

The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) projects that its operating revenue will double over the next seven years, from about \$9 million now, to about \$18 million (year 2000 dollars) in 2007.

The projection was given by RIOC Financial Chief Pat Siconolfi Thursday night as he presented a budget for the fiscal year started April 1.

But RIOC's Board of Directors, including its three new members, heard RIOC President Robert Ryan

get a tongue-lashing from Residents Association (RIRA) Vice President Joan Christianson, who said, "Mr. Ryan, you have been less than truthful to this community in regard to Southtown. If you are still here when [current law suits are] settled, I will demand to know why you have been untruthful to me directly and the community as a whole."

Christianson continued, "When you came to this job you asked us

See **RIOC**, page 3

Toddlers' Parents Have a Range of Choice in Early Education

by Anusha Shrivastava

Spring is here. For most of us it is time to put away all the woolens and pull out frisbees to play with outdoors. For some, it is time to register toddlers for classes at the Public School, Island Kids or the Day Nursery on

per-end age of four, a new preschool program for four-year-olds at the public school is rivaling the Day Nursery.

While the schools may be competing for their share of the pie, the parents and toddlers are benefiting from the new availability of choices. Take the case of four-year-old Jeremy Sosa. He has been attending classes at Island Kids since he was three months old. Last fall, he shifted to the Day Nursery. Earlier this month, his mother, Emma, registered him at PS/IS 217 for the daily two-hour morning pre-kindergarten program. "All the schools are great," said Emma. "He loved Island Kids. The Day Nursery was great for him, too. I attended classes with him all through and enjoyed



It's snow! Three-year-olds at the Day Nursery got close-up and personal with last week's snowfall. Left to right, Joshua Morete, Mahealani Delaney, DongWoo Lee, Frederik Mortensen.

the Island. Posters are going up on all the community boards, inviting parents to visit so they can make a choice and register.

In past years, it was easy to decide because the age groups that the three catered to were different. You took your infant to Island Kids until it was time for him or her to go to the Day Nursery at age three. After that, you could send the kid to PS/IS 217 or to an off-Island school at age five.

Not so this year. For the first time in many years, the market segment for the three is overlapping. At the lower-end age of two years, the child can go to Island Kids or the Day Nursery, which has begun a new program accepting two-year-olds. At the up-

per-end age of four, a new preschool program for four-year-olds at the public school is rivaling the Day Nursery.

Sherry J. Gregory, Principal of PS/IS 217, says, "Our developmental program deals with the new philosophy that children should be reading by kindergarten, so literacy happens in pre-kindergarten. Play and socialization should be coupled with literacy and we want to provide a challenging environment for the children of Roosevelt Island."

Apart from the desire to get the children acquainted with reading and writing, parents admit that the fact that the public school is free has a lot to do with their decision to

switch to it. Nirmala Narine's four-year-old daughter, Kira, will probably go to the public school this fall. Nirmala says that she is exploring the option mainly because of the cost factor. "I am happy with the Day Nursery but finances may not permit Kira to continue at the Day Nursery, which is expensive. If I was working full-time, I would continue to send her to the Day Nursery because the cost of a care-provider would have been the same but, since I am at home, I will save a lot by sending her to the public school."

The tab you could pick up for programs at the Day Nursery range from \$2,600 for the half-day programs to \$7,700 for the full-day week-long program for the September to June semester. The Director of the Day Nursery, Sara Seiden, says, "Our overhead

costs are high even though space for the school is provided free by Housing Management. Our teachers are licensed, we run a professional program and we have to pay for insurance. We do offer financial assistance on a case-by-case basis and there is a discount if you have two children in the school. We are cheaper than private schools in Manhattan which offer comparable programs."

She admits, however, that the new pre-kindergarten program at the public school has affected the class size at her school. "The public school may have cut our numbers but did not close us down. We have space for more classes so we have dropped the entry-level age to two years and three months. The separation program can begin for children aged two and up. We want parents to stay

See **Toddlers**, page 6



An Island Kids group: Mothers Hidemi Murayama (standing) and Olya Stern (seated with daughter Layla Stern) and, left to right, Gabriella Beola, Sanjana Nigam with mother Abha Nigam, Alexander Enock, Ayla Stern, Keigo Murayama, Hitomi Kuji, Ken Nigata, Karen Conery (instructor), and, with braided hair, Natu Mokombo. Additional photos in color on Website NYC10044 at www.nyc10044.com.

Pages of Thought and Opinion

Rancor

The rancor should end. Among residents concerned about the present and future of Roosevelt Island, there has been of late more than enough of rancor: *bitter ill-will, resentment, deeply held, perhaps long-lasting.*

Lest some hasten to point out that *The WIRE* has contributed to the Island’s current diet of rancor, we admit here and now that *The WIRE’s* editorial positions are deeply felt and stated forcefully. Understandably, those who hold contrary views are likely to see such forthrightness as a contribution to a climate less than cordial. We don’t mean to suggest *The WIRE* will sacrifice its edge in making a contribution to bridge-building. But we acknowledge that others, reading *The WIRE’s* opinions of Island matters from another viewpoint altogether, are not likely to be comforted when evidence and conclusion is excessively pointed.

But some of what we feel in the air these days – or read in errant e-mails – has gone beyond keen argument of position. When deliberate misinformation is spread about those whose views are different, or individuals are painted with the broad brush of a derogatory nickname because of those views, the only contribution – aside from a temporary gain – is that it adds to acrimony.

Much of the current ill feeling arises from two initiatives *The WIRE* endorses.

- The Maple Tree Group, acting on a 92% vote favoring self-governance, is working with Assemblymember Pete Grannis and Senator Olga Mendez on legislation to put the RIOC Board in the hands, mostly, of elected Island residents.

RIRA President and RIOC Board member Patrick Stewart has, at various times, endorsed, commended, condemned, or railed against the effort and the legislation. Sometimes, after a public condemnation of, for example, an MTG analysis of the RIOC budget, he has later admitted privately that he had the figures wrong. We commend the admission, but it’s hard to be comfortable with the rancor of the earlier denunciation.

