

Next issue:
September 8-9

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044



Summer of the Sudden Scooters These young residents are part of a small wheeled army that has taken over Good Shepherd Plaza and other Island locations this summer.

No Metrocard for Tram; Too Costly, Ryan Says

The Tramway won't be part of the Metrocard free-transfer system anytime soon, according to Robert H. Ryan, President of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC). "We've decided against it, at least for now," Ryan told *The WIRE*. "Right now we're losing in excess of \$700,000 a year on the Tram. The Metrocard equipment would cost in the neighborhood of \$700,000, and then we would have to split revenues 50-50 with MTA. So as you can see, we would be digging ourselves deeper into the hole. At this point, it doesn't make financial sense to have the Metrocard."

In response to a question about a possible MTA takeover of the Tramway, Ryan said, "The Tram has not been turned down by the MTA. It wasn't an offer, per se. They did a study a year or two ago and they took a look at it, but that's where it stopped."

In other matters: On the Diane Wilson proposal to add a second floor to the Island's west-shore minischools, turning them into luxury condos, Ryan said that RIOC is in the process of working out deadlines for her to demonstrate she can procure financing and meet other criteria responsive to a resolution passed in June by the RIOC Board of Directors. "We had a meeting today (Tuesday)," Ryan reported. "The deadlines are being worked out. We're almost there."

Asked about Chase Bank's plan to close its Island branch October 22, Ryan said RIOC has sent out over 80 letters to various banks, adding, "We've been on the phone with a couple of different ones that have responded to the letters, and we're working on it. I'm optimistic. Obviously there's a market here. Maybe it didn't fit into

See **Ryan**, page 6

Election Season

RIRA Seeking Candidates for Council, Executive Positions

It's election season – but not just nationally. The Residents Association election is nigh, as well. RIRA is actively seeking candidates for President, First Vice President, and the 28 Common Council seats representing the Island's residential buildings. The RIRA election will be held concurrently with the national general election, Tuesday, November 7. However, all Island residents – including non-citizens, are eligible to vote in the RIRA election, so separate machines and a separated location have been used in the past. All the RIRA posts are unpaid volunteer positions. Anyone can nominate a candidate, but candidates must sign the nomination forms to signify they'll serve if elected. Terms run two years. Candidates must be 18 or older and Island residents for a year or more. Incumbents can succeed themselves. Under Common Council rules, three consecutive absences from monthly Council meetings lead to removal of a member. Meetings are held the first (sometimes second) Wednesday of the month, at 8:00 p.m., at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. (The Council's next meeting will be Wednesday, September 13.)

The bi-annual election is an opportunity for the organization to renew itself. Several Common Council representatives have stopped serving during the last two years. Al Weinstein, one of three Rivercross councilors, died shortly after the last election and was replaced by Malcolm Cohen. Vicki Feinmel, who represented Eastwood, moved to Island House and was thereby disqualified; earlier, Mary Lou Risley had moved from 546 Main Street to

Rivercross. A few others have resigned, moved on-Island, or have left the Island. Some Common Council members have been appointed by the Council to fill seats for under-represented buildings. (In the 1998 election, there were contests for seats in only three of eight building group districts – Rivercross, Westview, and Island House.) Mosud Mannan, Counsellor to the Bangladesh Mission to the

United Nations, recently volunteered to represent Manhattan Park, and was enthusiastically welcomed by the Council. The election provides the one major opportunity for all Island residents to express themselves on key issues. In the 1998 election, the Common Council put an advisory question on self-governance on the ballot. Of those voting on the question, 92% (1,049) voted to

See **RIRA**, page 6

Byron Gaspard Declares Candidacy for RIRA VP

Eastwood resident Byron A. Gaspard has thrown his hat into the ring for the First Vice Presidency of the Residents Association. "I want to unify RIRA's leadership and members by recognizing the organization's goals and mandates rather than the pursuit of individual agendas. I would like to work hard with the community to resolve issues that threaten to destroy our community, such as criminality, development, and the Governor's monarchy-style rule in the form of RIOC."

As an Eastwood representative, Gaspard has been RIRA's Vice President for Cultural, Education, and Social Services, and a member of the 114th Precinct District Committee. "I believe RIRA cannot represent this community if personal ambition takes precedence over the community's welfare," Gaspard said Wednesday in a statement. "With me, the community's welfare will always be first."

