

Next issue:
May 13

The Main Street **WIRE**

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with **Website NYC10044**



The Island's cherry trees have bloomed. This one provides a welcome splash of color at the ramp near Motorgate. This picture and others heralding the season are on *Website NYC10044* at www.nyc10044.com.

Nicole's Day

A Day at Work with Dad Makes Daughters-to-Work a Success

by Anusha Shrivastava
photo coverage by Margery Rubin

Last year, when nineteen million girls participated in the *Take Your Daughters to Work Day* program, Nicole Monroe, a Westview resident, was just five years old. At the time, she was considered too young to appreciate its significance. This year, her parents, Tony and Gail Monroe, thought she was ready.

"Nicole can follow whatever career path she wants to but she should know what we are doing. She must understand that she has to work to make money," said Gail, a fashion designer by profession. "My mother worked in a top-secret department of the government, so I never saw her workplace. That is why I think it is a good thing that Nicole can go. I have to work with customers so I can't take Nicole with me, but her father can."

Tony, a pattern-maker for women's clothing at Carole Wren, said, "We have told her that right now her job is to go to school and study, but it is important for her to be exposed to the work ethic and see what the grown-up world is like. I am not sure what she is supposed to do at my workplace. Is she just supposed to observe what everyone is doing or what? Whatever it is, she should see what it is that her parents do to make the money that she spends. She is familiar with our business and I don't necessarily want her to join it but she must know what we do."

The *Take Your Daughters to Work Day* program was started as a public campaign eight years ago because it was seen that girls suffered from a loss of self-esteem in early adolescence. It was thought that, if they were exposed to their parents' work environment, they would be motivated to choose a career for themselves. Critics say it is just a pumped-up media event but others see it as a positive reinforcement for the girls. "I think it's a great idea," said Gail. "Nicole

will appreciate our work better." On Thursday, Nicole jumped into the back-seat of her father's Jeep Cherokee, outfitted smartly in a tartan skirt and gray sweater, all set to see Dad's workplace in Queens.

"I've been there once before to check it out," said Nicole. "It is a cool place." She was right. Tony's office is a hip-looking place with modern art in the lobby. Brightly-painted scrapped cars and metallic sculptures of all kinds hang from the ceiling. The elevator looks as if it is part of a science-fiction movie set, with metallic puppets swaying from side to side. "They look like aliens," declared Nicole. Once inside, an aquarium caught Nicole's attention but her father drew her away, guiding her to his workstation.

Nicole seemed momentarily impressed with the large screen of his computer but then said that the one she had at home was more fun because it had games installed in it. Tony decided to give her a tour of

See **Nicole**, page 4



Tony Monroe and Dionne Denny help Nicole cut some fabric during her day at work with Dad.

Southtown Challenge Becoming Legal "Battle of Blackwell Park"

In the Battle of Blackwell Park, The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) and the developers of Southtown are holding fast.

Their claim, in response to legal actions mounted against construction on the soccer field, is that their plans conform to the Island's General Development Plan (GDP).

Meanwhile, Attorney Robert Chira has asked the Court to deny the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) a role in the cases, saying RIRA got interested in the matter too late and has nothing to add.

RIOC: Park Not Reduced; Procedures Were Proper

The battle of Blackwell Park may very well come down to just how literal RIOC must be in following the General Development Plan (GDP) for the Island.

As it stands, the GDP – attached to the Lease granting the State the right to develop the City-owned Island – requires a park of "approximately six acres" between existing Northtown buildings and those in the new Southtown development. The City's Board of Estimate, which controlled at the time but subsequently was eliminated from City government, retained that requirement in 1990, denying a RIOC request that the specified park acreage be reduced.

While there are other issues in the cases brought against RIOC's September 22 resolution – whether procedures were strictly followed, whether environmental reviews were properly done, and whether GDP requirements for affordable housing will be observed – the Blackwell Park matter stands out starkly in legal papers as the key controversy.

In its filings, RIOC frames its view of the issue in these words:

"The reduction in Blackwell Park, from approximately 6 acres to approximately 3.86 acres, occurred with the completion of Northtown Phase I's Eastwood building in 1977. RIOC sought through its proposed amendments to the GDP in 1990, to acknowledge this *de facto* reduction. ... For reasons that are not clear, the Board of Estimate declined to adopt this

See **RIOC**, page 6

Chira: RIRA Intervention Would Add Nothing New

The Residents Association would bring nothing new to the legal battle over Southtown.

That's essentially the position taken in papers filed by Attorney Robert Chira, who is opposing RIRA involvement in the cases challenging RIOC's approved

Background: The Legal Battlefield

What the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) does with the land of Roosevelt Island is controlled by a Lease between its owner, the City of New York, and the State, acting through RIOC, which is effectively the State's managing agent here. There's a General Development Plan (GDP) attached to the Lease, often called "a loose collection of ideas" by RIOC consulting attorney Barbara Espejo, but considered by many to be a binding document.

On September 22, the RIOC Board of Directors passed a resolution giving "final designation" to the Southtown developers, the Hudson Companies and The Related Companies, after several months of public appearances and private meetings by Hudson/Related in which they presented their evolving plan for the land between the Tram station and the existing apartment buildings of Northtown.