Nobody – not Stewart, not his supporters – is against democracy. Stewart’s concerns about budget can be, and have been, answered – and it’s time to get on with direct control of Island matters by its people through *elected* representatives on the RIOC Board – the legislation put in play by Grannis and Mendez.

- Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development (RIRSD) acted against some wrong-headed Southtown plans that violated the General Development Plan (GDP) for the Island. Stewart initially endorsed the Southtown scheme and condemned RIRSD’s legal action. When his wife, Karen, found evidence of the plan’s deviation from the GDP, RIRA – thinking it had found a magic bullet – opted to negotiate, rather than take legal action. But RIOC refused to negotiate, and RIRA finally joined in the legal fray.

That’s a simple matter: Everybody involved wants what’s best for Roosevelt Island. If we can get over the worry that the developers will walk away from their lucrative deal because they might be held to residents’ interpretation of the GDP, we have nothing to fear in acting together for the Island’s best interests.

Some time ago, Stewart proposed a meeting with *The WIRE* to “get the air cleared,” after which “we would all be a lot happier.” *The WIRE* accepted, but Stewart then backed off – in fact, resigned his *WIRE* column – apparently jabbed a little too deeply by the kind of sharp *WIRE* opinion he genuinely appreciated when it was directed against his nemesis, Jerry Blue.

The WIRE remains open to such a meeting, and has told Stewart so. He’s also invited to resume his *RIRA President’s Column*, which remains open to him – and to follow through on that very statesmanlike proposal he made – to clear the air.

New Blood

The WIRE happily welcomes three new members of the RIOC Board. Their new perspective is particularly welcome at a time when residents and RIOC are about to face each other in court in an expensive disagreement over just how Roosevelt Island should be developed.

We found the comments of Leo Kayser especially promising when he said he wants to frame this issue: Giving residents local control over local matters. That’s not a snap-your-fingers overnighter, as members of the Maple Tree Group have found over two and a half years, but Kayser seems to bring an affinity to the task that could hasten a payoff on the effort.

And what a delight to welcome a new Board member who grew up here: Kevin Fullington happens also to bring a connection with City Council.

We look forward to getting to know them all.

DL

Letters

To the Editor:
The photo of the “blooms” on the trees shown in the April 1 issue of *The WIRE* lit up the page with a breathtaking view of early Spring flowers.

Lest these anonymous blooms remain unknown, let’s identify them for the benefit of residents who appreciate such early Spring arrivals. They’re brought forth on Callery Pear trees, the first to appear in the parade of floral displays announcing that winter is over.

And close behind these first bloomers, of course, are the flowering Japanese cherry trees, which are already bursting forth, behind Eastwood and, in widespread display, over at Cherry Tree Walk.

**Maurice Bleifeld, Chair
Roosevelt Island Tree Board**

do? You have to cut it out. I really do believe we have the far-thinking courage to excise our cancer by addressing the main true issue squarely: Breaking the City/State Lease, the terms of which have been illegally breached so many times by the State that we are on *extremely firm 100% provable legal ground*, the main issue of which would not be, as in the present pending cases, subject to interpretation (always iffy and sometimes even boiling down to whether the Judge’s breakfast has sat well). Completely severing our connection with the State, we would return under the benign umbrella of the City.

The time is right. Oh, so right – never so right!

Because one of our main causes of action would surely be our having been denied true democracy for 26 years through autocratic government, the question of constitutionality would bring into play constitutional law; this means we could, if necessary, take our case right up to the Supreme Court of the United States.

To the Editor:
Hats off to two guys who would not give up.

Charles DeFino, Director of the Youth Center, and Steve Kaufman, Chair of the Youth Center Board of Directors, spent endless hours with RIOC, negotiating to get Octagon field back for our kids. They would not take “no” for an answer. After many discussions, RIOC finally conceded.

We thank Charlie and Steve for not giving up and thanks to the RIOC men for doing the work.

Our kids have already played on the field and they sincerely loved it.

Thank you, Steve and Charlie, for a job well done.

**Fay Vass
Mercedes Lugo**

It’s up to you people. Would I rather see my hard-to-come-by money go out now a number of times, as well as again in the future, in the fond hope (to be realized or not) of alleviating pain in a few sore toes, or instead go straight for the jugular? Here’s my \$500 legal fund pledge if we consolidate our lawsuits, bringing up each of our present, as well as all past, issues as a separate cause of action within the one giant lawsuit, forcefully focusing in on the Big Solution. Legal fees could come not only from contributions but also from a series of raffles held for HDTV sets – easy, feasible, fun and what Island resident wouldn’t like winning a new HDTV?

“Free at last!” The classic inevitable bottom line. We *can* do it, folks, so *let’s* do it. Now’s the time, truly, before any more money is spent on side issues we may or may not win. If a thing is worth doing, it’s always worth doing right. And the right thing now to solve all our problems is getting this 10,000-pound elephant off our backs.

Barbara Potts

than the income cash flow.

The design team should use all its creativity and energy to build on what is unique and special about Roosevelt Island to complete the original vision and make it one of the crown jewels of urban life and community anywhere.

Step 4: Coordination of Design Team
As the design team works up ideas and plans, the steering committee will coordinate the efforts of the experts and report back to the community through the town-meeting process.

It is important to note that this process will free the design team from the constraints and demands of conventional developments and developers. Note that there is nothing about this approach that rejects or eliminates Related/Hudson companies from developing the project once residents decide what the project will be.

Step 5: Designation of Plan
Through this process a plan will be fully developed, debated openly, and voted on by all those in the community who wish to participate. Perhaps a referendum will be held as a final step.