Westview delegate Kenneth Diebner has also announced he will run for one of that building's three Common Council seats. He is running, Diebner said, "in the hope that the next session will be more productive than the last one." Diebner ran in 1998, and served as a delegate after another delegate resigned.



Islanders:

RI's Roger Galindo Reaches a Long-Time Goal: The Ironman

by Roger Galindo

Bar none, July 30, 2000, was the most fulfilling day of my 21 years; the day I competed in Ironman USA. The Ironman is the longest and most celebrated race in the sport of Triathlon. It is an individual sport in which each competitor attempts to complete a course consisting of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike leg, and a 26.2-mile run. My love for Triathlon began here on the Island when I was 13. My friend Joe Taylor at the time was the manager of the Westview Pool complex and saw that I enjoyed racing my bike around the Island. He was a triathlete himself and introduced me to the sport. He was never able to do The Ironman, but I have kept that dream ever since, knowing that one day I would do it. I attend Cornell as an undergrad but last year had the opportunity to go to Oxford University in England. It was right before I left that the opportunity of The Ironman came up, so I decided to commit to it even though I would be training abroad on my own. I came back to the States July 24 after ten months away with less than a week before the big race. Needless to say,



SPORTSWIRE

Lifelong resident Roger Galindo is a Cornell Senior in hotel administration and international relations with plans for graduate work in social policy next year at Oxford, where he spent the last year. When he completed The Ironman recently, *The WIRE* asked him to recount the experience for readers. TV coverage will air on ESPN in October.

those six days flew by and, before I knew it, I was in Lake Placid, New York, getting ready to do The Ironman. This was the day I had been waiting for. I got up at 4:00 a.m. to give myself enough time to have breakfast, check over everything (bike, shoes, goggles, drinks, etc.) one last time and be race ready. Unfortunately, I had awakened to a cold, damp, foggy morning, and by 6:30 a.m., with a half-hour before the race, there was still no sign of the weather clearing up – with a 70 percent chance of rain. By 6:50 a.m. all the competitors were in the lake and the fog was as persistent and strong as I have ever seen. I couldn't see the ESPN helicopter buzzing above or the thousands of spectators buzzing from the shore, but the energy and spirit were there. Then, while the national anthem was being played, a small miracle occurred as I felt something touch the right side of my face. Rays of light were coming from the rising sun, piercing through the clouds. It seemed mystical... As soon as the sun came up, the gun sounded, and we were off. Out of 1,600 competitors I was one of the ten youngest, so I did not put a lot of pressure on myself, because I already knew I was ahead of my time even to be there. My main goal, as for every other competitor, was to cross the finish line because the race is not against others but against oneself – to push the limits and go the distance.

In spite of the 70 percent chance of rain, the weather turned out to be perfect. The race started at 7:00 a.m. with the sun piercing through the fog and clouds. As I was swimming, sometimes being bumped and kicked by others and vice-versa (by mistake of course), many things raced through my head, from focusing on my stroke and swimming efficiently to the realization that I was actually competing in The Ironman. I came out of the water in good position since I did the 2.4-mile swim ten minutes faster than I had planned. Out of the three disciplines, I'm best on the bike, then the run, then the swim, so I was planning on having a decent swim, a really strong bike leg and then a good marathon. So far, so good. But just as I started riding my bike and getting adjusted, I got a flat tire. *Only a half-mile onto the bike leg, and I got a flat!* I couldn't believe it. Flats occur, but not that often. Throughout my

See **Ironman**, page 6



No Metrocard. No Surprise.

The word is out, as if we couldn't have guessed after years of official hem and haw. There will be no Metrocard free transfers to and from the Roosevelt Island Tramway. Too costly, says RIOC President Robert Ryan, who has to work within a State-imposed zero-help budget.

This is a travesty. New York State's failure to uphold its responsibilities to this community, taken on when it leased the Island from the City, is a stunning example of impoverished, short-sighted thinking. Not only do we have decaying landmarks, a neglected seawall, shoddy and underfunded maintenance, and a Main Street that belongs at the GM Proving Ground... Not only does New York State fail to provide the funding necessary to sustain this very special community, but it fails to return *even one cent* of Islander's tax money to the Island.

Why? Because a Governor-appointed RIOC Board of Directors timidly fails to demand the desperately needed funds that are both the State's obligation, and available in the State coffers. When he was RIOC President, Jerome Blue authored a thin pretense of financial self-sufficiency based on deliberate neglect. Whether Rob Ryan is stuck with that illusion or not, both he and the RIOC Board act as though they are, and don't ask the State for dime one in direct appropriation.

