

Next scheduled issue:
Saturday, October 20

The Main Street **WIRE**

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with **Website NYC10044** www.nyc10044.com



Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com
RIRA President Matthew Katz (center) and Fund-Raising Chair Vicki Feinmel (right) received a \$1,040 check from the Island's Korean community Wednesday night, presented by In Kyu Park (left). RISA President Dolores Green (seated) presented a \$250 check from the Seniors Association.

RIRA Raises \$7,500 for Twin Towers Families

Residents have contributed some \$7,500, to date, to a Residents Association (RIRA) effort to bring financial relief to Island families suffering loss of family members in the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Another \$1,000 is pledged, as well.

On Wednesday night at the RIRA Common Council meeting, the Korean community presented a check for over \$1,000, and RISA contributed \$250, to bring the total to the current figure.

The committee, chaired by Vicki Feinmel, is trying to complete a roster of Island residents who lost family members in the September 11 disaster. Feinmel can be reached at (212) 223-1108, or by e-mail at VickiFNY@aol.com.
See **RIRA Fund**, page 11



State Comptroller Carl McCall presented a ceremonial check representing a deposit of \$10 million in State funds to New York National Bank President Serafin Mariel last week, as elected politicians joined in a grand opening ceremony. Left to right: Mariel, State Senator Olga Mendez, McCall, Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields, and Member of Assembly Pete Grannis.

A Main Street Branch for A “Main Street Bank”

“It’s not a Wall Street bank. It’s a Main Street bank. Now it has a branch on Main Street.”

With that invocation, elected officials and the President of New York National Bank started a grand opening ceremony last week outside the institution’s branch at 619 Main Street.

The occasion was highlighted by presentation of a ceremonial check, representing a deposit of \$10 million of State funds, presented by State Comptroller H. Carl McCall. The deposit was made under a 1997 law permitting the State to encourage banks to open branches in “unbanked” or under-banked areas of the State.

In addition to McCall, other officials and guests speaking at the occasion included State Senator Olga Mendez, Assemblymember Pete Grannis, Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields, RIOC Vice President Robert Antonek, and R. W. Leftwich, Treasurer of Shell Oil. Shell is making a \$250,000 capital investment in NYNB, a \$1 million deposit, and participating in NYNB loans to minority and women-owned businesses at a \$7.5 million level.

NYNB President Serafin Mariel presided.

See **NYNB**, page 9

Revised Octagon Apartments Are Now Larger, With Parking Planned Under Tennis Courts

The developer planning apartments at the Octagon has increased the size of the project and is requesting an extension of site control next week at the Board meeting of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC).

The changes are expected to require amendment of the General Development Plan (GDP), the master plan for the Island appended to the Lease under which the State is responsible for development of the Island, which is owned by the City of New York.

The revised Octagon project would be increased to nine stories and 400 to 450 units, and would replace the originally-proposed “L” shape with a “J” shape. In a revision requested by some residents in earlier meetings with the developer, the building layout has been changed to set off the restored Octagon Tower by means of 5-story-tall connectors separating the tower from the new buildings.

The project is now proposed as an 80/20 division – 20% of the units “affordable,” and 80% market rate. The lower-rent units would be scattered throughout

the buildings. The 400-plus units are to be divided into studios, 20%; single bedrooms, 50%; two bedrooms, 15%; three bedrooms, 15%; with sizes from



500 to 1200 square feet.

Bruce Becker, president of the firm that bears his name, said that the addition of 60 or more three-bedroom units is a response to community concerns about
See **Octagon**, page 8

Islanders

Historical Society Marks 25th Year as Judy Berdy Keeps On Looking Back

by Anusha Shrivastava

The “town historian” of Roosevelt Island is someone who takes her job very seriously. She has books, photographs, documents, letters and newspaper articles about the Island filed and stacked on bookshelves in her bedroom, copies of *The WIRE* arranged chronologically in trunks in her

storage room, and maps of the Island framed in her living room.