There is one point that should be emphasized, in particular, about this procedure. One mandate will be a design that is financially self-supporting. If such a plan can be developed, we have a good shot at obtaining funding through private lenders or State agencies that have bonding authority, such as the Port Authority. Some will say it is impossible to devise such a plan – that, for example, the infrastructure costs are so great that it can’t be done. I only ask that they show me the proof of that. Until a design team, including financial experts, works with creativity and in depth on all the details, we will not know. Even if it isn’t possible, such an approach will delineate exactly what the shortfall will be, and thus give us a figure to obtain through government or private sources.

Does not the beauty of our Island and community demand that we do everything possible to retain what we all dearly love and to fulfill the vision of Ed Logue and others who started this process, and build into the future making Roosevelt Island a wonder to live in, a jewel to behold, and the envy of the world?

Lee Edelman

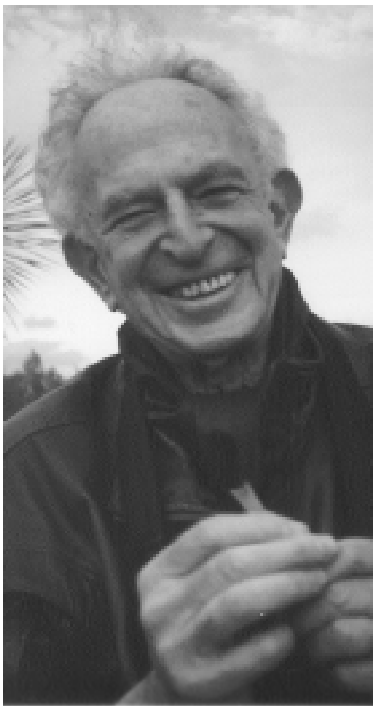
Bertram M. Beck

Bertram M. Beck, a Rivercross resident, died Monday, April 3. He headed the Henry Street Settlement on the Lower East Side from 1967 to 1977, and was widely considered an innovative and creative practitioner of social work. From 1977 to 1985, he was general director of the City’s Community Service Society, managing an operation that focuses on income maintenance, health care, affordable housing, and education for lower-income residents.

His professional career from 1985 to his death was centered on Fordham University. That year, he became a professor of social service. Last year, he organized an Institute on Religion and Poverty, which was named for him several months ago. During his tenure at Fordham, he served as a Dean and played a key role in establishing Fordham’s managed care institute.

Beck had earned degrees from Antioch College and the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration. He served as a psychiatric caseworker in the Army Air Corps, then with the Community Service Society. From 1952 to 1955, he was the director of an anti-delinquency project for the Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He was the Executive Director of Mobilization for Youth from 1965 to 1969, in New York.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah, and by two daughters, Rachel Beck of Washington, D.C., and Melissa Beck of Brooklyn, and by two sisters, Alice Simmons of Brookline, Massachusetts, and Ruth Korn of Manhattan.



COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friedland – phone/fax 317-8523

Sun., Apr. 16, 3:00 p.m., **World Voices Club**, *Springtime Stories*, Manhattan Theater Club. For information on membership or admission charge, call 730-2030.

Fri., Apr. 21, 12 noon, **River Music** presents the **Bordeaux String Quartet**, playing Haydn’s *Seven Last Words of Christ*, as part of Good Friday observance. Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Free.

Mon., Apr. 24, 8:00 p.m., **Historical Society Lecture Series on Island History**, *Blackwell House Update and Archives Night*, Island House Community Room. A group search through 40 volumes of Island history; update on efforts to restore Blackwell House. Free to members, \$5 seniors/students, \$10 to adults. Information, **688-4836**.

Sat., Apr. 29, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Apr. 21; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Apr. 24; bag materials due Apr 27. **Future issues:** May 13, 27; June 10; July 1 (for July 4); Aug. 26; Sept. 9, 23; 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., May 3, 8:00 p.m., **Roosevelt Island Residents Association** Common Council meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Thur., May 4, 7:30 p.m., **Roosevelt Island Greens** spring meeting, Island House Community Room. Information: **838-8029**.

Thur., May 11, 7:00 p.m., **RIOC Board Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

At the Senior Center

Monday

9:15-10:00, **Stay Well** (Exercise)
9:30, **Basic Computer class**
10:00-12:00, **English as 2nd Language** resumes 4/17
11:00-12:30, **Metrocard Bus** 4/24
12:45 **Arts & Crafts**
6:30-7:30, **Line Dancing**

Tuesday

10:00, **Jazzercise**
12:30-2:30, **Visiting Nurse Service** 4/25
1:30, **Games** (RISA)
7:00, **Korean English**

Wednesday

9:15, **Stay Well** (Stretch)
10-12, **English as 2nd Language**

Thursday

10:00-11:00, **T’ai Chi**
12:30, **Movie**

Friday

9:15, **Stay Well** resumes 4/21
10:00-11:00, **English as 2nd Language**
10:30-11:30, **Blood Pressure Screening**
12:30, **Movie**

Saturday

7:30 p.m., **Bingo** (RISA)

Special Events

Call in advance for details: 980-1888

Thur., Apr 20, 1:00, **Free trip to Japan Music Festival**, Carnegie Hall

Wed., Apr. 26, **Atlantic City trip** (RISA)

Thur., Apr. 27, **Hearing Screening & Lecture**

Sun., Apr. 30, **Beer & Pizza Party** (time t/b/a)

The WIRE publishes this information as received from the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, and takes no responsibility for its accuracy or completeness.

3/14/00, Larceny, 688 Main St., While patrolling, officer noticed approximately four open suitcases with numerous pieces of clothing strewn on the ground. Two sergeants responded, suitcases and clothing were brought to PSD. Owner entered PSD, reported that unknown person(s) had broken rear lock on his vehicle and had removed four suitcases from same. His sister and he identified property and it was released to them. Reporter will contact NYPD and insurance company on their own. Officer searched area, and stairwell with negative results. Motorgate manager notified of occurrence.