During that series of public presentations, RIOC President Robert Ryan had told Islanders that "nothing is cast in stone," but the September Board action seemed to finalize the positioning of buildings, including structures that would rise on the soccer/baseball field just north of the derelict Nurses Residence.

Two legal actions followed. Both Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development (RIRSD) and Attorney Robert Chira (representing the Alternative Southtown Design Committee) claimed RIOC had not proceeded properly, had failed to conduct required environmental reviews, and was about to build on land reserved in the GDP for a six-acre park between Southtown and Northtown.

Later, the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) asked the court to allow it to participate, on behalf of residents, in the RIRSD and Chira cases.

Chira's opposition to RIRA participation and RIOC's legal responses to the original actions are reported in the accompanying articles. Much of the legal paperwork, as well as a recent history of Southtown development planning, is available on *Website NYC10044* at www.nyc10044.com.

plans for Southtown. RIRA, through its attorneys, is seeking to "intervene," or participate, in cases brought, separately, by Chira (who chairs the Alternative Southtown Design Committee) and by Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development (RIRSD), headed by Rivercross resident Steve Marcus.

Those legal actions seek to hold RIOC and the developers to an interpretation of the GDP that calls for a park of "approximately six acres" separating Southtown from the existing buildings of Northtown Phase I – Rivercross on the west shore and Eastwood on the east shore.

Chira's legal papers say RIRA's opportunity for taking legal action passed because the residents' organization failed to act within a four-month window – September 22 to January 22 – for opposing RIOC's plans. RIRA "concedes... that the issues raised in its motion 'are already before the court,'" Chira writes in his papers, but "seeks to... bootstrap itself into the same legal status as the existing petitioners."

"It is doubtful [RIRA] would allege anything different," Chira writes, saying, "there is already a great deal of focus and attention in both pending proceedings... [on] compliance with the Island's GDP... In sum, no showing has been made [that RIRA] has an 'interest' different from that of the existing petitioners, nor that it or Island residents would be prejudiced by denial" of intervenor status, "nor does the proposed intervenor

See **Chira**, page 6

Your Business Card in the July 4 **WIRE!** See page 3

Pages of Thought and Opinion

Never Doubt

Ron Vass reminds us this week of something Margaret Mead said: *Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

With that in mind...

Volunteer Power

Some time ago, a *WIRE* reader wrote to suggest a Roosevelt Island *Volunteer Appreciation Day* after reading about such an event in a community somewhere down the Atlantic coast.

At *The WIRE*, we see clearly how much of a debt the success of this Island owes to the work of volunteers. This week, in particular, the feeling is particularly close to home because we're losing Myrna Mendis, one of several regulars who make the newspaper's Friday-morning stuffing operation go so smoothly. (Photos, this page.)

Myrna's bright presence has made those Fridays a pleasure for the dozen or so other regulars who have shown up, issue after issue, to make this newspaper *happen*. Along with George Rubin and Sherie Helstien, who schedule the stuffing and distribution volunteers, Myrna has contributed the time her community and this newspaper have needed to keep on keeping on.

We're also reminded of the value of volunteer power because Claire Friedland, who has compiled *ComingUp* for the past three years, is edging toward a second retirement – this time from a task which, by listing Roosevelt Island's happenings, provides the publicity for the events that help this Island experience a powerful sense of community.

We're also reminded of the potency of volunteer power by an announcement that **Roosevelt Island Day** will take place this year on June 10. That's the all-day clean-up-plant-living-things-fix-up-have-fun event the Island has been observing for the last several years. It's been a grand success every time, and we can recommend with enthusiasm that you mark your calendar, save the day, and enjoy working side-by-side with friends and neighbors.

So much of what happens here happens because those dedicated volunteers believe in this place, love their community, and are proud to be a part of its success.

In some sense, then, every day is *Volunteer Appreciation Day* on Roosevelt Island. Then again, something organized for a specific day might just be a good idea whose time has come.

The Battle

We're reminded, too, that the *Battle of Blackwell Park* is being carried on by volunteers, and with contributions voluntarily made, both to Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development and the RIRA Legal Action Fund, not to mention Attorney Bob Chira's donated effort.

That's another way to help, of course. If pursuing the dot-com dream has you too weary even to think about giving some time to your community, contributions are a way to get involved. Montauk Credit Union is accepting funds for the *Battle of Blackwell Park* residents are waging against RIOC.

DL



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

Saturday, April 29, 2000
News (212) **826-9055**
Urgent news **1-917-353-1647**
Advertising (212) **751-8214**
Circulation (212) **935-7534**
Fax (212) **755-2540**
email **mainstreetwire@rcn.com**
in association with **Website NYC10044**

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
Myanmar Correspondent – Myrna Mendis
Founding Publisher – Jack Resnick
Editor Emeritus – Jim Bowser

Sophia Adams, Amy Ambrosino, Russell Aragon, Judi Arond, 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, 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 Tsreshkin, Elena Vrinceanu, Rece Walford, Maggie Warner, Dolores Williams, Robin Williams, Nina Winteringham, Rose Woods

Photoeditorial

New Breeding Facility for West Nile Virus



Larry Parness
There's standing water atop Blackwell mini-school, as well as other buildings on the Island, believed to be ideal nurseries for the mosquitos carrying the West Nile virus.