It is no wonder that Judith Berdy, 53 – all five feet, three inches of her – is quoted in every book, master’s project and doctoral dissertation written about the Island in the past two decades. She is happy to be treated as a resource, but says she would appreciate it if people give her a copy of what they write after she gives them a tour of the Island and all the background information. “They promise me the world before the interview and then they disappear,” says Berdy. “I just want to see how it came out.”

Apart from students, Berdy is contacted by people who want to tour the Island and learn about its history. “Most of the time, they are people who live on the Upper East side and have been curious about the Island for the past twenty years or so,” says Berdy.

Last summer, Berdy received a call that puzzled her. It was from Linda Fairstein, who works for the Manhattan District Attorney’s sex crimes unit. “I could not understand what anyone from the sex crimes unit wanted with me,” says Berdy. “I was relieved to find Linda Fairstein is a novelist and wanted to base her new murder mystery on Roosevelt Island.” Fairstein’s book, *The Deadhouse*, due out later this month, is set partially on Blackwell’s Island. The book’s cover features the Renwick ruins located at the South end of the Island.

Constantly updating information about the Island’s history, the latest Berdy has discovered is that the Blackwell family, which owned the

Island in the 18th Century, was one of the first families in America to experiment with grafting on apple trees that grew on the Island. “There are holes in the Island’s his-



Photo: Margery Rubin

tory and my job as the president of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society is to fill them,” says Berdy.

For the Society, which has nearly a hundred members, Berdy’s dream is to have a permanent home. “People suggest Blackwell House and want me to try to convert it into a museum but that is not practical. First, it was not designed to be a research facility. Second, it is not large enough. Also, we need a fresh, well-lit space that is not makeshift,” says Berdy. Ideally, she thinks, a new office-cum-museum space in a restored Octagon building might be used.

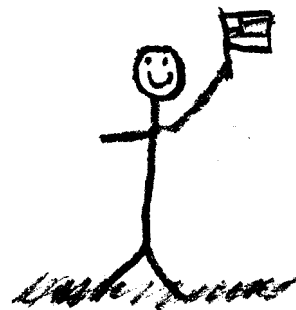
Even though she never went to college, Berdy says she was always interested in history. “I was the world’s worst math student but I loved history. I wanted to educate

See **Berdy**, page 8

The Editorial Page

Dear Friend
We are all Praying for you all.
We all hope that your ok.
We hope that you staysafe.
Jasmin
5th grade
Heronville
Oklahoma City

So this is what they accomplished...
On pages 6 and 7 of this issue, photographs and written memories tell us the real story of what the masters of terrorism can claim to have done on September 11. This brings it home to our Island and our extended family.
What they accomplished, and the way we will remember them, is that they ripped the father from a young family full of love and joy.
They killed a man who could escape neither his wheelchair nor the building about to collapse upon him.
They murdered a firefighter who faced death trying to save life.
They reached out and took innocent and productive and promising life from among us – and from the rational, peace-loving world.
They made children of too tender an age recall the horrors of Oklahoma City, and made them shudder from a new horror much closer to home.
We can comprehend this in terms of the people we know far better than we can by



thinking of all those we did not know, but mourn nonetheless.
And what did terror accomplish on September 11?
Terror produced only the unity and resolve that is brought forth by great pain. By this resolve, we shall deny them any gain from their act.

DL

An Open Letter
To Terrorists

island
observer

You don't know us.

You think we are weak because we live in a peaceful and contented land.
You think we are weak because we are from many nations with many tongues.
You think we are weak because we allow free exercise of all religions.
You think we are weak because women participate fully in our society.
You think we are weak because our churches tell us to love one another.

You don't know us.

You think we are weak because we freely criticize our leaders and institutions.
You think we are weak because our courts protect the rights of the accused.
You think we are weak because we are slow to anger but quick to forgive.
You think we are weak because we give generously to raise up a defeated enemy.
You think we are weak because our leaders are not filled with hate.