But even amid this official malfeasance, the Tramway stands out as a special case:

All over the civilized world, mass transportation is wisely subsidized by governments. PATH riders cover less than 40% of PATH costs. Metro North passengers cover only about 40% of that system's costs. Those who ride the Staten Island Ferry pay nothing. What fares don't pay, tax dollars cover.

So not only are you being denied any return of tax money to your community. Your tax dollars are going, instead, to subsidize everybody else's transportation.

For years, the mantra was, *We're working on it*. Now, they've given up, *at least for now*. Since *working on it* took years, we can expect *at least for now* to be a decade or more.

One City, One Fare is a cruel lie for any elderly or disabled resident who wants to be off-Island, especially after dark.

And there's another official falsehood – that New York State is abiding by the Lease under which it controls, from Albany, too many close-to-home aspects of life on Roosevelt Island.

Face it: This deliberate official neglect isn't going to go away without popular democratic election of the RIOC Board. Voters called for that by a 92% margin in the Island's 1998 election. That it hasn't happened yet is a crushing failure to serve democracy in every corner of State government.

More must be done to get there. The Residents Association, otherwise powerless, should be prosecuting this cause as an overriding priority – a democratically-elected RIOC Board of Directors and professional non-political management of Roosevelt Island. Without that, forget about maintenance. Forget about better law enforcement. Forget about Metrocard for the Tramway. Forget about *any* real say in the destiny of the place where you live, vote, and pay taxes.

As the political season begins here with Byron Gaspard's announcement that he will seek the RIRA Vice Presidency, we must hope that a renewed RIRA will get its priorities right and work to empower itself and other residents to deal more directly, through a democratically-elected RIOC Board, with *not just* the Tramway-Metrocard matter, but *every* aspect of this Island's management. **DL**



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Letters

Editor's note: The following letter was received too late for inclusion last issue, but was included among letters on *Website NYC10044* www.nyc10044.com.

To the Editor:

Last month, for the first time, I found myself at a Maple Tree Group weekly public meeting. I had heard that at a previous session there had been some discussion of Rep. Carolyn Maloney's devastating criticism of the attempt to privatize Rivercross by some shareholders.

It was immediately clear that I could not get my concerns on the agenda since it turned out that there was none. So I decided to wait until the MTG finished its business and come up under the heading of "new business." I was soon aware that the Group prided itself in having no by-laws at all; indeed it doesn't even have voting on crucial issues. For a group that believes in the process of self-government, the absence of any accepted democratic procedures seemed particularly whimsical.

In fact, the whole scene was weird. There were six members in the Good Shepherd Chapel which, with so few people, seemed like a cathedral. The pews stretch deep into the room, but MTG uses folding chairs that creates a semi-circle in front of the first row.

The discussion opened to address the problem occasioned by the recent resignation of its convener, David Bauer (there is no president or chair). This uncomfortable hurdle was easily cleared when Matthew Katz observed that in accord with Mr. Bauer's wish, he would fill the post under the title of "interim convener" with the hope of convincing his predecessor to take the helm again. There were no nominations and no voting. The advocates of self-government simply disposed of democracy's messiness.

The new "convener" then announced that the State Assembly had passed a revised version of a self-governing charter for the Island. Dick Lutz then said it had been defeated. Ron Vass inserted a more tentative opinion suggesting that it had indeed been agreed to. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the dispute could be easily resolved by "a telephone call." That was the end of the self-government issue for the meeting.

The repair of the Island's sea walls came up next. The assumption was that it badly needed fixing; the issue was whether the State or Federal government should pay for it. No cost was mentioned. The problem goes back to the ambiguous original Congressional legislation in 1945. After a lively exchange the speakers settled on the expectation that the effort would be a "phased" but "co-ordinated" effort by the two governments. The role of the MTG in all this escaped me. It had already said its "research" found the cost would be one million dollars though the State and Federal governments put the tab at six million or more. However, the Island is not a player anyway.

The interim convener then asked for comments from the "public," three of whom were present. Patrick Stewart, RIRA's elected president, sought an explanation of why he had been excluded from the previous "public" meeting. The "convener" responded curtly that MTG was a private group and it could be closed in executive sessions whenever it chose. Moreover, it need not post such intention in advance. Thus there is no limit to the number of closed meetings in the Good Shepherd Chapel used by at most a dozen people, despite its promise of weekly public meetings.