Letters

To the Editor:

In your last edition but one you ran a Letter to the Editor from the Steering Committee of Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development (RIRSD). It was a long letter decrying any number of aspects of the plans for Southtown, but focusing primarily on the ground-rental income RIOC will receive, and comparing it to – of all things – Manhattan Park, a market-rate complex. Clearly the authors have once again imperfectly and hastily read a set of documents, and once again decided that a rousing speech full of polemics is better than the sober facts.

They have entirely overlooked the fact that the ground rents they are complaining about are for affordable middle-income housing, although the documents they refer to clearly spell that out. The ground rent rates are, in fact, about twice what each of the authors' own middle-income buildings pay, and of course those buildings were built, and the ground rents set, over 25 years ago. The documents clearly state that the ground-rental rates are a concession made by the state for affordable housing, and "affordable" is quite narrowly defined in the General Development Plan. (The income levels are about the same as Mitchell-Lama qualifying incomes.)

Roughly half of Southtown is committed to be middle-income housing, as the GDP requires it to be, yet even with half a story, these people can't get it right. What is RIRSD saying here? Are they complaining that the state won't get enough income from affordable housing? Are they saying they want the affordable housing to be market-rate instead? Are they complaining when the projected new apartment rentals are pretty much the same as a new rental in Island House or Westview today? Are they saying that the state should be charging more for middle-income housing?

The only clarity I can find in their letter is the part where they once again apply to their neighbors for additional financial support. That part is very clear. Personally, I like my facts up front.

Patrick Stewart

To the Editor:

My name is Om Bhandari from Bhutan and I studied in the Roosevelt Island school (1982 to 1984) in grades 1, 2, and 3. I want to contact old friends through the Internet. Could you help me?

I still remember one Ms. DeAnnentes (spelling?).

Om Bhandari
tyonten@druknet.net.bt

To the Editor:

The one thing I find lacking on our Island is a glee club or chorus. When I went off-Island every week to sing in a chorus I felt that it easily was as stress-reducing, as harmonious in effect, as psychiatry. What we need, of course, is a conductor. Any volunteers? If so, tell Ms. Ng at the Senior Center. She will provide the room.

Frances Salten



A Goodbye To Myrna

Members of *The WIRE*'s Friday morning stuffing crew and others gathered Wednesday at Trellis for an informal farewell to a three-year *WIRE* stalwart, Myrna Mendis. Myrna, in the photo at left and right, above, is moving to Myanmar with her husband, Bertrand, who works for UNICEF and has been reassigned. At the gathering were, clockwise from left, Beryl Seaforth, Matthew Katz, Clarissa McCraley, Sherie Helstien, Margery Rubin, George Rubin, Kathie Niederhoffer, and the guest of honor.



Your business card

in

The Main Street **WIRE** *Fourth of July 2000*

It's your opportunity to support your community newspaper with a small contribution and to record your presence at this time and place in Roosevelt Island history. This issue is scheduled to be distributed to the thousands attending the Fourth of July Fireworks at Southpoint, as well as the normal distribution to every residential door on the Island.

Send your card with a \$35 check, payable to *The WIRE*, to: *The WIRE*, 531 Main Street #413, Roosevelt Island, NY 10044
Don't wait for the deadline (June 17)... Get it done now while it's on your mind.

No card? We can create a simple message card for you.

COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friedland – phone/fax 317-8523

Sun., Apr. 30, 12:30 p.m., Welcome Reception for the Rev. Curtis W. Hart, hosted by the Catholic Community; the Episcopal Congregation will join with the Catholic Congregation in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd meeting room.

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**.

Fri, May 5, 10:00 a.m., Arbor Day Ceremonial Tree Planting, park south of Rivercross at 501 Main Street.

Fri., May 5, 7:30 p.m., Main Street Children's Theatre presents *How to Eat Like a Child*. Three casts rotate in six performances May 5-8. Seats \$5 (mat seats, 11 years and under), \$8 chairs. Reservations recommended. Call **371-4449**.

Sat.-Sun., May 6-7, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Main Street Children's Theatre, How to Eat Like a Child. See May 5 listing.

Mon., May 8, Main Street Children's Theatre, How to Eat Like a Child. See May 5 listing.

Mon., May 8, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters. Information: **687-4010**. (Meetings second and fourth Mondays.)

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

Sat., May 13, next issue of The Main Street WIRE. Deadlines: Advertising in the paper, Fri., May 5; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., May 8; bag materials due May 11. **Future issues:** May 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**.

Sat., May 20, Historical Society Bus Tour to Fort Totten, Bayside, Queens; lunch in the Officer's Club. Information, **688-4836**.

Mon., May 22, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters. Information: **687-4010**.

Sat., June 10, all day, Roosevelt Island Day, clean-up, fix-up, and have a good time.

Mon., June 12, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters. Information: **687-4010**.

Thur., July 20, 7:00 p.m., Jazzmobile, Etta James with the Houston Person Quintet.

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**
11:00-12:30, **Metrocard Bus** 5/8, 5/22
12:45 **Arts & Crafts**
6:30-7:30, **Line Dancing**
Tuesday
10:00, **Jazzercise**
12:30-2:30, **Visiting Nurse Service** (resumes May 9)
1:30, **Games** (RISA)
7:00, **Korean English**
Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well** (Stretch)
10-12, **English as 2nd Language**
Thursday
12:30, **Movie**
Friday
9:15, **Stay Well**
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
Sun., Apr. 30, **Beer & Pizza Party**, 2:00 p.m.