You don't know us.

You don't understand that to attack us is to unite us.
You don't understand the strength we derive from pride in our nation and its history.
You don't understand the strength of many peoples and races living and working together.
You don't understand that we are a loyal and steadfast friend but an implacable foe.

But soon you will understand.
You will witness our strength.
You will behold our righteous wrath.
And in that last moment of your life,
When we have loosed the fateful lightning from our terrible, swift sword –

Then you will know us.

James R. Baehler

Letters

To Ronald Vass:
This letter is in response to your letter to RIOC President Robert Ryan, dated September 17, 2001, expressing your concern of a “Disaster Plan.” As a former RIOC Board Member, you should be well aware that the City of New York is responsible for police, fire, medical, and any other emergency services required on Roosevelt Island in the event of a disaster.
Emergency plans for Roosevelt Island have been developed by the NYC Police Department, Patrol Borough Queens North and the NYC Fire Department. The duties and responsibilities of the RIOC Public Safety Department are an integral part of that plan.
You should also know that this Emergency Plan is not and never has been intended for public dissemination. Its purpose is to have a clearly defined set of procedures for the trained professionals who will be handling the emergency. In the event of an emergency the Roosevelt Island community would receive instructions from the emergency personnel on the scene.
In times such as this, it is important for perceived community leaders to support the structures and agencies in place, so as to build confidence, rather than create fear without merit by misrepresentation. Especially when such deeds undermine people’s confidence in a system already under attack.
With this in mind, it is gratifying to note that other community leaders helped calm the community’s fears. Some examples are the vigil held by the chapel, the march to the fire house, numerous comments of gratitude to the emergency workers, the demonstration of sympathy to those suffering personal loss, and unbeknownst to many, the round the clock efforts for almost two weeks of RIOC staff members working at Ground Zero, led by President Ryan and Vice President Antonek.
Finally, the flags you see on Main Street, provided by RIOC, speak to the support of the community as a whole.

To the Editor:
What can be done to allow the handicapped, elderly, parents with children in strollers to have priority in using the elevators at the subway?
I have observed the young, and able-bodied pushing ahead of the above-mentioned to get on the elevators, while those who need it have to use the escalators, sometimes to discover that they are out of order.
Incidentally, I also observed you and a friend guilty of using the elevator.

Stuart Chenkin

To the Editor:
I’ve noticed that all of the flags on the poles on our Island are hung incorrectly – they are all backwards. When displaying the flag, its field of blue should always be hung upper left whether vertically or horizontally.
Please have them hung correctly.
Thank you.

Connie Gironda

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters to the Editor, to the community, and to/from officials. Publication on a *Name Withheld* basis will be considered, but the writer’s name, address, and phone number must be provided for verification and for our records.
Preferred methods of submission: PC-standard 3.5-inch floppy disk left at 531 Main Street for *The WIRE*, or by e-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com (ASCII text preferred or use 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 if brief, but we cannot take telephone dictation of letters. **All letters are subject to acceptance and to editing for length and clarity.** We recommend observing a maximum length of 300 words, but will consider longer letters if their content merits the required space.

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COMING UP

Compiled by *WIRE* staff – Fax information to 755-2540
e-mail ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com
or click on the e-mail link at www.nyc10044.com

Sat., Oct. 6, 10:00-11:30 a.m., **Coping with Private School Admissions**, with Island resident Dr. Gina Lipton, Psychologist and former Admissions Director; 536 Main Street (an Eastwood back building). Four-week workshop with additional sessions October 13, 20, and 27. Sponsored by Island Kids. Fee, \$200. Information, (212) 754-2331.

Sat., Oct. 6, 1:00 p.m., **Memorial Service for Edward Beyea**, WTC victim, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Mon., Oct. 8, 5:30 p.m., opening of art exhibition, **A Tribute to Heroes** in Rivercross street window,

sponsored by Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association. Display through end of month.