3/15/00, Found Property, 500 Main St., RIOC employee surrendered wallet found while cleaning at scene, which contained driver’s license, debit/credit cards, etc. Sgt. contacted union administrator to contact owner. Wallet secured at PSD.

3/17/00, Criminal Mischief, 575 Main St., Arrest. Officer received report from small child that someone had broken wall between elevators on 9 floor. RIHM Mgr. arrived at scene, RIHM management and PSD conducted investigation. Video of location was viewed by RIHM mgmt. and PSD Director, etc. Video clearly showed perp causing damage. He was arrested, transported to NYPD 19 Pct.

3/19/00, Found Property, 540 Main St., Resident surrendered purse to D.O. containing US\$60, keys, etc. Officer left note on owner’s door to come to PSD, which she did and retrieved her property.

3/20/00, Criminal Mischief, 551 Main St., RIHM super notified officer that one of the windows had been broken. There was a slab of concrete on ground and 2 pieces inside pool. NYPD responded. Area was searched with negative results. Value of window was reported as being US\$360 plus tax.

3/21/00, Found Property, 40 River Rd., RIOC bus driver turned over to officer bag that had been left on the bus, containing miscellaneous items. Owner called PSD, was advised property was here, she said she would retrieve it later.

3/23/00, Harassment, 506 Main St., Arrest/investigation. Mother of underage youth in house reported that, while en route home, underage male youth had threatened her w/bodily harm. Other individuals advised him to cease, but he followed her. Youth brought to PSD, issued a Juvenile Report, released to caretaker.

3/24/00, Trespassing, 875 Main St., Arrests (2), Male, female Marymount students observed at Octagon park, were arrested for trespassing, brought to PSD, and each issued a “C” summons.

3/26/00, Unsecured Premises, 688 Main St., Officer noticed passenger side window of vehicle open, no signs of forced entry. M/G employee attempted to contact owner with negative results. Officer checked vehicle frequently.

3/29/00, Hazardous Condition, 725 Main St., Manhattan Park supervisor informed officer that sanitation truck that was leaving AVAC area had spilled refuse on street and had left island. Sgt. arrived and closed the street because of broken glass strewn on road. Sanitation supervisor arrived, stated that driver would return and clean up area, which he did.

3/29/00, Harassment, 10 River Rd., Arrest. Concierge phoned PSD, officer responded. Victim stated perp had tried to grab her glasses, cigarettes and cursed at her, because she had asked him if he was waiting for a cab in lobby. Perp was brought to PSD, issued a “C” summons.

3/30/00, Trespassing, 686 Main St., Arrest. Security guard at Gristede’s phoned PSD, said he was holding youth for shoplifting. Upon officers’ arrival security guard stated he’d seen perp take 3 items and attempt to exit store. When Shop Lift Support Deposition was produced there was a contradiction in guard’s statement, as well as having a discrepancy in value of items. Furthermore, perp did not have any items in his possession. He was issued a “C” summons and released.

3/31/00, Found Property, 688 Main St., Officer noticed 18-speed mountain bicycle while patrolling, checked area for owner with negative results. Bicycle brought to PSD and secured.



Published by **The Main Street WIRE**
©2000 Unisource2000™ Inc.
531 Main St. #413
Roosevelt Island, NY 10044

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

Sophia Adams, Amy Ambrosino, Russell Aragon, Judy Aronds, Rafael Asenjo, Sonia Asenjo, Jose Baca, David Bauer, Judy Berdy, Steve Bessenof, Virginia Boykin, Laurence Brodsky, Mary Camper-Titsingh, Melanie Castine, Lynn Chambers, Malcolm Cohen, Debra Mount Cornet, Shirley Cruz, Harold Davis, Valerie Davis, Morty Dinerstein, Arlise Ellis, Norm Ellis, Regina Farrington, Enrique Fernandez, Mary Fitzgerald, Sarita Fonseca, Claire Friedland, Karen Ganzi, Atul Golchale, Jayashree Golchale, Teresa Hasing, John Hennessey, Peter Kaplan, Mickey Karpeles-Bauer, Steve Kaufman, Matthew Katz, Ruth Limmer, Curtis Lowery, Lena Lutz, Hazel Lynch, Clarissa McCraley, Donny McIntyre, Merle McLean, Dorene McQueen, Myrna Mendis, Jill Milner, Terry Moses, Bruce Munsch, Louise Munsch, Sandra Narine, Juan Nieves, Nancy Olivera, Elizabeth Powell, Joan Raimone, Steve Raimone, Gladys Rasheed, Paul Russo, Bernie Schwartz, Beryl Seaforth, Susan Secula, Marilyn Sherman, Claire Shuldiner, Peter Shuldiner, Ron Schuppert, Stuart Solway, Joyce Speziale, Pearl Thomas, Luis Torres, David Tsireskin, Elena Vrinceanu, Rece Walford, Maggie Warner, Dolores Williams, Robin Williams, Nina Winteringham, Rose Woods

RIOC from page 1

to give you a chance. We did and you are proving to be worse than Jerry Blue.” Blue was Ryan’s predecessor in the top job at RIOC. “I believe that the Island is bankrupt and you still fail to ask Albany for the funds needed for basic upkeep and repairs, yet you are spending thousands of dollars on a law suit that could have been prevented and you have caused the citizens of this Island to spend thousands on the same suit.” Christianson said RIRA had met with Ryan in an attempt to reach an accommodation on Southtown development, without success. RIRA maintains the Southtown plans violate the Island’s General Development Plan and the Lease with the City under which the State controls the Island until 2068. The organization has asked to intervene in Article 78 actions against RIOC brought by Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Develop-

ment (RIRSD) and Rivercross resident Robert Chira, an attorney representing the Alternative Southtown Design Committee.

Historical Society Vice President Judith Berdy also criticized Ryan’s administration at RIOC, saying all but two of the Island’s six landmark buildings are in a serious state of continuing deterioration. Ryan later responded that normal bureaucratic delays have kept restoration from starting on Blackwell House, and insurance delays have held up work on the Octagon, where a Labor Day fire caused extensive damage.