Gladys Reece

Gladys Maud Caroline Stuart Richardson Skerrett Reece died April 3 at age 75. A longtime Island resident, she lived at 580 Main Street until 1996, then relocated to Kensington, London. She had retired from the United Nations Secretariat in 1987.

She was born in Georgetown, British Guiana, and had worked for Hilton International before joining the U.N. staff.

Wife of the late Charles H.D. Reece, she is survived by five children and eight grandchildren.



Island History Walk Created As Eagle Scout Candidate's Project

Roosevelt Island has a new Historical Walk.

It's the brainchild of Eagle Scout candidate Neil Tandon of Roosevelt Island Boy Scout Troop 59. The trail runs the full length of Roosevelt Island and includes some of its most noteworthy features, such as the Octagon, Blackwell House, the Smallpox Hospital and the Tram.

The trail is readily accessible from both the Tram and Subway stations. It begins at Strecker Memorial Laboratory at the south end of the Island and progresses to the Lighthouse at the island's northern tip.

Trailmarkers are in place, but plaques are also scheduled to be placed along the trail in the near future. The plaques will provide a detailed historical perspective on some of the Island's most notable features as a convenient means of telling the story of Roosevelt Island to visitors.

Judith Berdy, Vice President of Roosevelt Island's Historical Society, praised Tandon for his efforts. She said, "Neil has done an amazing amount

of research to achieve his Eagle Scout rating. Though the Historical Society provided him with reference material and a long list of resources, he excelled in discovering exciting materials. Amongst the books Neil discovered was a 1936 history of the Metropolitan Hospital that will be a great resource for residents, scholars and future historians. President Carol Kennedy and I are proud to have worked with Neil. We are sure that everyone will be most impressed with the texts of the plaques when they are placed around the Island."

RIOC President Robert H. Ryan saluted Tandon and Berdy for their vision and civic leadership in preserving their community's heritage. He said, "Neil's and Judy's hard work and dedication will make a lasting impact on Roosevelt Island for many years to come. They deserve the thanks and praise of all Islanders for making Roosevelt Island an even better place to live. I congratulate them on a job well done."



Website NYC10044

Eagle Scout candidate Neil Tandon with one of the signs marking the Historical Walk he has mapped out on Roosevelt Island.

Arbor Day Planting Friday, May 5

The Roosevelt Island Tree Board will hold its annual Arbor Day tree-planting program Friday, May 5, at 10:00 a.m.

The ceremony will take place at the edge of the little park near the entrance to 501 Main Street, just south of Rivercross. It was at this site that the violent winds of Hurricane Floyd blew over a stately Norway maple tree last September. According to Maurice Bleifeld, Chair of the Tree Board, "When a tree dies here, it is our goal to replace it with a new one, so that we can conserve the tree population on the Island."

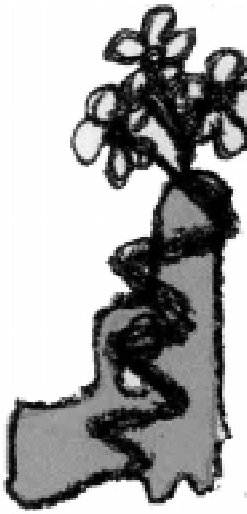
Bleifeld said that he expects the new tree will add an additional species to further diversify the local arboreal varieties – a Japanese Pagoda Tree, which produces a display of white flowers in summer.

Students from PS/IS 217 will participate in the program, including the School Band, directed by Dr. Ulrich Hartung. In addition, the third-grade class of Ms. Stacey Spinello will present a choral recitation of *Trees*, the poem by Joyce Kilmer, along with statements by individual students on why trees are important to us.

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.**

ComingUp Volunteer Opening

The WIRE is seeking a new volunteer to compile events for *ComingUp*. (Claire Friedland has decided to retire sometime soon.) The job requires a computer, fax receiving capability, and an answering machine. For more information, call *The WIRE* at 826-9055.



MILLION MOM MARCH

Sensible gun laws, safe kids

May 14, 2000
Washington, D.C.

Be Part of It!

Call Judi Arond: (212) 935-7510

888-989-MOMS
www.millionmommarch.com

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

Nicole from page 1



his office and his colleagues came forward to greet Nicole. Most of them let her have a go at what they were doing. First, Nicole met Deborah McKenney of the design department and sat down to draw a skirt-pattern on her computer. She drew a few lines and realized she would need much more practice because the lines were so wobbly. She then met Dionne Denny, the cutter, who let her snip at some fabric.

Nicole wandered around the office, seeing work in progress. After a while, Tony took Nicole to the warehouse, where she saw hundreds of cartons being readied for shipment. “Look, Daddy,” she said in an excited tone, “here is the same pattern that you used to make my pants.” Tony nodded as he took her back to his workstation. Nicole sat down and drew patterns at his desk. Tony frequently explained to her what he was doing and she was inspired to try out a fashion design of her own.