Mr. Stewart then raised an awkward question. MTG also constitutes a formal committee on RIRA's Council which assumes open meetings. The "convener" replied that MTG was both an independent body and a formal RIRA committee and it would remain that way. Reeling under this august logic, Mr. Stewart said he would have to take the matter to the next RIRA session.

The following pause allowed me to ask about the purported attack on Rep. Carolyn Maloney, whose press release opposing the privatization of Rivercross had circulated widely on the Island. I was assured the topic of privatization and Rep. Maloney not only never took place but never could because MTG's only interest was the issue of self-governance for the Island. I tried hard to reconcile that assertion with the long discussion of the sea wall which is the business of other governments, not ours. But by this time all rationality had evaporated.

I left the session not knowing the difference between a "public meeting" and a seance. And concluded that an empty chapel is a proper setting.

The procedures of the Maple Tree Group are not self-government, but government by whim. Dr. Blue finally gets his revenge.

Richard Wade

Letters deadline for Sept. 9 issue: Sept. 3
Letters received after deadline will be considered on a space-available basis

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Dick Wade's letter to *The WIRE*, included on *Website NYC10044*.

Three years after creation of the Maple Tree Group (MTG) and two years after the Island's creator (the late Ed Logue) urged local democratically-elected self-governance in *The WIRE*'s pages, Dr. Wade condescended to attend his first MTG meeting, and has come away consumed with criticism. Unfortunately, the *only* fact Wade got right is that he was, in fact, at an MTG meeting.

For three years, MTG has worked on a single goal: local popular election of the RIOC Board of Directors to replace absentee political appointees and politically-appointed RIOC staff. Dr. Wade says he attended the MTG meeting in question to talk about his bete noir, Rivercross privatization. That's simply not on our agenda, and we choose not to be distracted. As pressing as the Mitchell-Lama issues may be, they are most appropriately addressed by the residents of the affected buildings and their task forces.

MTG's tradition of free-form discussion has worked well for us, whatever disappointment it may hold for a one-time visitor expecting some rigid structure. Our choice of meeting place is governed by availability, and while large, the Good Shepherd sanctuary happens to fit the historic mold of citizens seeking redress of mismanaged government. When we met for the first time three years ago under a maple tree behind Blackwell House, we resolved to meet weekly wherever we might be accommodated and, until this summer, we've gathered virtually every Monday night since. About 200 Islanders have participated from time to time, offering their thoughts and encouragement to a continuing core group of 15 to 20 residents.

One of our traditions has been an end-of-meeting round-the-circle final comment from each participant. But we've chosen to exclude from this round-robin those who exclude themselves by sitting outside the circle as observers (Patrick Stewart is one). This policy is based on our repeated observation that those who so exclude themselves seem intent on hindering, not helping, MTG's efforts to gain democracy for Roosevelt Island.

Another of our traditions is that we have no president or chair. We are a gathering of equals, one of whom serves as "convener." When the group's founder, David Bauer, stepped down a few weeks ago after serving as convener for three years, we agreed to appoint an "interim convener." To satisfy those who require more structure than we do, we held an election for convener on July 31 (Matthew Katz was elected).

Dr. Wade makes much of the fact that we discussed seawall legislation (while refusing to be drawn into his personal crusade against Rivercross privatization). The seawall's role in democracy for Roosevelt Island stems from its importance to the Island's physical integrity, and the cost of keeping it in good shape. At the time Wade visited the MTG meeting (and even now), little hard information was available about the real effects of the seawall bill. Meanwhile, those who oppose self-governance are fond of predicting disaster should New York State back away from responsibility for the seawall. Quite the opposite, of course: The bill goes some distance toward putting the State on the line for the seawall, with or without a democratically elected RIOC Board of Directors.

Meanwhile, the Army Corps of Engineers report spelling out the needs for seawall maintenance has been kept from the public by RIOC's delays in responding to it so that it might be released.

MTG welcomes participation in the quest for democracy by all members of the Roosevelt Island community. It's unfortunate that Dr. Wade attended his first meeting under the impression that we would take up his favorite cause. Sorry, Dick, but we can't be sidetracked whenever chance visitors, adversaries or one-issue ideologues wander into our meetings. We have a democracy to win.

**The Maple Tree Group
Matthew M. Katz, Convener**

To the Editor:

In response to articles in *The WIRE* about public-purpose funds, I wonder if some money could be used to give Main Street a facelift. RIOC does a fine job of picking up the garbage in and near the trash cans. Trellis scrubs the sidewalk where the outdoor cafe is set up. I appreciate the one day my neighbors paint benches and do general cleaning each year. However, no amount of soap or elbow grease can remove 20-plus years of chewing gum ground into the pavement.

