

Next issue:
January 12-13

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island’s Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044



Children of the Cabrini Parish presented their Christmas Pageant Wednesday night, under the direction of Sr. Regina Palamara. Surrounded by angels, Colleen Herlihy played Mary, Grace Albert played Jesus, and Alexander Pinks played Joseph. More photos from the event will be posted next week on Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com.

RIOC Considering Plan to Hear Residents Four Times a Year

RIOC canceled its December Board of Directors meeting, scheduled for this past Thursday night, as one of the few meetings annually that day-working Islanders can attend. Plans apparently are that the Board’s next meeting will therefore be an evening session to provide for community access to the Board.

But the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation Board is in the process of thinking through just how it will interface with residents of Roosevelt Island. Under consideration, as described at the November meeting, is a schedule under which residents would have an opportunity to address the Board, and perhaps have questions asked, just four times a year.

Policies have varied over the past few years under two different presidents and three different Board chairs. At times, the President or Board members – sometimes both – have responded to questions from members of the community. But in recent meetings, while residents have been afforded an opportunity to make comments to the Board, most questions have been ignored.

Stephen Hicks, in one of his last statements as RIOC Board Chair, before moving on to private industry, said, “The Board is not here to answer your questions,” when a resident pointed out that her question had been ignored.

The four-shots-a-year access pattern has been a topic of discussion among Island activists since the November Board session. Because it’s unclear whether the President and Board would answer questions,

or simply allow them to be raised in the form of comments, opinions have varied as to whether such sessions might, considered one at a time, be an improvement over past practice. But few residents have rushed to endorse the idea of access restricted to just once every three months.

At last asking, the access matter was said to be under active consideration. In the November meeting, Board Chair Mary Beth Labate suggested that residents direct their comments on the proposed schedule to RIOC President Robert H. Ryan at the RIOC offices at 591 Main Street (832-4540). Islanders might also attend a Residents Association meeting (the next one is Wednesday, January 3, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd) and speak in the public session to have their comments passed on to RIOC.

There’s an F Train in Your Future

A series of subway changes are in the works. They mean Roosevelt Island riders will “have to pay particular attention to the service notices,” according to Steve Strauss

of New York City Transit. Some changes are temporary while MTA/ NYCT completes preparations for opening the 63rd Street connection in late August.

In sequence, the changes are:

From now until June, daytime Q service will follow the familiar schedule and route.

Starting next month, all nighttime service for the Island will be on F trains. Weekend daytime service will be either R or F trains.

By late June, Q trains will no longer come to Roosevelt Island – a permanent change.

In summer, 2001, probably from June to late August, daytime Roosevelt Island service will be temporarily handled by a shuttle running from 21st Street/ Queensbridge to the Broadway-Lafayette station.

By the end of August, the 63rd Street connection will open fully, and the F train will be permanently rerouted. From Roosevelt Avenue, Queens (where transfers will be available to a new V line, as well as R and E lines), the F train will make stops at 21st Avenue/

See **Subway**, page 10



Christmas Spirit Isabel Bartley has extensively decorated the Island House apartment she shares with her husband, John. The windows (inset) are visible from the Island House courtyard, but if you ask politely, you might get to see all the moving figures and Christmas lights inside their apartment (N504).

Briefly...

The **Southtown challenge** by Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development (RIRSD) is going forward with a new law firm on the case. LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae will appeal the July 5 New York Supreme Court decision, which favored RIOC and Hudson/ Related, the developer team.

RIOC labor agreements are a topic this week at the Corporation’s offices at 591 Main Street. RIOC has apparently reached an agreement with the Island’s bus drivers, bus mechanics, and maintenance mechanics, represented by Teamsters Local 819. But Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union, which represents nine groundskeepers whose contract ran out in April, says RIOC is playing tough in negotiations, insisting on the right to subcontract the work to outside companies. A union representative told *The WIRE* that some of the City’s 55,000 32BJ members may be called upon to demonstrate on the Island. At press time, a negotiating session was planned for Friday, with a protest outside the RIOC offices slated for Thursday night, to be attended by State Senate Olga Mendez and City Councilmember Gifford Miller. A thousand residents have signed a petition the workers will hand to RIOC.

MST’s Longtime Musical Mainstay Has Original Music in Carol



Bob McDowell, usually at the piano during Main Street Theatre productions, is in the booth for *A Christmas Carol*, cueing playback of his original music and arrangements on a compact disk he prerecorded, using his synthesizer and computer.

by Anusha Shrivastava

The magic of Christmas starts as soon as you turn to the last page on your calendar. The first snowfall, the window decorations and the winter coats all add up. On the Island, the show put on by the Main Street Theatre is a special event and Bob McDowell’s music is the cherry on the cake.

McDowell works as a freelancer, composing music and writing pieces for various theaters. “The bulk of my work is theatrical writing,” he says. “I have directed choral works in Denver, and worked for many years with the Seaside Music Theater in Daytona Beach, Florida. I haven’t yet reached the point where I am satisfied with the work I have already written and that keeps me going.”