At lunch-time, Nicole went with her father to eat at a diner nearby. Her mother joined them for lunch and then brought Nicole back to Roosevelt Island. “If she were older, she could stay the whole day, and maybe next year she will,” said Gail. Nicole described her day as “excellent,” saying, “I enjoyed drawing and helping Dad.”

Would Nicole like to follow her parents’ footsteps in the garment industry? “No, I want to become a kindergarten teacher,” she said.

Color photos accompany this story on Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com.

Mitchell-Lama Rally in Albany

by Byron A. Gaspard, Jr.

Mitchell-Lama is “an organization, more than twenty years old, of residents and community members advocating for the maintenance of affordable, secure and decent housing for low, moderate and middle income New Yorkers.”

At first, when my father said I was going to Albany with him to rally for Mitchell-Lama, I thought I was going to meet a president of a corporation. In a way it is a corporation dealing with thousands of people and their housing situation. Being twelve years old, I have often wondered how my parents put food on our table, clothes on our backs and a roof over our heads. When my parents were my age, these basic survival needs were there for them even though their parents had to work hard to obtain them.

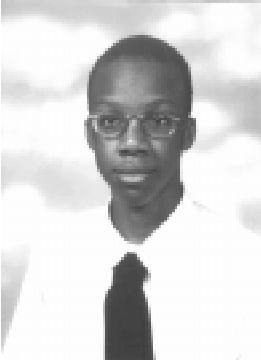
After a long and tiring ride, the bus arrived in Albany. My father and I went to a huge meeting about housing situations for Roosevelt Island, Ruppert-Yorkville and other communities that support Mitchell-Lama. There were senators talking about saving our homes and not letting the government take it away (that’s why we have Mitchell-Lama, to help us get affordable housing), but we must give this our support. Being in Albany rallying was one way of showing that support.

As the day went on, we looked around, had lunch and visited Senator Olga Mendez’s office. She is one of the people that is also helping Roosevelt Island with self-governance. I personally met with her and she was helpful in explaining some of the important things we are dealing with on Roosevelt Island.

The next person we visited was Assemblymember Pete Grannis, who was very cooperative and understanding with our problems and promised to do everything he could to help us. Afterwards, we looked around some more before meeting at the bus to depart for home.

It was a lot of information that was discussed and a little confusing to me, but it was interesting. It was my first look at how the government works without the opinion of the television, newspapers or radio. I learned that mainly “we the people” must work together for change in spite of our differences.

Some three hundred members of the Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition traveled to Albany at mid-month to lobby State legislators. Byron Gaspard, Jr., filed the accompanying report on the trip for *The WIRE*. Mitchell-Lama buildings, including buildings on Roosevelt Island, house some 75,000 State-wide; some face the likelihood of immediate and substantial rent hikes if their buildings are removed from the Mitchell-Lama program. Bills stalled in State Senate Committee would extend the 20-year requirement for buildings financed with low-interest State-guaranteed mortgages to stay in the program. Roosevelt Island rental buildings in the Mitchell-Lama program do not face as immediate a prospect of owners buying out of the program because of ground leases under the control of RIOC, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.



Byron A. Gaspard, Jr.

Planners Tour Roosevelt Island, Consider its Success and Future

by Larry Parness

The American Planning Association held its annual conference in New York City this year. On Tuesday, April 18, I conducted a walking tour of Roosevelt Island for 18 planners attending the conference. On a cold and windy day, the tour began with a Tram ride from Manhattan that was made more interesting since the Tram had to stop to drop off workers at one of the towers.

We were met at the Roosevelt Island Tram station by RIRA officers Patrick Stewart and Joan Christianson. Since the name of the tour was *Roosevelt Island, Still a Success?*, they provided insight into the past 25 years of the Island and the issues facing Roosevelt Island in the future.

The visitors saw the Southpoint site, stopped at the Nurse’s Residence soccer field to discuss the Southtown project and walked up Main Street. The tour was originally scheduled to cover the Island as far as Light-house Park, but due to the inclement weather, it was shortened and the group went to the Rivercross community room to warm up and have an interesting discussion with the RIRA representatives.

The members of the tour were impressed when Joan Chirstianson told about the third generation of residents, including her grandson, that are living on the Island. Patrick Stewart surprised them when he mentioned living in the same building as Kofi Annan, now Secretary General of the United Nations. One person on the tour commented that residents’ lack of input in deciding the Island’s future is similar to the situation faced by citizens of Washington D.C.

A tour participant who now lives in Florida was an employee of the Urban Development Corporation when the Island was being planned. He pointed out that the Island was not to be solely residential but included provision for about 100,000 square feet of local commercial uses to serve the residents, and 200,000 square feet of office space that would allow many residents to walk to work.

As the visitors returned to the subway, they passed Blackwell House, where they were told the current state of the building. One of the planners commented that the landmark would make a great bed and breakfast. Not a bad idea.