As I walked to the tennis courts a couple of weeks ago, a man was power-washing sidewalks in Manhattan Park. I mused how nice it would be if he could keep going south with his machine, but he assured me he would not. It would go a long way toward helping our community pride if Northtown did not look neglected.

Joan Pape-Uhle

Letters

To the Editor:

I am writing out of concern for the manner by which the president of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation is fulfilling his stewardship of the Island and of his misuse of the security force.

A few Saturdays ago, George Pataki’s appointed RIOC president saw fit to close public access to the tip of the Island and used the Island’s security to do so. Was it legal to close access to public property? It is my understanding that the Security is paid for out of residents’ rents and presumably have specific responsibilities. If they were on duty, was this a misuse of the security and even theft of services by RIOC? If they were off duty, what authority did they have for preventing a citizen from walking or bicycling on public lands? It is my hope that *The WIRE* can ask these questions of state officials and find out if Governor Pataki is satisfied with the current state of affairs.

Ronald Meltzer

To the Editor:

The following is a list of problems no one seems to care about:

1. The driveway between the school and 2-4 River Road is pitched the wrong way. As a result water collects after any rain-storm and is a natural breeding place for mosquitoes. With all the worries about the West Nile virus, it would be prudent to correct this problem. Is there anyone who inspects the work here?

2. Con Edison did some work in the roadway next to 40 River Road. Now the road is in bad shape and is also a collecting place for rain water. Must someone get bitten before action is taken? Doesn’t anyone have the responsibility to check their work once Con Ed leaves? Their work is a disgrace.

3. As a resident of Westview for over 24 years I have never seen worse security. While a great deal of money is spent in beautifying the lobby, none is apparently spent on keeping the front door secure. Last week a sign was posted telling whoever enters to just open the door. Anyone could have entered. If this is the new setup, perhaps we should get rid of the doorkeepers. At least we won’t be paying for a service which we do *not* get!

I could go on and on but I think it is time for an expert to take over and ask similar questions.

Name Withheld

To the Editor:

I have heard complaints that Lighthouse Park was closed for a private event on Saturday, August 5th.

In the tradition of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, no public notification was made in the community (in a conspicuous place such as the Public Safety office window) that the park would be closed.

Personally, I feel all parklands are public areas and should never be closed for private parties. RIOC must adopt the rules of the State Parks and New York City Parks Departments. Even though they are eager for money, denying the community their parklands is not right. The few dollars made from the event is easily lost in bad will created.

One can rent the Manhattan Park Theater Club and use the adjoining terrace. If one wants to use the Lighthouse Park, what difference does it make if some non-invited persons are also in the park?

Organizations I am affiliated with have used Blackwell House, Lighthouse Park, the Coler Tent, Senior Center Terrace, Manhattan Park and other Island venues. We have never closed them off and prohibited others from these areas.

Being good renters is better than paying for security services to keep Islanders away.

Where did our community feelings go?

Judith Berdy

School Days A Mother’s Journey

Kindergarten days
We say goodbye
Before our tears can start

The next year comes
You shove me gently
I reluctantly depart

Fall after fall
The school years pass
I am forced to stand apart

I long for the days
When I was your world
A tugging at my heart

Andrea L. Crowe
(for my daughter,
Morgan Leigh McEvoy)

Larry Parnes



On Saturday, August 5, Marguerite Camaiore and Frank Farance were wed at Roosevelt Island’s Chapel of the Good Shepherd by Father Luke McCann. Marguerite, who will retain the name Camaiore, is an attorney for the City’s Human Resources Administration. Previously, she lived in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, and did volunteer work there; she will continue her volunteer work with Island organizations. Frank, a software engineer, is a 20-year resident of the Island and has been involved in Island activities, such as the Softball League and the RIRA Common Council. Marguerite and Frank plan to raise their family on Roosevelt Island.

COMING UP

Compiled by Alain Pinset – phone and fax 208-2907
e-mail alpinset@cs.com

Mon., August 28, 7:30 p.m., Maple Tree Group meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. (Future meetings Sept. 25, October 30.)

Mon., August 28, 7:30 p.m., Free Performance, The Last Victim (Act 1), amphitheater; enter at passageway at right of 540 Main Street. Rain location: Senior Center, 546 Main.