Oct. 10-14, Island celebration of **New York History Festival Week** and **Roosevelt Island Historical Society's 25th Anniversary**. See

There is no charge to list Island events here. E-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com, fax to 755-2540, or leave copy at the desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. Provide a telephone number for possible follow-up.

separate events listing, this page.

Wed., Oct. 10 (and every Wednesday), 11:00 a.m., **Picture Book Hour**, Library.

Wed., Oct. 10, 8:00 p.m., **Michael Bloomberg**, mayoral candidate, in a public appearance. Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Thurs., Oct. 11, Run-Off Election for Democratic Party mayoral candidacy. Polls open 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 11, 9:30 a.m., **RIOC Board of Directors meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. (Executive session normally starts at 9:30, followed by open meeting, starting 10:30 or 11:00.)

Sat., Oct. 13, 10:00 a.m., **Lighthouse Park Tree Walk** conducted by the Roosevelt Island Tree Board and Forester Bob Beilin. Free. Transportation from the hardware store, loading at 9:45.

Sun., Oct. 14, 4:00 p.m., **Broadway Magic, Pipe Organ Fund-Raiser**, jointly presented by the Church of the Good Shepherd and St. Frances Cabrini Parish to support installation of the new organ in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, at Manhattan Park Theater Club, with the voices of Daniel Rodriguez, Jorge Novoa, and Maryann Mootos, accompanied by Victoria Ulanovskaya and Richard Paratley. Admission \$20; seniors & disabled, \$15. Cash bar & refreshments. Information: 751-1347 or 355-2574, or www.broadwaymagic.net. Seating limited; advance ticket purchase strongly recommended.

Sun., Oct. 14, 4:00 p.m., **Memorial Service for Ruth Conn**, at the Brewer-Snyder residence, 29 West 95th Street (between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue).

Tue., Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m., **Book Discussion**, *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver, Library. Advance registration required.

Sat., Oct. 20, afternoon/evening, **Dinner to Honor Individuals Important in the History of the Roosevelt Island Youth Program**, Manhattan Park Theater Club.

Sat., Oct. 20, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Oct. 12; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Oct. 15, with materials due Thur., Oct. 18. **Future issues:** Nov. 3, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 15, then every two weeks starting early in January, 2002. **Phone/fax** for news, 826-9055/755-2540; phone/fax for advertising inquiries, 751-8214/755-2540; to list your organization's Island events here (no charge), fax information to 755-2540, or e-mail ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com.

Mon., Oct. 22, 8:00 p.m., **Toastmasters Open House** meeting. For information, call 795-0396.

Thurs., Nov. 8, 6:00 p.m., **RIOC Board of Directors meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Tue., Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m., **Book Discussion**, *Kindred* by Octavia Butler, Library. Advance registration required.

Tue., Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m., **Book Discussion**, *Bodega Dreams* by Ernesto Quinonez, Library. Advance registration required.

2002

Sat., Jan. 5, all day, **Blood Drive**, Senior Center, sponsored by RIRA, the Icla da Silva Foundation, RISA, and the New York Blood Center.

Tue., Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m., **Book Discussion**, *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri, Library. Advance registration required.

Senior Center

Monday
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screening**

Tuesday
10:00, **Jazzercise**
1:30, **Games** (RISA)

Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well Exercise**
10:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beginner)
11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (intermediate)

Thursday
10:00, **Tai Chi**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**
12:45, **Arts & Crafts** (RIDA)
7:00, **Dance Class**

Friday
9:00, **Citizenship**
10:15, **Yoga Stretch**
10:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beginner)

11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (intermediate)
11:00, **Stay Well**
7:30, **Lotto**

Saturday
7:30, **Bingo** (RISA)

Special Events

Tue., Oct. 9, 7:00 p.m., General Meeting

Wed., Oct. 10, 11:15, Health Awareness Lecture (also Oct. 24 and 31)

Wed., Oct. 10 and Oct. 24, 12:30, Oriental Calligraphy

Wed., Oct. 17, Atlantic City trip

Wed., Oct. 24, 9:30-11:30, Free Flu Shots

Mon., Oct. 29, 10:00, Medical lecture and blood pressure screening

Home-delivered meals available: 744-5022, ext. 1203

RI Historical Society Roster of Events for City's History Week

The Roosevelt Island Historical Society has announced its final listing of events for New York History Festival Week, October 10-14. All events are free, but reservations are recommended for those with limited places, marked * below.