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

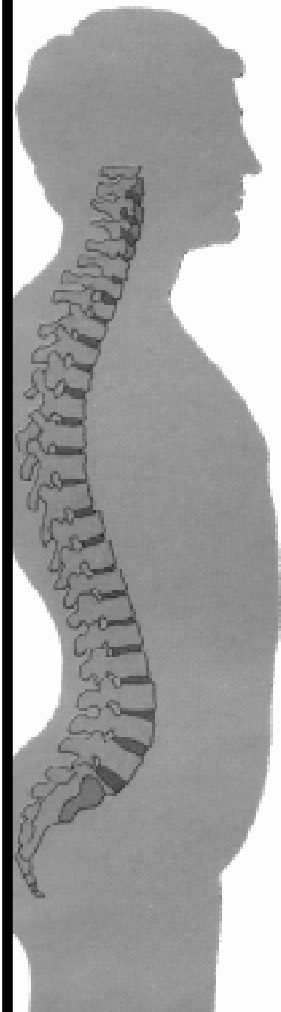
BENEFITS:

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



Lexington Chiropractic Associates



Dr. John Calabria

133 E. 58th St., Suite 506

Between Lexington & Park Ave.

755-1515

and 350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1726

Empire State Building

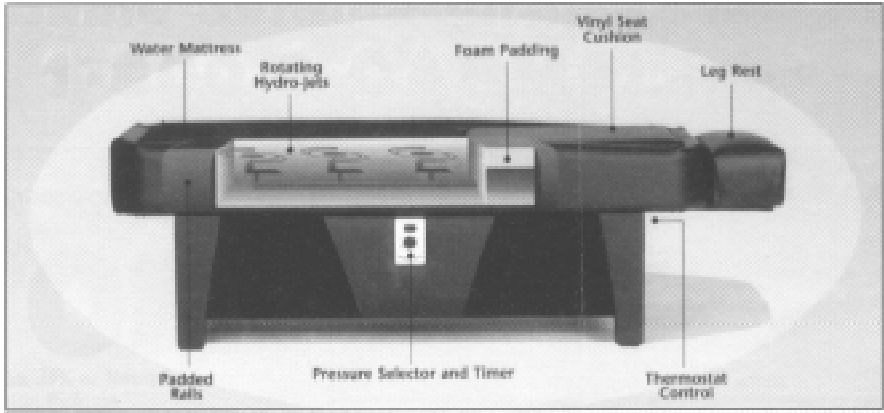
244-5280



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!



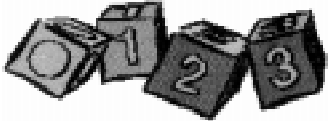
TRY OUR NEW CHIROPRACTIC TECHNIQUES ... THE MASSAGE TIME PRO

FREE

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

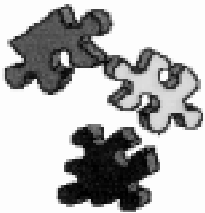
Combining floatation and heat, the MASSAGE TIME PRO treats:
Neck & Shoulder Pain • Muscle Spasms & Sprains •
Headaches & Stress • Numbness • Back Pain • Chronic Pain
• Sports Injuries • Auto Accidents • Workers Compensation

It's time to register for September 2000



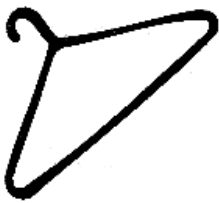
Roosevelt Island Day Nursery

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

FAST,
EFFICIENT
RELIABLE,
COURTEOUS



758-1778
571 Main Street

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



Just how far south Blackwell Park goes, and how far north Southtown goes, are key issues in pending challenges to the RIOC Board of Directors' September 22 resolution approving the Hudson/Related plan for Southtown. This satellite view shows the entire Southtown site, including the area in dispute, just south of Rivercross and Eastwood.

Chira from page 1

nor show it has any particular interest or insights to illuminate the issues already before the court.”

RIRA’s filing seeks solely to focus judicial attention on the GDP as a controlling document. Reacting to the Chira filing, RIRA Counsel Jeff Glen told *The WIRE*, “RIRA would hope that all parties opposed to the [current] Southtown plan... would work together in the pending judicial challenges.”

In opposing the intervention, Chira concludes that RIRA should submit a “friend of the court” brief if it believes it has any particular expertise or insights to offer.

RIOC from page 1

change. However, its decision not to recognize formally this reduction cannot be read to have *increased* the size of Blackwell Park by extending its boundaries into the northern reaches of Southtown.”

RIOC’s papers, prepared by Stephen Kass of Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, its outside counsel, go on to point out that when “Meditation Steps and [the existing] Blackwell Park are considered together, [the development plan] will preserve approximately six acres of open space buffer” between Northtown and Southtown.

Attorney Jeff Baker, who represents RIRSD, gave *The WIRE* this reaction to RIOC’s papers: “I think their arguments regarding the GDP and [environmental matters] are made from whole cloth and do not reflect formal legal action taken by the Board of Estimate or RIOC in the past.” As to the park’s size, he said, “The Board of Estimate said ‘no,’ and there’s simply no way to argue that they didn’t say ‘no.’”

A judge – there have been three, so far, in the cases, though none has yet ruled on anything – will decide just how firmly the GDP rules, and whether RIOC’s interpretation of its terms is an acceptable observance of the Lease-GDP agreement. Arguments are likely to be heard this summer, with a decision possible by Labor Day.