Wed., August 30, 6:00 p.m., Christine Santelli Band, RIOC’s *Summer Sounds* series, Promenade Pier. Free.

Wed., August 30, 7:30 p.m., Free Performance, The Last Victim (Act 2), amphitheater.

Sat., Sept. 9, next scheduled issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Sept. 1; decision on staffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Sept. 4; bag materials due Thur., Sept. 7. **Future issues:** September 23; October 7, 21; November 4, 18 (Thanksgiving business cards issue); December 2, 16 (Holiday issue); January 13, 27; February 10, 24; March 10, 24; April 7, 21; May 5, 19; June 2, 30 (July 4 business cards issue); August 4, then every two weeks starting early in September. 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, **826-9055/755-2540**; urgent/breaking news, 917-353-1647; phone/fax for advertising inquiries, **751-8214/755-2540**; phone/fax to list Island events here (no charge), **317-8523**.

Wed., September 13, 8:00 p.m., Residents Association *Common Council Meeting*, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. (Future meetings: October 11, November 8, December 6.)

Fri., Sept. 15-Sun., Sept. 18, 8:00 p.m. (plus Sunday, 2:00 p.m.), **Main Street Theatre** Equity production of *The Lion in Winter*. Tickets and information, **371-4449**.

At the Senior Center

Monday
9:15, **Stay Well** exercise
10:00, **English as 2nd Language**

Tuesday
10:00, **Jazzercise**
10:00, **Beaded Jewelry Wkshp**
1:30 p.m., **Lotto** (RISA)

Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well** stretch
10:00, **English as 2nd Language**
7:00 p.m., **Glee Club** (RISA)

Thursday
10-11 a.m., **Tai Chi**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30 p.m., **Movie**

Friday
10-11 a.m., **Citizenship Class**
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screening**
7:30 p.m., **Lotto** (RISA)

Special Events

Aug. 28, **City Island Trip** (RISA)
Aug. 31, **Whitney Museum Trip**
Sept. 3, **Labor Day Party**
Sept. 11, **Metrocard Bus** 11-12:30
Sept. 20, **Atlantic City** (RISA)

There is no charge for listing Island events here. E-mail information to alpinset@cs.com or fax/call 208-2907.



RIOC’s **Summer Sounds** continue Wednesday evening at 6:30 on the Promenade Pier near the subway station, featuring the Christine Santelli Dixieland Band. It’s free.

Cruise Update

We now have a supply of brochures from Celebrity Cruises for our February 10 sailing on the luxurious Century to San Juan, St. Thomas, Aruba, and Nassau. Call Jim Baehler at **752-6463** for your free copy with details about our mid-winter escape to the Caribbean.

Attention Golfers: The Century has a state-of-the-art simulated-course golf practice facility. It combines computer technology with a video display. You can play Pebble Beach and other great courses. You hit into a giant screen and see your ball fly down the fairway. The screen tells you the distance of your drive and the distance to the green. You select the proper clubs and try to reach the green under par. It’s great fun and you get to see what it’s like to play Pebble Beach or any of several other world-famous courses.

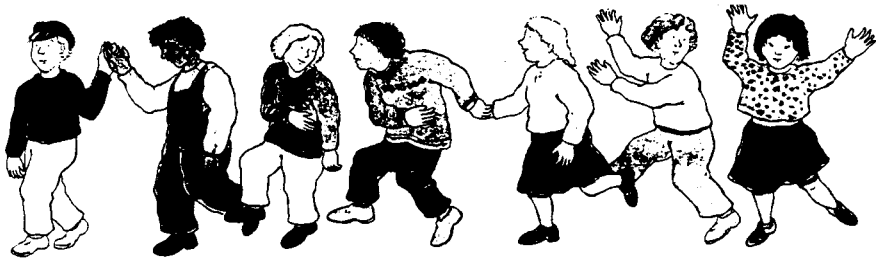
Call now – **752-6463** – to reserve your cabin and join your friends and neighbors as we sail on The Century for a week of Caribbean fun and relaxation.



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 phone number must be provided. All letters subject to acceptance, and may be edited for length and clarity. **Preferred methods of submission:** PC-standard 3.5-inch floppy disk left at 531 Main St. for *The WIRE*, or by e-mail to nyc10044@rcn.com (ASCII text preferred or use any wordprocessing software). Alternatives: Typed, double-spaced copy left at 531 Main St. or faxed to (212) **755-2540**. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered. We cannot take telephone dictation of letters.