Photo Exhibition

Roosevelt Island Day and Night: Submit your 8x10 color or b/w photos to be exhibited on the Island. Maximum, three submissions per person. Leave entries at 555 Main Street doorstation or at the Library. Deadline is today (Sat., Oct. 6).

Student Art

Work by students at PS/IS 217 will be on view in the minibuses and in Main Street store windows.

Photo Challenge

Throughout the week the Library will display Island photos in its windows. Pick up an entry form and identify the locations. Prizes to the top three entries.

TimeLine

Learn about the flow of Island history on the *Website NYC10044* TimeLine. Click the TimeLine logo at www.nyc10044.com.

Wed., Oct. 10

The East River—A Backward Look South Street Seaport Historian Jack Putnam will lecture about the river that runs past the Island. 7:30 p.m., Westview Community Room, 625 Main Street.

Sat., Oct. 13*

Walking Tour Meet at the Island-side Tram station for a fun 90-minute walk through Island history from the Tram to the north end. 1:00 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 14*

Ilya Bolotowsky Mural Viewing and Lecture The artist's son, Andrew Bolotowsky, will discuss this beautiful 1939 art work, recently restored at Goldwater Memorial Hospital. Meet in Goldwater lobby at 1:45 p.m.

***Reservations advised** for these events. Call 688-4836 or e-mail RooseveltIslandHistory@USA.com.

Volunteers Sought to Serve Relief Workers

A Canal Street restaurant is looking for volunteers to help serve the round-the-clock shifts of relief workers at the World Trade Center disaster site.

Nino's, at 431 Canal Street near Varick, needs people to chop vegetables, assist cooks, wait tables, and more. In particular, they need people willing to work the overnight shift, midnight to 6:00 a.m. But help is also needed on day and evening shifts.

Volunteers are asked to call Midge or Ava at (212) 431-5625 and provide a phone number and available times. Workers can show up in casual clothes (jeans and t-shirt are OK) and comfortable shoes, but must bring a photo ID. The restaurant is at a stop on the #1 line, and a block from a stop on the E train.

Library Has a Hit: Summer Reading

Island children read over a thousand books last summer in the Library's reading program.

Some 175 signed up early in the summer. Forty-two attended an August celebration, and racked up a total of 1,052 books read. They received certificates, prizes, and snacks – and enjoyed a storytelling session.

Our leaders have instructed us to return to our real lives and try to remove the horror from consuming our waking and sleeping thoughts. Good advice, but not easy to do. I'll bring you up to date on our emergency activities and then move on.

Roosevelt Islanders have come together as a community, mourned together, and responded to this tragedy together. Groups and individuals have inundated our Fire Department neighbors with food and hard goods. Their response to us is flying over Main Street just north of 580 Main. I like looking at that banner!

Vicki Feinmel and her RIRA fundraising committee have been collecting money for a relief fund over the last two weekends. The current total raised is \$6,388.98 and counting, and we thank everyone who contributed, especially the Korean community, which presented us with a check for \$1,040, and the Senior Association for their generous gift of \$250. The Common Council has asked the Fundraising Committee to allocate the funds appropriately among the families of the Islanders who were lost. RIRA will make a contribution of \$1,000 to the fund and, in addition, will donate the cost of a commemorative plaque and arrange for the planting of a memorial tree. Thanks to all of you who sat out in front of the Chapel and at the Farmer's Market to solicit money from passersby.