Ryan reported to the Board and residents attending the meeting on several other matters:

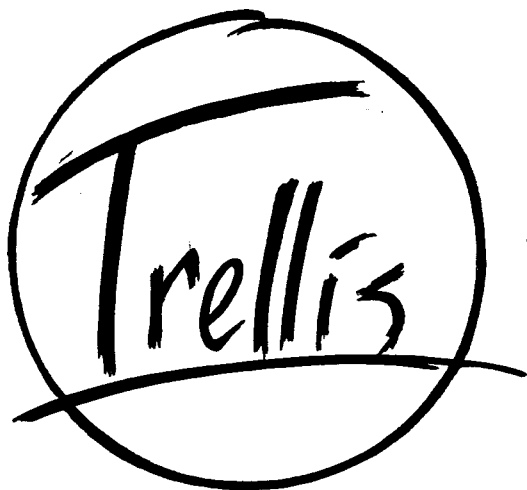
- He said RIOC expects to prevail in the Article 78 actions challenging the Board’s September approval of developers and their plan for Southtown.

- The developer proposing to convert west shore mini-schools into condos will make a presentation at the Board’s next meeting.

- Developers planning twin-tower hotels for Southpoint and an Eldercare facility are expected to appear before the Board or the community this summer.

- A developer planning residential wings with the Octagon as a centerpiece continues preparing plans for the venture, and further conferences are expected in the near future.

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 left at 531 Main Street for *The WIRE*, or by e-mail to nyc10044@rcn.com** (any wordprocessing software, but no MSWord files with macros). Alternatives: Typed, double-spaced copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to (212) 755-2540. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered. We cannot take telephone dictation of letters. **All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.**



Taxes Done?

Wherever you stand on that annual ritual, Trellis is available for a *TGTD* (thank goodness *that's* done!) celebration, or just a cup of coffee (and a sweet?) to mark the occasion. But if you're in the last-minute brigade, you probably need a break. Either way, the coffee's just right. We have a tempting selection of comfort food, and the company's great.

Come on by.
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*

Sales & Service
Est. 1961

CHRIS TV
Repair Service Center

TV-VCR-STEREO-CD-PROJECTION TV-CAMCORDERS and more...

Free Estimates in Shop.
Free Pickup & Delivery with Repair
In-Home Service
All Work Guaranteed

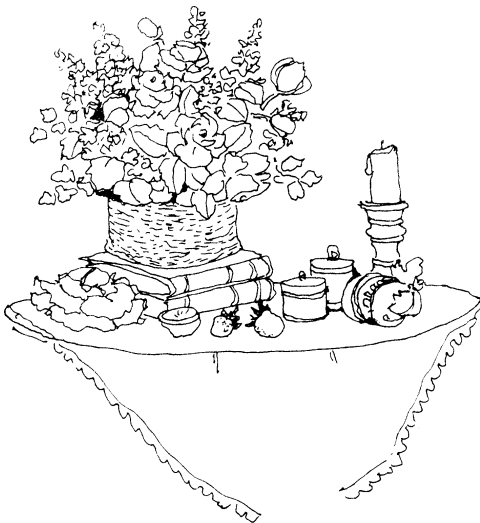
718-392-7444

License #730671
Credit Cards Accepted

Mon.-Fri. 9-7
Sat. 9-6
21-16 36th Av.
LIC, NY 11106

Give your apartment a lift
HOME SHOPPING SERVICE

Let me do your legwork



*Budget Oriented
Time-saving*

*Furniture
Upholstery, Slipcovers
Wallpaper & Fabric
Carpet & Area Rugs
All Window Treatments
Floor & Terrace Tiles
Lighting
Carpentry
Kitchen Renovation
Paint & Faux Finishes
All Accessories
Closet Design*

Ellen Levy
Interior Decorator
531 Main Street
751-8214

free initial consultation

EASTER PARADE

The Redeemed
Christian Church of
God

GRACEY DUNE &
FRIENDS WITH THE HILL
FAMILY
MISS SAVANNAH
THE ORIGINAL GEMMA
BROOKS
...AND OTHERS

**TO LIFT
KING JESUS
HIGHER!!**



The Redeemed Christian Church of God

Saturday, April 22, 2000

851 Main Street—Near Coler Hospital

Assembly: 9:30 AM
Start Time: 10:00 AM Sharp

Ending at the Meditation Stage where a short spiritual
musical performance will take place.

For information:
(212) 644-2271 or (212) 758-6557



**ALL ARE WELCOMED AND
INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A
MARCH OF JOY TO
EXPRESS OUR LOVE,
HONOR AND
APPRECIATION OF
OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST
BECAUSE OF THE PRICE HE
PAID FOR US AND ALL WHO
DARE TO
BELIEVE IN HIM!!**



Lexington Chiropractic Associates

133 E. 58th St., Suite 506

Between Lexington & Park Ave.

755-1515

and 350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1726

Empire State Building

244-5280



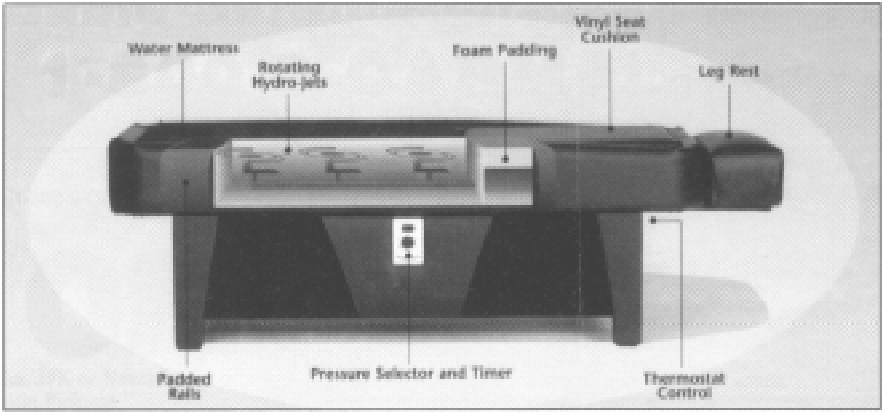
Dr. John Calabria



Dr. Darren K. Pollack

MOST INSURANCE PLANS ACCEPTED

Oxford, Freedom Plans, Cigna, United Health Care, Aetna, Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Guardian, Medicare, and many more!