Though he lives in Astoria, this avuncular composer and musician thinks of himself as an “adopted member of the community.” He says, “The involvement of the community enriches the experience for everyone, including me. I think this is a different kind of success. The warmth of the people makes my work truly worth the effort.”

Bob has been associated with the Main Street Theatre since 1985, when he moved to New York from Atlanta, Georgia. “We found him through a friend,” says Nancy Howe, who runs the theater with her hus-

band, Worth Howe. “He is a fabulous musician, composer and arranger and I think he is more talented than a lot of people on Broadway.”

“This is my 16th show and each one gets better than the one before,” says Bob. For Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol*, which opened last weekend and continues through Monday (December 18), Bob has used his computer to produce a digital recording of the music. “Until last year when I used the technique in *Lion in Winter*, I had a computer that did nothing more than word-processing. Now, I have an iMac, which is a simple computer but powerful and fast enough to create the music I need. I now feel as if I have a recording studio at home,” he says.

For the production, McDowell has taken traditional carols that are merry and changed them to convey dark times. “I have tried to show the darker side of things. Dickens’s London – dark and Victorian, with poor people and ghosts – is what I was thinking of when I did the pieces. The audience is familiar with the tunes and will understand the changes.”

McDowell admits that at first some people had reservations about the quality of the synthesized music. “I could see that they thought we might end up getting a karaoke version of *A Christmas Carol*, but I think

See **McDowell**, page 6

Seasons Greetings from *The WIRE & Website NYC10044*

Editorial View

Taking Cues

It's rare to see a train wreck, as the Presidential election was often called, end with all the cars upright and still moving along down the track. But by Thursday morning, Al Gore and George W. Bush seemed to have pulled it off.

Whatever you might think of the Florida contest and the national outcome, there was something riveting about the way the whole matter found its final moments, with statesmen rising above themselves, putting the country first, calling a halt to the legal maneuvering and partisan bickering.

“Just as we fight hard when the stakes are high,” said the Vice President, “we close ranks and come together when the contest is done.”

All of this has a familiar feel here on Roosevelt Island.

Last week, the newly-elected Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association met for the first time, under the gavel of its new President, Matthew Katz. Throughout the meeting, there was the bump and parry of committed people expressing their beliefs intelligently and forthrightly.

But when the meeting ended and those remaining gathered for a “class photo” (see page 3), there was a kind of tentative renewing of the camaraderie that once was, and could again be, a virtual trademark of Roosevelt Island.

There is reason to come together. The ideals on which this Island community was built are in danger of being cast aside with a new direction on the RIOC Board – a direction that seems, as best we can tell, to put expansive faith in those who hold money and make decisions about what to do, and not to do, with it.

But there are values above mass and market and capital. They are values alive and well on Roosevelt Island, among the people who live here. And today's danger is that the enormous power of the marketplace to do both good things – and blundering bad things – may be loosed to ravage those values as greed can.

The contest is over. We should close ranks. We should celebrate and stand upon the values that we have so long nurtured here. And we should fight hard, *together*, to preserve those values and find a structure in which they will be protected.

Giving Thanks

The WIRE has had a good year, thanks to the work of over a hundred volunteers who make common cause of getting out the Island's news. Many are listed below, though there are occasional lapses when we find that someone who has been steadfast has also been unacknowledged.

From this point of view, there's one mandatory word, inadequate as it may be to the purpose of praising those who put forth the effort each issue: **Thanks.**

DL

The November Public Safety Blotter will be published, with this issue of *The WIRE*, on *Website NYC10044* at www.nyc10044.com



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Letters

To the Editor:

I have been elected as the Residents Association's Vice-President for Planning. According to RIRA's constitution, the Vice President of Planning shall represent the Common Council on matters involving future development of Roosevelt Island, including, but not limited to, commercial development, housing, vehicular access and energy. Two RIRA committees, Island Planning and Development and Energy Planning fall under my purview.

These committees are important to the future of the Island. I expect they will be involved in issues such as Southtown, Southpoint, the recent proposal made to RIOC suggesting that the development sites be subleased to real estate interests to develop as they see fit, co-generation of power and proposals for use of the Ravenswood and other power facilities in Queens.

I am seeking residents to serve on these committees. It is not necessary to be a RIRA Common Council member to serve on a committee. What is important is a willingness to commit to the continued success of the Island and to work hard to achieve that goal. If you are interested, please leave your name and where you can be reached, at the Rivercross doorstation, or e-mail me at lparnes@dcp.cn.ci.nyc.ny.us.

Larry Parnes

eldercare facilities, Octagon residential buildings, convention center and ad nauseum.

We know RIOC has given Southtown away shamelessly. But aside from those buildings bringing in added, albeit ridiculously low, revenue as well as saving on salaries not having to be paid to RIOC, you might do well to consider two other areas already here which could also bring in money – perhaps enough so that we would be completely self-sufficient. That was, after all, the original building goal – to break even each year, through self-sufficiency, not to additionally unjustly enrich those in power at our expense through overbuilding overkill.