ISLAND KIDS



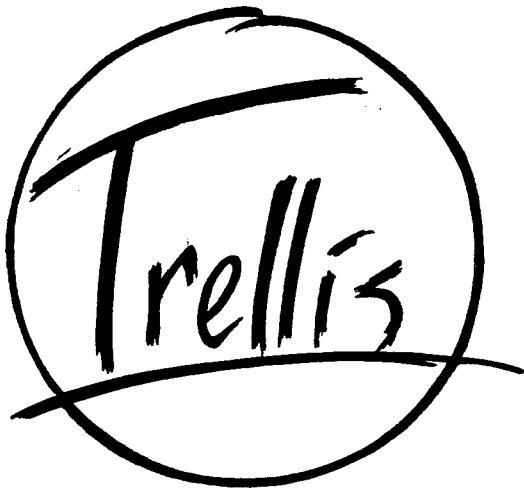
REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 2000

CLASSES START SEPT. 11

Adult classes: "New" Parent & Baby Group and Pottery
Walking-4 yrs.: Tumbling, Art & Imagination, Music, Dance,
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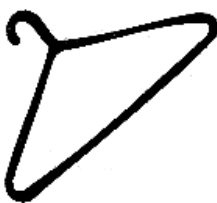
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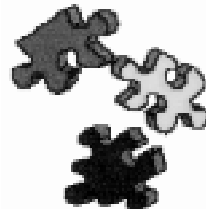
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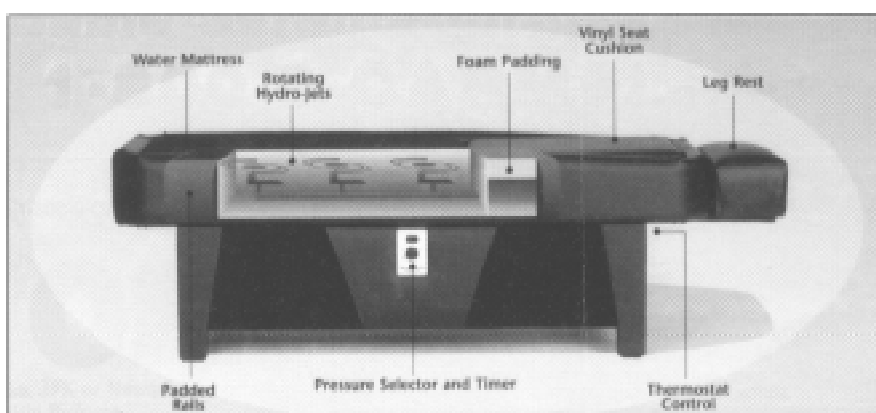
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Ironman

thousands of miles of training in Oxford I had only four flats the entire year, so I was hoping that I would not get one on race day. Nonetheless I did, so there I was fixing my flat as everyone I beat on the swim passed me, giving sympathy-support.

Within ten minutes, I was back on the road, determined to make up the lost ground. After all, there were over 111 miles to go on the bike so I knew I had time. I quickly made up time passing dozens of cyclists, climbing the mountains hard and pedaling fast. I told myself that as long as I didn't get another flat I'd be fine – but no sooner than that, I got *another* flat at mile 22.

Not today, I told myself, but with no time for hesitation I quickly fixed the flat and got back on the road. I was far back by now but within striking distance to remain competitive. However, after less than two minutes back on the road, I got a *third* flat on my rear tire! I now knew there was something wrong with the wheel, so I waited for technical support to come by in their vehicle so that I could swap wheels, because if I continued I would have certainly not have been able to finish. However, support came a full hour later, and all they had was a smaller tire – so now my bike



was inclined because of the big front and small rear tire. Doing a course in the Adirondack Mountains, the remaining 90 miles proved to be a real challenge.

The crowds along the whole course were amazing, as were the thousands of volunteers and professionals pulling off the race. Their unconditional support made my adrenaline flow and made me push myself harder than ever. With almost two hours lost on the bike leg, I was thankful to get off the bike course before the 5:30 p.m. cutoff time, even with a fourth flat. I got on my front tire 40 miles later.

On to the marathon...

The extra effort of riding an inclined bike left my body very tired before I got to the first of 26 miles on the run. At that point I knew it was going to be a really long run but, being headstrong, I kept telling myself *forward, forward, forward*. The way I approached it was that each mile completed was one mile closer to the finish line.