TRY OUR NEW CHIROPRACTIC TECHNIQUES ... THE MASSAGE TIME PRO

FREE

- Chiropractic Spinal Health Exam
- Hydro Massage on state-of-the-art
MASSAGE TIME PRO
- Bottle of Multiple Vitamins
- **CONTOUR Pillow**
while supplies last

Combining floatation and heat, the MASSAGE TIME PRO treats:
Neck & Shoulder Pain • Muscle Spasms & Sprains •
Headaches & Stress • Numbness • Back Pain • Chronic Pain
• Sports Injuries • Auto Accidents • Workers Compensation



A Friendly Place for Children to open their first account and start learning how to manage their finances

FEATURES:

- LOW \$25 Minimum Balance lets you start saving right away**
- NO Monthly Service Charges**
- NO Maintenance Fees**

BENEFITS:

- Dividends paid on balances of \$25 or more**
- Deposit funds in person, by mail, direct deposit or payroll deduction**
- Access funds by mail, telephone (MON-TALK), or in person**
- Convenient access to funds and account information 24 hours a day**
- We recommend that a parent or guardian become joint owners with children under 18.**
- Call today for more information.**
- Children opening an account will receive a free gift (while supplies last).**

Montauk Credit Union

MCU – Your Financial Neighbor

559 Main Street, Roosevelt Island, NY 10044 • Phone (212) 643-3900 Fax (212) 588-1123

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

TWIN CAR SERVICE

936-6666

We have been providing quality service to Roosevelt Island residents for over 20 years

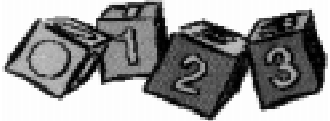
TWIN is licensed by the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission (Base#865)
All drivers are Taxi & Limousine Commission approved
24-hour service, 365 days a year
Service to and from anywhere - Manhattan & Queens our specialty

SERVICE INFORMATION

Hourly rate available
Airport Service
Flat rates from \$12
Accounts Welcome
Comfortable A/C sedans

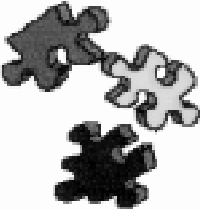
Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express

It's time to register for September 2000



Roosevelt Island Day Nursery

Preschool Programs for 2, 3, & 4 year olds
New this year: 2 and 3 day programs



4 RIVER ROAD 593-0750
Financial aid is available

SPORTSWIRE

The Youth Program’s Baseball Season opened under beautiful blue skies on April 8, with games in the Minor League (ages 8-10), the Major League (ages 11-13), and the Senior League (ages 14-15). In the Minor League, the Dodgers beat the Cardinals 16-5, while the Brewers beat the Braves 9-5. The hitting stars for the Dodgers were Joshua Hart and Justin Gonzalez, while Jonathan Sanchez hit a three-run home run for the Cardinals. The Brewers were paced by the hitting of Sanger DeVine and Max McMillan. Minor League games are played on Blackwell Field at 9:15 and 10:45 each Saturday morning.

In the Major League, the Braves beat the Brewers 17-15, while the Dodgers took the Cardinals 6-3. For the Dodgers, Thomas Corbisiero pitched 4 innings for the win and Christopher Dominguez pitched the last 2 innings and got the save. Major League games are played at Capobianco Field at 9:15 and 11:15 each Saturday morning and at 5:00 on Wednesday afternoons.

In the Senior League, the Youth Program has two teams entered in a 7-team league, competing against teams from Manhattan. In the first game last Saturday, the Youth Program team defeated the CYO Hurricanes 11-10, scoring two runs in the bottom of the last inning for the victory. Kenny Hovi pitched two scoreless innings in relief and picked up the win, while Zach Russem drove in 5 runs and Seth Kaufman scored 3 runs for the winning Roosevelt Island team. In the second game, the Island team defeated a Yorkville team by a 10-6 score. Blas Loor pitched a complete game, striking out 14 batters, while Brandon Steuber (with four hits) and Jovan Ponce (with the first home run of the season) paced the hitting for the winning Roosevelt Island team.

Senior League games are played at Octagon Field at 1:00 and 3:30 each Saturday afternoon.

Become a Foster Parent



Sheltering Arms

Open Your Arms to Help A Child

Sheltering Arms Children Service

122 East 29th Street New York, N.Y. 10016

212.689.1702

FAST,
EFFICIENT
RELIABLE,
COURTEOUS



**Roosevelt
Island
Cleaners**

*New State of the Art
Dry Cleaning Machine
To Serve You Better*

Your Neighborhood Cleaners

We DeLiver

Free deliveries on orders \$15-up

758-1778

571 Main Street

Toddlers from page 1

until they are comfortable separating from their children and vice versa.”

The Day Nursery is offering half-day programs for children aged two years and three months and up. Parents can enroll their children for the two- or three-day-a-week program, depending on what they are comfortable with. It is also offering five half-day and five full-day programs for children aged two and a half years and up. A half-day for younger children is defined as two hours and 45 minutes while, for the older kids, it is a three-hour period. The full-day is from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with the option of parents dropping off their children an hour earlier.

Citing the positive features of her school, Sara said, “We run a developmentally age-appropriate program. Early education makes a significant difference in readiness for school and that is what we are hoping to achieve. We want to solve their social and educational needs by starting them younger and introducing concepts that underpin their grasp of math and language.”