Letters deadline for Jan. 13 issue: Jan. 8

Letters received after deadline will be considered on a space-available basis

Motorgate: Put management of this presently unsafe and unsecured facility in the hands of residents, including Island youth. Rates could be somewhat lowered with profits going for Island use, not Edison Parking. Security there should be tightened up by plugging up access points.

Cogenerate our Steam Plant: No, the State does not own this facility. While the plant belongs with the City land on which the hospitals sit and it was built to supply hot water and steam heat to its two hospitals, reference to it was omitted in the Master Lease. RIRA's first Energy Committee (set up 20 years ago) obtained permission from the City's Health and Hospitals officials to cogenerate and supply power for the Island's residential buildings. We found the plant is a gem, excellently-run and maintained, and it has been running at ten percent capacity. It is fully capable, when retrofitted with extra generators, of being converted to cogeneration. It could supply the entire Island with hot water and electricity (hence the name co-generation). Twenty years ago each residential building on the Island was paying \$1 million a year to ConEd in energy costs. Think of what that figure must be now!

Twenty years ago, the committee's plan was to:

- Interest an investor in buying the necessary generators;
- Have as overseers of the plant an eminent City engineering firm with expertise in handling cogeneration facilities;
- Have a clause in the investor's contract limiting it to ten years, after which the investor would be required to sell us the equipment at vastly depreciated value. We would then run the plant ourselves through the engineering company.

No additional infrastructure would be necessary since a large steam pipe (into which we would tap) already runs from Goldwater to Coler.

We ascertained that under such a plan, for the first ten years each residential building would save at least one-third in energy costs per annum. Thereafter, with the debt fully discharged and the steam plant completely ours, savings would be even greater. Such savings could allow our buildings to be fixed up, rents lowered or stabilized, and could contribute significant amounts going to Island expenses.

Around the time the plan was developed, the energy crisis abated. However, interesting an investor in this present oil-crunch climate would be relatively easy through putting out an RFP. Or we could run the plant ourselves from the start by taking out a low-interest ten-year State, Federal loan, or even a bank loan.

So do not do as you said you might, Mr. Kayser, and *sell* the Steam Plant. Let's use it because *we need it*.

As for our never having had true democracy on Roosevelt Island, a furtherance of that cause by George Pataki would be a feather in his cap as he seeks a third term as Governor. Is he going to allow an opponent to get ahead of him on that issue?

Barbara Potts

Barbara Potts is a former secretary of RIRA and Chair of its first Energy Committee.

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 are 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 Street or faxed to (212) **755-2540**. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered. We cannot take telephone dictation of letters.

The family of Gail Dunmore and Virginia Boykin announce funeral services for

Mrs. Myrtle Haynes

Visitation on Monday, December 18, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Religious service in the Chapel, 7:30 p.m.
Morisco Funeral Home, 30-12 Astoria Blvd., Astoria, NY 11102
(718) 728-1681
Burial Tuesday, December 19, 9:30 a.m., Rosehill Cemetery, Linden, NJ

COMING UP

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

Fri.-Mon., Dec. 15-18, times vary, **Main Street Theatre** benefit production of *A Christmas Carol* musical. Information: 371-4449.

Sat., Dec. 16, 1:00 p.m., **Santa Claus** will visit Main Street, courtesy Roosevelt Island Youth Program.

Sun., Dec. 17, 3:00-5:00 p.m., **Rep. Carolyn Maloney Open House**, Manhattan District Office, 1651 Third Av., 3rd floor, to discuss the 107th Congress and its potential impact on her district.

Sun., Dec. 17, 8:00 p.m., **Christmas Candlelight** service, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Thur., Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m., **School Leadership Team** and **PTA Executive Board Meeting**, PS/IS 217.

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

Sun., Jan. 7, 5:00 p.m., **Laugh in the Millenium**, Senior Center

Sat., Jan. 13, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Jan. 5; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Jan. 8; materials due Thur., Jan. 11. **Future issues:** January 27; Feb. 10, 24; Mar. 10, 24; Apr. 7, 21; May 5, 19; June 2, 30; Aug. 4, then every two weeks starting early in September. **Phone/fax** for news, 826-9055/755-2540; phone/fax for advertising inquiries, 751-8214/755-2540; phone/fax to list your organization's Island events here (no charge), 208-2907, or e-mail alpinset@cs.com.