By halfway through the marathon it was night, and

the volunteers gave all the runners on the course green glow sticks. All I could see now were the glow sticks of the competitors in front and behind me. It is hard to describe, but it made for a very emotional experience to be out there with all those people determined to cross the finish line. There were Jeeps with spotlights so that they could search the road to see if anyone had fainted off to the side. There were also 20 ambulances on the course and I saw a few pass me with those competitors on their way to the hospital. Again, the support from everyone was unbelievable. People kept saying, "Don't give up," "You can do it," "You're almost there." Throughout the race, I acknowledged them with a thanks or nod but by the second half of the marathon leg I was reduced to giving a thumbs up...

As I neared the finish area, I saw the lights and heard the noise of the thousands of people playing music, dancing and cheering at the finish line. As I came closer I heard the announcer say there were only eighteen minutes left before midnight, but by then I was less than a half mile out and I knew I had it. I picked up the pace as I got closer and closer, with an amazing feeling of accomplishment. The screams and chants grew louder and louder and then I heard my name being called, the announcer said, "We have another winner: Roger Galindo, number 112 from New York City, is coming through."

As I came around the final bend and saw the finish line with the thousands of people in the stands, I stopped for a split-second, jumped, pumped my fist and then bolted the final 100 yards to the finish line with my arms raised. *Yessss, I did it!*

After 16 hours and 45 minutes of intense racing, I found out how it feels to dig deep, push the limits and live a dream – *simply great.*

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Make your **tax-deductible** check payable to **Parks Council / RIRSD**. \$100 full ticket, \$50 or \$25 partial ticket. Include your name, address, and phone number. Leave at the Rivercross doorstation (531 Main Street) addressed to RIRSD (Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development). We'll get your ticket to you. (We also need **ticket sellers**. Call the number below.)

***Questions/details – Call 688-8907**



RIRA from page 1

support legislation proposed by Assembly-member Pete Grannis providing for election of most members of the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation. Total votes cast in the election were 1,566.

Nomination forms will be available at various merchant locations on the Island in October, including Accountable Financial Management (in the Westview storefronts, at 599 Main Street, telephone **644-8231**). Additional locations will be announced in September. A version of the form will also be available on *Website NYC10044* **www.nyc10044.com**. According to Nominations Chair Joyce Mincheff, Public Safety Director Jim Fry declined a RIRA request that he make the forms available at the Public Safety office.

Openings on the Common Council include: 10-40 River Road (8 seats), 2 and 4 River Road (one each), Westview (3), Island House (3), the Seniors building at 546 Main Street (2), rest of Eastwood (7), and Rivercross (3).

Members of the RIRA committee seeking nominees are: Joyce Mincheff (chair), Fay Vass, Mercedes Lugo, all Eastwood; Frank Farance, Island House; Nurit Marcus, Shirley Margolin, Marge Smith, Seymour Williams (Rivercross); Sherie Helstien (Manhattan Park); Deirdre Breslin (Westview). Any member can be contacted for a nomination form.

Ryan from page 1



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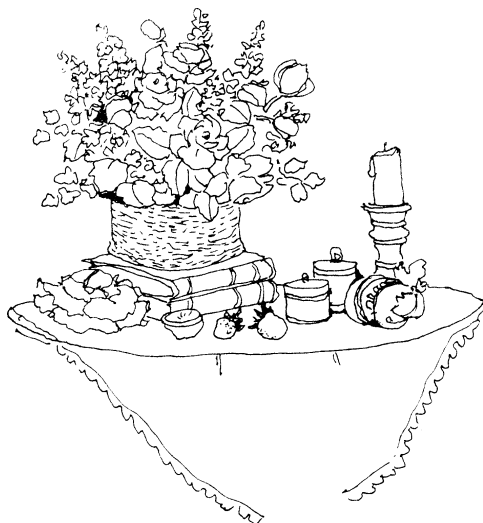
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MST's *Lion in Winter* Sept. 15-18



Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com

The Main Street Theatre will present an Equity production of *The Lion in Winter* by James Goldman September 15-18. (Tickets and information: 371-4449 starting September 1.) Home for Christmas in 1183, the King's family quarrels over who will succeed him. Worth Howe (seated) plays Henry; other cast members include (clockwise from top left) Seth Resnick as Phillip, Thom Woodley as Geoffrey, Kevin Gates as Richard, Nancy Howe as Eleanor of Aquitaine, JD Zamfirescu as John. Gretchen Lustig (not pictured) is also in the play, which is directed by Tom Dusenbury.



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