Island Kids, the third player in the education game on the Island, is a parenting group in which children are accompanied by their parents in all the classes save for one group of older kids in Learning Group, where parents attend on a rotating basis. Gina Enock, the Director, says, “We are a community-based organization which offers low-cost quality classes. Our mission statement says clearly that our objective is to provide ‘affordable, high-quality programs to enrich the lives of the children of Roosevelt Island and the community as a whole.’ It is a place where parents and caregivers actively participate with their children as well as socialize with other community members.”

Gina says the program speaks for itself. “It has been a very successful program for more than twenty years. Infants come for the Mother and Baby Group and tend to stay on for more classes as they grow older. For tots who have just begun walking, we offer 45-minute music, tumbling, art and discovery classes for as little as \$100 for a 16-week semester. We have open meetings each semester for parents to talk to us and voice their concerns. We welcome suggestions for new classes.”

The three-hour twice-a-week Learning Group sessions cost about \$750 and are for two-and-a-half to three-year-olds. For children aged three and up, the session is held three times a week and costs about \$1,100. “This is the alternative to a full-day program for pre-schoolers,” says Gina. “We are a non-profit group in which most teachers are parents who are volunteers. We pay them by the hour and it is certainly not a big sum. As a Director, I earn a pittance. None of us works for the money. We are a community-based group, not a certified day-care center.”

Many parents want to know why there is no day-care center on the Island even though there is clearly a need for one. “You need a critical mass for that,” explains Sara. “We once did a survey on the subject and realized that it is cheaper for a family to hire a babysitter for two children than to send them both to day care. Also, the City pays only for a seven-hour day to low-income families, so that group takes their children to day-care centers in Queens. We would need significant support to run a center like that. For now, we will take care of this community’s needs by doing what we can and doing it well. I, for one, want to make sure that the Day Nursery is run well.”

Is she worried about competition from Island Kids and the public school now that their target group is virtually the same? “This is too small a community to compete. Look at what happened to Bigelow Pharmacy,” she says ominously. “I am glad they could work something out with Gristede’s. However, we can resolve the issue by focusing on what we have to offer and people can choose.”

“We have co-existed on the Island for many years. I see no reason why that should not continue. We can only get better,” sums up Gina with a smile.

Sherry Gregory says, “Ideally I would love to see every child who is a resident of this Island coming to my school but I don’t want to put the other schools out of business. I know our pre-school program has impacted the Day Nursery, but we are working together so that we don’t fragment the group. We are trying to make it a supplementary program. After all, we have the same goal – we all want the best for the children of Roosevelt Island.”

Sara Seiden of the Day nursery can be contacted at **593-0750**. Gina Enock of Island Kids can be contacted at **758-8408**. Sherry Gregory of PS/IS 217 can be contacted at **980-0294**.



Day Nursery teacher Fiona Corran with Lauren Hindman, 4; Frederik Mortensen, 3; Sara Eingorn, 4; Jiya Pinder, 4

Classified

751-8214
only 50 cents a word

LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST / CERTIFIED REFLEXOLOGIST – Island resident Diana Brill. Gift certificates available. (212) **759-9042**

TRANSLATORS NEEDED – Trellis is contemplating a series of ethnic/national food days throughout the summer. To make the advertising complete, we need translators to help with the notices and ads. Call Kaie at **752-1517**.

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

CERTIFIED, EXPERIENCED TEACHER available for private tutoring (K-8). (212) **702-9839**

YOUR FRIENDLY AVON REPRESENTATIVE – Dolores Green **223-4077**.

MEDICAL BILLER / TRANSCRIPTIONIST – Island resident – Free pickup & delivery. Call for details – (212) **317-9593**.

CONTROLLER NEEDED – Total oversight of accounting functions for solid, professional, rapidly-growing IT firm. Call Joyce, **718-544-8100**, ext. 302.

CAT SITTER AVAILABLE on RI – My home or yours. (212) **223-0157**

EXPERIENCED TUTOR for primary, secondary school students; adults returning to or finishing school. (212) **223-0157**

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

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

ROBERT MICHELS PERSONAL FITNESS TRAINER

755-7322 or (917) 284-9171

ACSM & ACE Certified, Insured

15 Years Experience • Island Resident

FREE consultation and workout



CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE

Dr. James Flannigan

Manhattan

141 East 55th Street

Roosevelt Island

507 Main Street

Call for an appointment (212)688-4980

No one treatment is right for everybody. But one doctor is.

**We accept Health Insurance, Medicare, Workers Compensation,
and Auto Accidents.**

CLEAN POWER FOR NEW YORK CITY RAVENSWOOD COGENERATION FACILITY PUBLIC NOTICE

KeySpan Energy, parent company of Brooklyn Union, recently announced plans to construct new generating capacity at its existing Ravenswood facility located in Long Island City. In KeySpan's opinion, when completed in 2002, this new facility, which will be primarily fueled by natural gas, will be the cleanest and most efficient generating station in New York City. The new facility will be designed to displace the current level of reliance on older, higher emitting, less efficient steam and electric generating capacity.

As part of the process of State review of its application, KeySpan filed "proposed stipulations" with The New York State Public Service Commission in mid-March. The proposed stipulations would establish criteria for the study of issues concerning air quality, cultural resources, electric transmission, land use, noise, socioeconomics, traffic and transportation, visual resources and aesthetics, water quality and aquatic resources.

KeySpan has undertaken an extensive outreach campaign to keep the local community aware of its plans as well as to provide opportunities for public comment. Part of that campaign has included a series of public meetings.