Senior Center

Monday
10:00, **Internet Class**
10:00, **Blood Pressure Screening**
12:45, **Arts & Crafts** (RIDA)

Tuesday
10:00, **Jazzercise**
1:00, **Games** (RISA)

Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well** (stretch)
10:00, **English as 2nd Language**
(Beginners session at 10:00,
Intermediate session at 11:00.)
7:00, **Glee Club**

Thursday
10:00, **Tai Chi**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
7:00, **Dance Class**

Friday
9:00, **English as 2nd Language**
(Beginners session at 9:00,
Intermediate session at 10:00)

11:00, **Citizenship Class**
7:30, **Lotto** (RISA)

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

Special Events

Sat., Dec. 16, 7:00 p.m.,
Holiday/Birthday Party
Mon., Dec. 25, closed
Thur., Dec. 28, 12:30 p.m.
Visiting Nurse Service
Sun., Dec. 31, time to be announced,
New Year's Eve Party

Well, we're official. The RIRA Class of 2000 was launched at the Common Council meeting of December 6, and we're off to the races. The new Council began with a motion to thank the outgoing officers, which passed unanimously. By the time we adjourned, all the new vice presidents and most of the committee heads had been elected. You residents, members of RIRA all, may (and should!) participate in Common Council committees. The new chairs will be seeking recruits before the next meeting on January 3. Should you be interested in participating, I'll list their names. Of course, you can always call me (935-7534) to inquire.

Despite his heavy teaching, consulting and business responsibilities, Seymour Williams (Rivercross) has consented to another term as RIRA Treasurer. My wife, Sherie Helstien (Manhattan Park) volunteered as Acting Secretary for the first meeting and will prepare the minutes for distribution before the January session. She was also elected chair of the Legal Action Fund Committee and is seeking residents who wish to work on gaining access for the community to the negotiations on Southtown and other developments by legal means. Experienced fund raisers, sign up here! Steve Marcus (Rivercross) will take on the Secretarial duties at the January meeting and will maintain relations with our local politicians as Vice President of Government Relations as well. I hope we can elect a permanent Secretary soon.

Ron Schuppert (Rivercross), Council parliamentarian with Frank Farance, has taken on wide-ranging duties as Vice President of Island Services. Bangladeshi diplomat and new Roosevelt Islander, Mosud Mannan (Manhattan Park) will be Vice President of Social, Cultural and Educational Services. Ken Diebner (Westview), now not an Alternate but a seated Council Member, will be Vice President of Housing. He will be seeking committee members from each building. And new Member, Larry Parnes (Rivercross), will work to enhance and control Roosevelt Island's future as Vice President of Planning.

Computer whiz Frank Farance (Island House) will take on another term as Chair of the Communications Committee, responsible for keeping Council Members and residents informed of RIRA business. Much of the material handed out at the Orientation and at the

The RIRA Column

December 6th meeting was Frank's handywork. Other members taking on leadership positions include Deirdre Breslin (Westview), who will continue as liaison to Community Board 8 and will also head the Energy Planning Committee as liaison to the environmental group, CHOKE. Nneka Pope (Eastwood) will revive the long moribund Membership Participation Committee, and she hopes to improve the diversity of the Common Council membership. Our expert on City planning and transportation issues, Jeff Hochman (Rivercross), will continue to serve, and Mercedes (Cookie) Lugo (Eastwood) will work with First Vice President Byron Gaspard (Eastwood) on public safety issues.

On other fronts, RIOC President Rob Ryan tells me that ConEd has discovered that our street-lighting problems may emanate from their usage of the wrong step-down transformers. He says that solutions are imminent. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers still has not released its final report on the sea-

wall, despite calls from Mr. Ryan and from Assembly-member Grannis. We are told that they simply need to incorporate the final changes in the printed report, but the weeks go by and we are still in the dark. I shall enlist the aid of Rep. Carolyn Maloney when I see her this weekend.

I spent an hour with our City Councilmember, Gifford Miller, last week. We discussed various plans for the future of Roosevelt Island, analyzing their benefits, liabilities and potential for success. He is a tireless advocate for Roosevelt Island and I enjoyed our time together, even if he is a Yankee fan. Commissioner of DHCR Joe Lynch, head of the State department that oversees RIOC, will meet with me this coming week and I will report any news in January.

We appear to be going into the holidays with a full head of steam, energized and ready to take on the responsibilities of dealing with the Island's problems and potentials. I would like to wish everyone who reads these lines a fine Winter Solstice, Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, Good Kwanzaa, and a safe, sound and healthy New Year. Sherie and I are heading into our thirteenth year on Roosevelt Island happier than ever that we discovered this magical place at the same time we were discovering each other. Tiny Tim was right: *God Bless Us Every One*.