The approved plan, RIOC says, “would not encroach on Blackwell Park, which will remain at its current size of approximately 3.86 acres.” RIOC does not recognize the soccer/baseball field as part of Blackwell Park. Any claim that the Park includes the playing field, says the RIOC filing, is a “distortion” that “ignores the *de facto* reduction in the size of Blackwell Park, which took place

close to a quarter century ago and which the RIOC Board attempted to acknowledge by its proposed amendment to the GDP in 1990.” The Chira and RIRSD petitions “incorrectly incorporate approximately three acres of what has always been regarded as Southtown. The area south of the ‘fork in the road’ has never been considered part of Blackwell Park and has remained open space only because the Southtown development has been delayed.”

The “Blackwell Field” land involved was turned into a soccer/baseball field by residents, in the Island’s early residential years. They carved it out as a temporary – or permanent, depending on the outcome of these cases – recreational space. Keeping it as a playing field is a core issue in the RIRSD legal case.

Other Issues

RIOC responds to a claim that it failed to take a “hard look” at environmental consequences of the Southtown development by saying such a consideration was done in 1990, when the Raquel Ramati plan for the acreage was the plan of choice. Its environmental consultant concluded, says RIOC, that “there would be no significant adverse impacts from the revised site plan that had not already been considered” in a 1990 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The new Southtown plan, says RIOC, “represents a continuation, in a slightly revised form, of the overall project that RIOC has attempted to realize for over a decade.” It continues, “The R/H [Related/Hudson] Site Plan is simply an alternative approach to meeting the objectives and design criteria of the GDP.”

The RIOC papers also reject a claim that Octagon Park money has been diverted to pay for Southtown infrastructure, saying there was a simple and legal “exchange of work” between the City’s Department of Environmental Protection and RIOC, with City funds going to RIOC for its discretionary use. It promises, “Any remaining landscaping work to be completed at Octagon Park... will be performed by RIOC with a combination of funding from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, insurance proceeds from a recent fire at the Octagon building, RIOC’s available fund balance and/or a developer’s funds.”

The RIOC papers also claim, disagreeing with the RIRSD contention that it should have taken Southtown through the City’s environmental review procedure, that as a State agency, RIOC is not required to comply with the New York City Zoning Resolution and Building Code” – effectively claiming State “override” powers that free RIOC from City control.

SPORTSWIRE

Despite threatening skies, all of the Youth Program’s baseball schedule was completed on April 15th. However, on April 22nd, the weather defeated the baseball schedule, with rain forcing cancellation of all games. In the Minor League (ages 8-10), the pitching machine made its debut on April 15th and the pitching machine was ahead of the batters most of the day. The Dodgers defeated the Braves by a 3-2 score, while the Brewers defeated the Cardinals 6-0. The Dodgers and Brewers are tied for first place with 2-0 records.

In the Major League (ages 11-13), the Dodgers came from behind to defeat the Braves 5-4, behind the pitching of Andrew Ramsingh and Jose Marte. For the Dodgers, Deshawn Pearson pitched well, and Kenny Pizarro excelled in the field. The Dodgers and Braves are tied for 1st place with 2-1 records. The Cardinals recorded their first victory of the season, defeating the Brewers by an 11-9 score, with Sasha Agosta getting the win and Matthew Brodsky leading the attack with 5 RBIs. For the Brewers, the offense was sparked by Jarell Thompson and Dennis Perezic.

In the Senior League, the Roosevelt Island Youth Program Mets won both ends of a doubleheader. Scott Davis won his first Senior League game, defeating the CYO Tornadoes by a 5-4 score, with help from Kenny Hovi (who recorded the last three outs for the save and hit a 2-run home run). Alex Gherardi then pitched the Roosevelt Island team past a Yorkville team, 9-4, retiring 12 of the last 13 batters he faced. The other Roosevelt Island Senior team lost a heartbreaker to the CYO Hurricanes, 11-9. Blas Loor was brilliant, pitching the first 6 innings and striking out 14 batters while allowing only one hit and 2 unearned runs; however, the bullpen failed to hold the lead. Carlos Gautier led the attack for the Roosevelt Island team, with a two-run homer and five RBIs.

Public Safety Blotter

April 1-16, 2000

4/1/00, Robbery, 4 River Rd., Arrest. Two resident youths in-house, one of them accompanied by his mother, stated they were robbed by non-resident male, who assaulted victim #1 and removed silver chain from his neck. Perp approached victim #2 and choked him after having ordered him to empty his pockets. Both victims then fled. PSD officers responded, searched area with victim #1, who identified perp in front of 4 River Rd. Perp was escorted to PSD, placed under arrest, taken to 19 Pct. for processing. Silver chain was not found in perp’s possession. Victims did not show any sign of injury.

4/2/00, Found Property, 851 Main St. Resident female phoned PSD, stated a bag had been found in front of 851. Officer responded, retrieved same, brought it to PSD, bag contained cellular phone of unknown value – two CD’s, tarot cards, keys. Victim was contacted, stated she would retrieve property later.

4/2/00, Noise Complaint, 513 Main St. Officer responded to scene, upon arrival did hear live band at location. Doors were closed and there were no patrons in front of establishment. He spoke to owner, who had music lowered and stated she had permission from RIOC for a live band. Officer was posted in front of bar.