If you wish to review the proposed stipulations, copies are available at the Queens Public Library, 21-45 31st Street, Long Island City, NY 11105, Queensbridge Library, 10-43 41st Avenue, NY 11101, Ravenswood Library, 35-32 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11106, Roosevelt Island Library, 524 Main Street, Roosevelt Island, NY 10044, and the New York Public Library, 455 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Copies may also be obtained by writing to KeySpan Energy, One Metro Tech Center, c/o Government Relations, 21st floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201, or by calling our **Ravenswood Hotline number at (718) 403-2777**. Comments on the proposed stipulations must be received by KeySpan at the above address by May 11, 2000. A public meeting to discuss the stipulations will be held on May 12, 2000, from 2-5 PM, at the Dept. of Public Service, One Penn Plaza, 8th floor boardroom, New York, NY 10019. Exploratory discussions on the stipulations will commence prior to the public meeting. Interested persons may contact KeySpan or the Dept. of Public Service at: Three Empire Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350.

**KEYSPAN
ENERGY**

Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.

Board Certified Pediatrician and Allergist

501 Main Street • Roosevelt Island • 753-5505

***Don't wait until the last minute.
Schedule your child's camp
and school physical now.***

Office Hours

Monday & Thursday • 9 a.m. -12 noon

Tuesday • 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday • 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Coverage provided at all times, when office is closed,
by Dr. Grimm or by her group, Uptown Pediatrics.

We provide comprehensive health care to children and adolescents.
Dr. Grimm is also qualified to evaluate and treat allergy and asthma in adults.

Lighten Your Smile Brighten Your Life Bleach Your Teeth

Quality Dentistry for Children and Adults

Lawrence M Itskowitch, DDS, PC

501 Main Street, Roosevelt Island

752-8722

Mon & Fri 9-6, Tue & Wed 12-9, Thur 3-7

****Dental Insurance Accepted Towards Payment****

Jack Resnick, M.D.

**Board-Certified
Specialist in Adult Medicine
(Internal Medicine)**

Health Plans Accepted

Aetna/USHealthcare
Empire Blue Cross
CIGNA
HIP
Oxford

832-2310

32B-J Members

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

501 Main Street
Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044

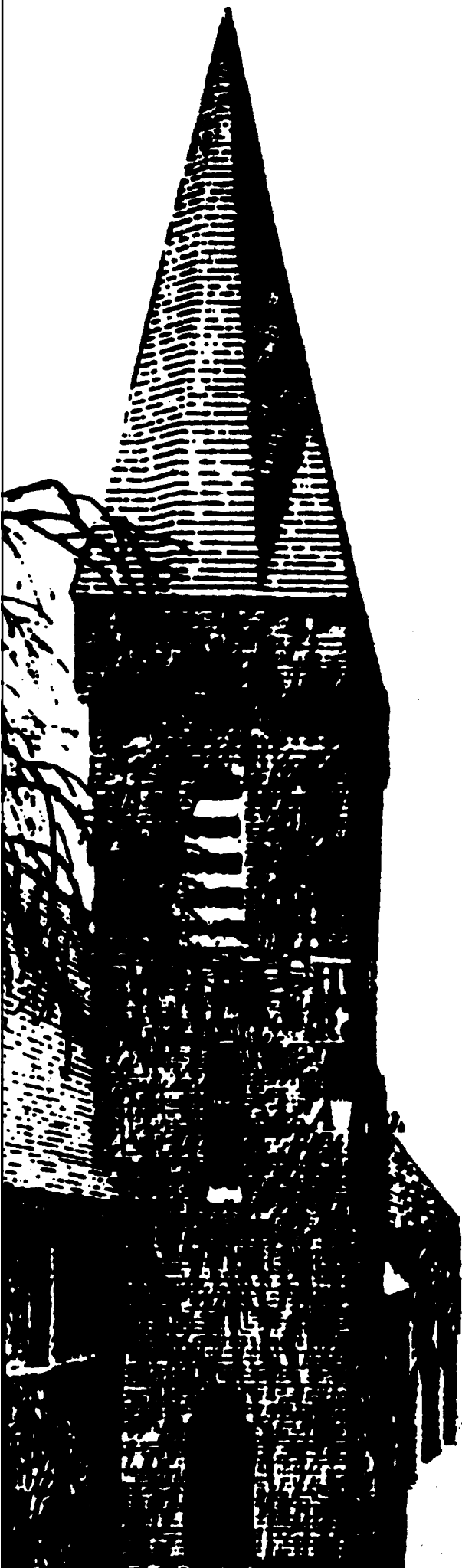
BRACES AREN'T FOREVER, SMILES ARE!

**We offer free orthodontic consultations to children
and adults who are residents of Roosevelt Island.
Please call for an appointment.**

**Dr. Gerald Sweder and staff
20 years in Island practice**

200 W. 57th Street
212 757-2285

501 Main Street
212 752-8722



HOLY WEEK
at the
CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Rev. Curtis Hart, our Interim Vicar, and the Good Shepherd Wardens and Advisory Board* cordially invite you to celebrate Holy Week, the most important dates in the Christian Calendar, with us at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

Palm Sunday
April 16

Join us at our regular Morning Worship time of 10:00 a.m, in the Main Chapel. *Palms will be distributed.*

Maundy (Holy) Thursday
April 20

Our *Maundy Thursday* service will take place in the Main Chapel at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday
April 21

Our *Good Friday* service will take place in the Main Chapel at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday
April 23

Join us in celebrating the solemnity of Jesus' death and resurrection, and our unending life in Him, at 10:00 a.m. in the Main Chapel

Also...

Bible Study every Tuesday Night at 8:00 p.m. downstairs in the Oval Room.

Sunday School for all ages, starting with donuts and milk at 8:30 a.m.

And Regular Morning Worship every Sunday in the Main Chapel at 10:00 a.m., with Holy Communion the last two Sundays of each month.

*Good Shepherd Wardens: Emma Felix, Rodney Howard

Advisory Board: E. Felix, R. Howard, Minnie Lee, Betty Galindo, Ian Hall, Georgina Hackman, Amelia Rudolph, Eric Rudolph, Carol Kennedy

Church of the Good Shepherd
543 Main Street, Roosevelt Island, New York 10044