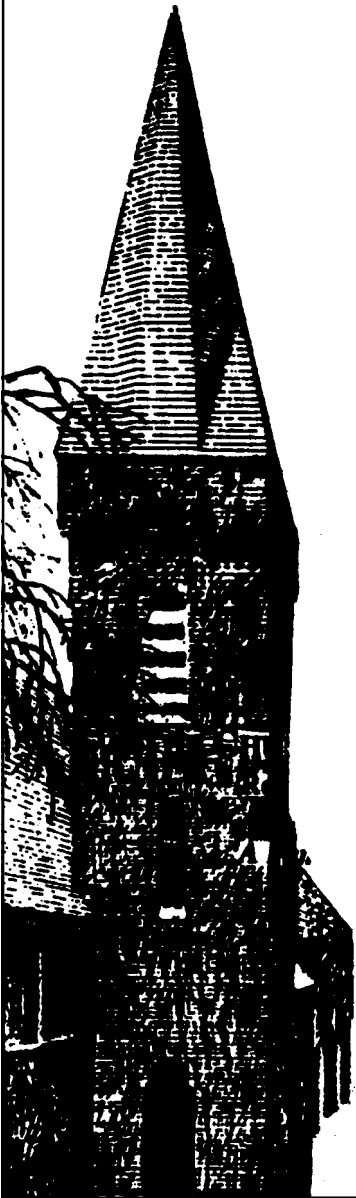
Matthew Katz



The RIRA Common Council Class of 2000-2002 posed for a photograph last week at the end of their first meeting. **Seated:** Margie Smith, Rivercross *alternate*; Shirley Margolin, Roosevelt Island Council of Organizations; Ethel Romm, Island House *alternate*; Judy Berdy, Island House. **Behind Berdy:** Vicki Feinmel, Island House; Sherie Helstien, Manhattan Park. **Middle row**, left to right: James Whalen (scarf), 2 River Road; Deirdre Breslin, Westview; Suki Murdock, Manhattan Park; Joan Matula,

546 Main Street; Matthew Katz, President; Ruth Kolins, Eastwood *alternate*; Rhoda Jacklin, Westview; Dorothy Muller Eastwood *alternate*; Sigrid Martin, Manhattan Park; Larry Parnes, Rivercross. **Back row:** Joe Cristiano, Rivercross *alternate*; Ken Diebner, Westview; Karen Stewart, Island House *alternate*; Patrick Stewart, Island House *alternate*; Mosud Mannan, Manhattan Park; Ron Schuppert, Rivercross; Byron Gaspard, First Vice President; Jeffrey Hochman, Rivercross *alternate*; Steve

Marcus (hat), Rivercross. Absent: 546 Main Street: Dolores Green. Eastwood: Gwen Almo-Duvar, Thomas V. Brown, Carolyn Christianson, Joan Christianson, Walter Hill, James Kaufman (*alternate*), Mercedes (Cookie) Lugo, Joyce Mincheff (*alternate*), Nneka Pope, James Tendean-Luce (*alternate*). Island House: Frank Farance. Rivercross: Olya Turcuhin Stern (*alternate*). Richard Wade (*alternate*). Westview: Patricia Ricketts (*alternate*), Joseph Palermo (*alternate*).



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Traditional Candlelight Christmas Service with Choir will take place this Sunday, December 17th, at 8:00 pm in the Main Chapel.

Please bring soaps and other toiletry items for our Coler Hospital neighbors, upholding a long Good Shepherd tradition.

Support and encourage our Island's young people! Sunday School Christmas Program, December 24 at 10:00 am, Main Chapel, followed by the service of Holy Communion

Please also join us for our regular schedule of Services:

- Sunday School 8:15 am each Sunday. Classes for all ages. Free doughnuts and milk.
- Main Morning Worship each Sunday at 10:00 am promptly. Join us for our Gospel Sermon and traditional Hymns from our choir.
- Our Adult Bible Group meets each Tuesday evening at 8:00 in the Oval room downstairs.
- Our Teen and Pre-Teen Venture groups meet immediately after the main Sunday Service, at 11:00 am downstairs in the Church. These groups offer our young people Christian guidance in dealing with the many challenges our children face today, as well as free pizza and soda.