4/2/00, Vehicle Accident, 580 Main St. Resident male informed officer that he had been driving northbound. When he approached stop sign, resident male also driving northbound tried to get in front of his vehicle, which resulted in the two cars colliding, causing damage to both vehicles, but not the drivers. NYPD responded, prepared report. Driver #1 could not provide proof of registration nor insurance, was issued 2 summonses, Driver #2 was issued a summons for unsafe passing.

4/6/00, Lost Property, 300 Main St. Female non resident informed officer she had left handbag and other possessions on bench while she used the rest room. When she returned they were gone. RIOC bus operators were questioned w/negative results. Officers searched area from tram to subway station with negative results.

4/7/00, Disorderly Conduct, 560 Main St., Arrest (2). Officers saw 2 females having physical dispute, one sustained injuries, was transported by EMS to Mt. Sinai. Each was issued “C” summons. NYPD responded, prepared report.

4/7/00, Dispute, 559 Main St. Officer observed two Goldwater patients in verbal dispute, one wheel-chair bound, who was pushed to ground. Officer helped him. Perp. was obscene, brought to PSD, both appeared to have been intoxicated. Goldwater was notified, their police came and transported both to Goldwater.

4/8/00, Harassment, 500 Main St., Arrest, juvenile offender. Woman in-house reported underage youth was striking another underage youth at scene. Officers responded, escorted youths to PSD. Father of victim requested EMS, who responded, gave youth first aid, father refused transport to hospital. NYPD responded, issued aggressive youth a Juvenile report.

4/8/00, Vehicle Accident, 645 Main St. Officer responded to vehicle accident scene. Female non-resident had struck parked car of non-resident male. Both cars incurred minor damage. They were going to NYPD on their own.

4/11/00, Robbery, 531 Main St., Attempted. PSD assisted NYPD. Anonymous male approached officer, stated he had witnessed a victim of an assault. NYPD officers arrived in sector car with victim and gave brief description of perps (3). Area was searched, PSD officer reported he had resident youth in custody, who was transported to 114 Pct. EMS responded, treated victim for small cut, he refused transport to hospital.

4/11/00, Found Property, 300 Main St., RIOC Bus driver approached Sgt., surrendered back pack that was found on bus #3, containing music books, cd player, walkman, etc. There was no identification. Subsequently male non-resident claimed same, properly identified items, signed for back pack, retrieved it.

4/12/00, Disorderly Conduct, 552 Main St., Arrest (2). Officer observed two females in a physical confrontation, requested other officers, they escorted them to PSD, issued each a “C” summons.

4/13/00, Found Property, 552 Main St. Officer noticed a yellow metal link bracelet on floor, surrendered same to Sgt., who secured it at PSD.

4/15/00, Larceny, 513 Main St., Resident in-house, stated radio computer valued at US\$3,600 and factory Lincoln car radio with value of US\$300 were removed from his auto, which were between front seats. There were no signs of tampering, car’s window may have been open. He will report to NYPD.

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

Your business card...

...in the Fourth of July *WIRE*. *It's a natural.* See page 3.



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.

**ROBERT MICHELS
PERSONAL FITNESS
TRAINER**

755-7322 or (917) 284-9171

ACSM & ACE Certified, Insured

15 Years Experience • Island Resident

FREE consultation *and* workout

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.

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

501 Main Street
Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044

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

**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****

***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

Yes!

***I support my community newspaper
I'm in!*** Include my business card in the
Fourth of July **WIRE**. I enclose \$35 and my
business card (checks payable to *The WIRE*).
The WIRE, 531 Main Street #413, NYC10044
For information on unusual sizes, call 826-9055

Classified

751-8214
only 50 cents a word

EXPERIENCED TUTOR for children, teens, adults. Specialties: Math, English.
(212) 223-0157

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

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.

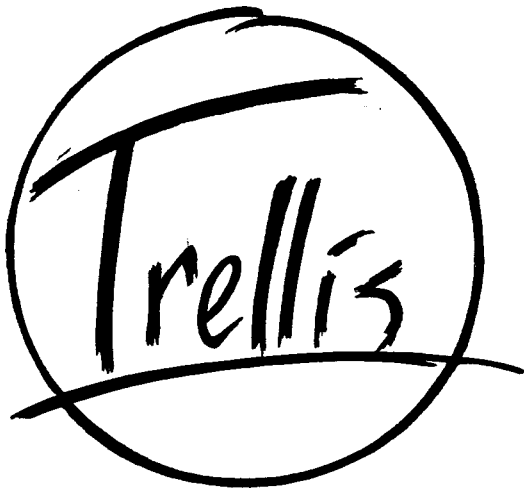
JULIE'S SPORTS CAFE

*is extremely elated to invite you
to join our third-year anniversary
celebration. Come enjoy good food,
good music, wonderful people.*

Friday, May 5, 9:00 p.m.

Many thanks to all my loyal customers.

JULIE'S BAR
513 Main Street
(212) 308-0236



Changeable Weather

It's that time of year. A stunning Spring day. On its heels, a soggy bluster that chases you indoors on the run. When that run takes you past Trellis, duck inside, where the coffee is great, whatever it's doing outside. And when the weather makes you feel you never want to cook again, the food's just right, too, eat-in or take-out.

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



free initial consultation

*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

Become a Foster Parent



Open Your Arms to Help A Child
Sheltering Arms Children Service
122 East 29th Street New York, N.Y. 10016
212.689.1702