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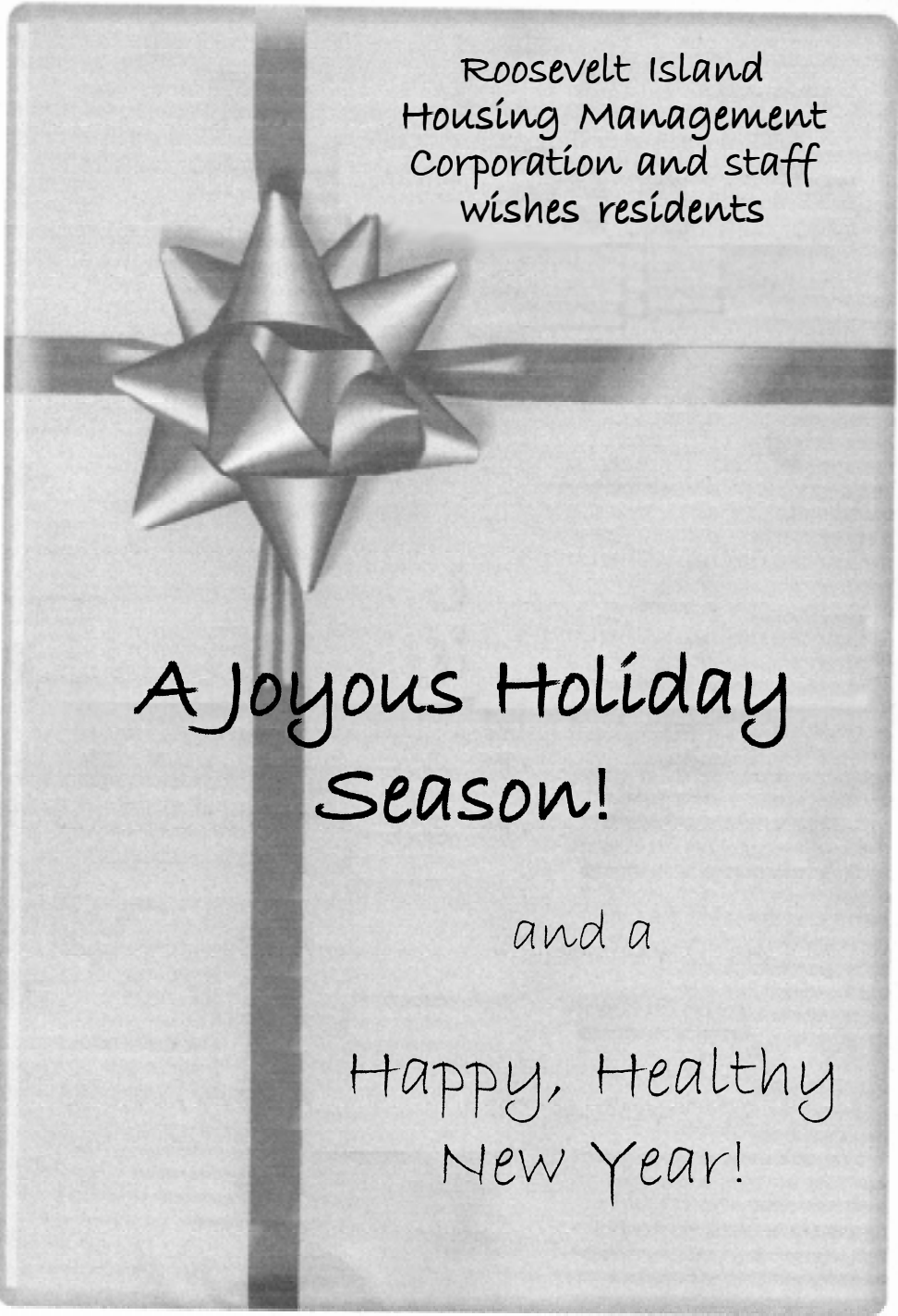
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Season!

and a

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New Year!

Season's Greetings

The Roosevelt Island Racquet Club offers

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Programs

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Catholic Faith Community St. Frances Cabrini Parish Christmas Schedule

Midnight Mass Dec. 24 – Sunday
8 p.m. – Good Shepherd

Christmas Day, Dec. 25 – Monday
11:15 Good Shepherd

New Year's Day, Jan. 1 – Monday
11:15 Good Shepherd

Christmas Blessings
of Peace and Joy
Be with You and Your Family

JOY TO THE
WORLD
THE LORD
IS COME



Roosevelt Island Corner Shop

(the card & gift shop)

Season's Greetings

to all the residents of Roosevelt Island

Thanks for all your support.

563 Main Street

688-7928

Large variety of 99cent gift items

**Roosevelt Island
Day Nursery**



**Introduction to Preschool
for 2 and 3 year olds**

A Class for Parents and Children Together

12 Week Session: February 27 - May 23

Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
and/or

Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Register at 4 River Road

Each class limited to 10 children

For information and fees call 593-0750



from
Rose Associates, Inc.

*Managing Agent for
Rivercross Tenants' Corp.*

Main Street Theatre’s *A Christmas Carol* Brings a Famous Visitor



Ebenezer Scrooge (Ron Roth) meets the Ghost of Christmas Past (MJ Geier) to begin a journey through his regrets.



One cast of Cratchit children (clockwise from left: Caroline Mortensen, Ariana Simmons, Kentara Moore, Samantha Stone) sing *What Child Is This?*



Marley's ghost (Kevin Gates), dragging chains, tells Scrooge to expect visitors.

McDowell from page 1

those fears have been allayed. I know that there is something wonderful about a live orchestra, but in a theater this size, that generally means just a piano, so the digital music is the next best substitute. It is surprising what you can get out of it. There will always be live orchestras on Broadway, but this is good for a small theater that runs in the basement of a building. A lot of musicians are scared that this technique will put them out of business, but they forget that Broadway has a tradition of live music, which is why we pay \$85 for the seats. Here, we have always had just a piano, so the approach for this production has varied the experience for the veterans. Some performers thought it would be tough to adjust but the craft of the recording is to make it adjust to singers.”

Diana Brill, the show’s choreographer, endorses Bob’s views and loves the way he worked in a collaborative fashion to create music for *A Christmas Carol*. “Bob is the perfect professional. He understands perfectly how to make the script come alive and gives you exactly what you need for the show. I have worked with him for over 15 years and, though this is the first time he has written original dance music, he is good at so many things that his experience and talent have produced the finest quality work,” says Diana.

Worth Howe thinks that the CD called *Carols*, produced by Bob for the show, is exceptionally good. “Bob is a marvelously talented man. His music is melodic, interesting and always fits the moment.”



Scrooge as a young boy (Jake Russem) is questioned by his schoolmaster (Joe Vacirca) as to why no one is coming to take him home for Christmas. (Foreground, from left: Samantha Stone, Madison Gates, Kentaro Moore, Lauren Ballard, Ariana Simmons, Caroline Mortensen.)



The Ghost of Christmas Present (Anita Michael) prepares to show Scrooge the products of his greed.



Backstage at the theater before last Monday night's performance, Bob McDowell talked about composition and performance on a synthesizer while getting some dinner on the fly.



Ted Geier, as Charles Dickens, tells Scrooge's story.

Dickens Walked These Grounds

Charles Dickens visited Blackwell's Island (now Roosevelt Island) in 1842, one year before publication of *A Christmas Carol*. He wrote of his observations here in his book, *American Notes*, excerpted below. (The full text of his comments is available in the *TimeLine* on *Website NYC10044* at www.nyc10044.com.)

One day, during my stay in New York, I paid a visit to the different public institutions on Long Island, or Rhode Island: I forget which. One of them is a Lunatic Asylum. The building is handsome; and is remarkable for a spacious and elegant staircase. The whole structure is not yet finished, but it is already one of considerable size and extent, and is capable of accommodating a very large number of patients.

I cannot say that I derived much comfort from the inspection of this charity. The different wards might have been cleaner and better ordered; I saw nothing of that salutary system which had impressed me so favourably elsewhere; and everything had a lounging, listless, madhouse air, which was very painful. The moping idiot, cowering down with long dishevelled hair; the gibbering maniac, with his hideous laugh and pointed finger; the vacant eye, the fierce wild face, the gloomy picking of the hands and lips, and munching of the nails: there they were all, without disguise, in naked ugliness and horror. In the dining room, a bare, dull, dreary place, with nothing for the eye to rest on but the empty walls, a woman was locked up alone. She was bent, they told me, on committing suicide. If anything could have strengthened her in her resolution, it would certainly have been the insupportable monotony of such an existence.

The terrible crowd with which these halls and galleries were filled, so shocked me, that I abridged my stay within the shortest limits, and declined to see that portion of the building in which the refractory and violent were under closer restraint. I have no doubt that the gentleman who presided over this establishment at the time I write of, was competent to manage it, and had done all in his power to promote its usefulness: but will it be believed that the miserable strife of Party feeling is carried even into this sad refuge of afflicted and degraded humanity? Will it be believed that the eyes which are to watch over and control the wanderings of minds on which the most dreadful visitation to which our nature is exposed has fallen, must wear the glasses of some wretched side in Politics? Will it be believed that the governor of such a house as this, is appointed, and deposed, and changed perpetually, as Parties fluctuate and vary, and as their despicable weathercocks are blown this way or that? A hundred times in every week, some new most paltry exhibition of that narrow-minded and injurious Party Spirit, which is the Simoom of America, sickening and blighting everything of wholesome life within its reach, was forced upon my notice; but I never turned my back upon it with feelings of such deep disgust and measureless contempt, as when I crossed the threshold of this madhouse.



Back to the Island with His Story of the Season (and a few tickets may still be available: 371-4449.)



Guided by the Ghost of Christmas Past, Scrooge sees himself (Nicholas Ortiz) with his fiancé (Marielena Logsdon).



A reformed Scrooge gives a raise to Bob Cratchit (Kevin Gates).



Warned of a dire future, Scrooge watches as crones (Joan Christianson, Kathie Niederhoffer, Marilyn Atkins, Deborah Drucker) boast of the possessions they have taken from his house after his death.



The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come (Brenna Stein) greets a frightened Scrooge.



Having learned his lesson, Scrooge greets the Buckworthys (Kristian Mortensen and Corinna Kell).



Front row, left to right: Madison Gates, Nicole Herlihy, Nora Helal, Jake Russem, Ariana Simmons, Kentaro Moore, Seth Vacirca, Marilyn Atkins, Joe Vacirca.

Second row: MJ Geier, Terence Trouillot, Hanna Jamal, Samantha Stone, Kate Davies, Lauren Ballard, Kathie Niederhoffer, Anita Michael, Colleen Herlihy.

Third row: Mary Jo Schager, Ellie Philips, Caroline Mortensen, Emily Goodridge, Nick Ortiz, Marielena Logsdon, Ron Roth.

Back row: Brenna Stein, Roberta Hershey, Alex Wang, Kevin Gates, Kristian Mortensen, Corinna Kell, Joe Palermo, Johnny Palermo, Ted Geier, Gwen Almo-Duvar, Joan Christianson, Deborah Drucker.

Missing: Hallie Geier, Ashley Hymson, Annalisa Kell, Elana Leopold, Christina Montez, Stephanie Negron, Jeremiah Negron.



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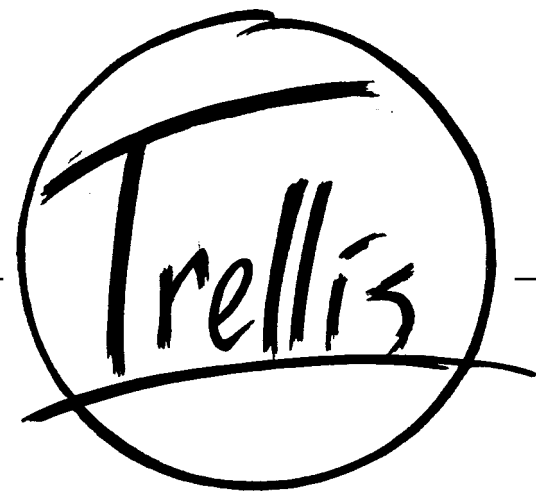
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FLAG FOOTBALL The regular season in the Youth Program’s Flag Football League ended December 2, with the Titans finishing first in the Junior Division and the Jets (on the basis of head-to-head results) finishing first in the Senior Division.

Junior Division (Ages 11-13)		Senior Division (Ages 14-16)	
Titans	4 - 2	Jets	4 - 2
Raiders	3 - 2 - 1	Vikings	4 - 2
Cowboys	3 - 3	Chiefs	3 - 3
Rams	1 - 4 - 1	Titans	1 - 5

The playoffs opened December 9 with the Titans defeating the Rams by a 27-12 score, and the Cowboys upsetting the Raiders 55-33 in the Junior Division. Lamar Burrows had another dominating game for the Titans, intercepting four passes and throwing TD passes to Matthew Colon and Christian Gautier. The Titans led 21-0 in the second half before the Rams scored on TD passes from Sean Suarez to Chris Dominguez and from Chris Dominguez to Steven Morabito. However, the Titans iced the game on a TD run by Mohamed Camara, and the defense, Jake Russem, Junior Rodriguez, Austin Lee and Ruben Garcia, stopped the Rams for the rest of the game.

The Raider-Cowboy contest was a high-scoring, nail-biting contest that was much closer than the final score indicated. The Raiders led 20-6 early in the game on TD passes from Eric Miranda to Tyrell Anderson, Neal Stueber and Remy Armenakis. However, the Cowboys fought back to make the score 26-24 at halftime behind a TD pass from Rahim Drame to Shabaka White and TD runs by Shabaka White, Alpha Bah and Damon Wolford. In the second half, the Raiders extended their lead to 33-24 on a TD pass from Eric Miranda to Dax Armenakis, but the Cowboys went ahead 36-30 on an Alpha Bah interception and a Damon Wolford TD run with five minutes left in the game. The Cowboys added two late scores on interceptions by Damon Wolford and Shabaka White (his third of the game) as the Raiders struggled to catch up.

In the Senior Division, the Jets mauled a short-handed Titans team by a 58-19 score, and the Vikings had too much firepower for the Chiefs and prevailed by a 47-33 score. Jets quarterback Brian Morgan shredded the Titan defense, opening up a 33-12 lead at halftime on TD passes to Fode Bah (2 TDs), Eddie Cullen, Carlos Nevarez, and Brian Reyes. Brandon Stueber and Jovan Ponce also had big receptions for the Jets. Steve Morgan led the Titans, throwing a TD pass to Jose Marte after a long completion to Scott Davis, and Sika Franco added a dazzling run to a short completion for another score.

In the second game, the Vikings opened a 34-0 lead behind TD passes from John Mason to Terry Moses (2 TDs) and Blas Loor, two TD runs by Mark Comrie and a QB sack by Alex Gherardi for a safety. A belated second-half comeback by the Chiefs, with Zach Russem throwing TD passes to Adam Ballard, Rakeem Cummings, Seth Kaufman, Mike Kirkman and Deshawn Pearson came up short, however, as the Vikings added two more touchdowns on a Mark Comrie run and a Blas Loor-to-John Mason flea-flicker. Alhussein Camara and Karam Hider had outstanding defensive games as the Vikings were shutting down the Chiefs in the first half.

Subway from page 1

Queensbridge, Roosevelt Island, Lex/63rd, 57th/6th, then continue on the present F route. A host of other changes in the system won’t directly affect Roosevelt Islanders, unless they transfer. Service notices will be posted in the appropriate stations, including Roosevelt Island. A public hearing on the changes is scheduled for late January in Long Island City; notices of place and time will be posted in the affected stations. An informational meeting may also be scheduled for Roosevelt Island.

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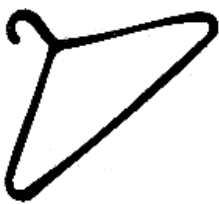
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