Last issue, I included the draft of a resolution condemning any racist behavior against our Muslim neighbors. Needless to say, the Common Council passed the resolution by acclamation. I've tried to arrange a blood drive during the days just after September 11, but the demand elsewhere for equipment and phlebotomists was just too great. However, I can report to you now that RIRA, in conjunction with the Icla da Silva Foundation, the New York Blood Center and RISA (the Senior Center), will request your participation in a blood drive scheduled for all day Saturday, January 5, 2002 in the Senior Center. The Blood Center informs me that there is a perennial need for blood at this time of year and that the massive caches of blood from the past three weeks will have expired by then.

As you know, the question of cutting our Tram's third shift has not been decided. The RIOC Board canceled its September meeting, and the agenda posted for October 11 makes no mention of the Tram question. When I wrote of this in the September 8 issue, my fear was that RIOC would cut service or simply choose to leave the issue dangling. They will not permit our voices to be heard next Thursday morning, but if you can attend the RIOC Board of Directors meeting, you should.

Our Community Board 8 has not been heard on the Tram question since it was raised on July 12, but I've learned from Elizabeth McKee, See **Katz**, page 10



Matthew Katz
RIRA President
e-mail: matthewkatz@rcn.com

Sales Are Brisk for Organ-Fund Concert

Tickets are said to be going quickly for next weekend's concert to raise funds for the Community Pipe-Organ Fund.

The event, which is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 14, at Manhattan Park Theater Club, will feature Police Officer Daniel Rodriguez, star of *Broadway Magic*. Rodriguez sang the National Anthem at Yankee Stadium in the September 23 memorial service, telecast as *A Prayer for America*.

Tickets (\$20, \$15 for seniors and physically challenged) for next weekend's concert on the Island are available Saturday at the Farmer's Market from 10:00 to 1:00; at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturdays, and after the 8:15 and 11:15 a.m. Masses on Sundays; at the Thrift Shop noon to 7:30 Monday through Saturday; or by calling 751-1347.

Seating is limited, and advance purchase of tickets is strongly recommended.

The Public Safety Blotter for the last half of August and most of September is now available on *Website NYC10044* at www.nyc10044.com

Tree Walk Set Next Saturday

The Roosevelt Island Tree Board is planning a Fall Tree Walk at Lighthouse Park on Saturday morning, October 13. It will be the first Tree Walk there.

Because of the distance, the Boy Scout van will pick up participants at the hardware store starting at 9:45 a.m., leaving for the park at 10:00. Return transportation will be provided around noon.

The Tree Walk will be conducted by Bob Beilin, Forester with the State Department of Environmental Conservation. Admission is free.

According to Maurice Bleifeld, Tree Board Chair, previous semi-annual Tree Walks have always been scheduled within leisurely walking distances, from Blackwell House to as far north as Octagon Park. He said, "Lighthouse Park was not considered because it could be reached only after a rather long walk, followed by up to two hours of tree-walking." But, he said, "We've always eyed the Lighthouse Park area because of the rich collection of major trees there, including those of the nearby Coler Hospital grounds. On October 13, we'll see riverside weeping willows and the only horse-chestnut tree on the Island."

He added, "This is a good chance to become acquainted with more than 20 species of trees growing on the Island."

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Catholic Religious Education

Register now

Sunday, 11:15 a.m. Mass
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Tue., Wed., Thur. 11-12

Fee \$35

Classes began Wed., Oct. 3
Grades 1-4, 5-6 p.m.
Grades 5 to Confirmation,
6:45-7:45 p.m.

*All classes held
at Good Shepherd*



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See and sample:

- **Lux 9000** – equipped with seven layers of true HEPA filtration, this system’s technology complies with what the Asthma and Allergy Foundation recommends for eliminating airborne irritants such as pet dander, dust mites, mold, mildew and cockroach debris.
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Sincerely,
Mr. Sekanyo
Sales Representative

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New York 10011
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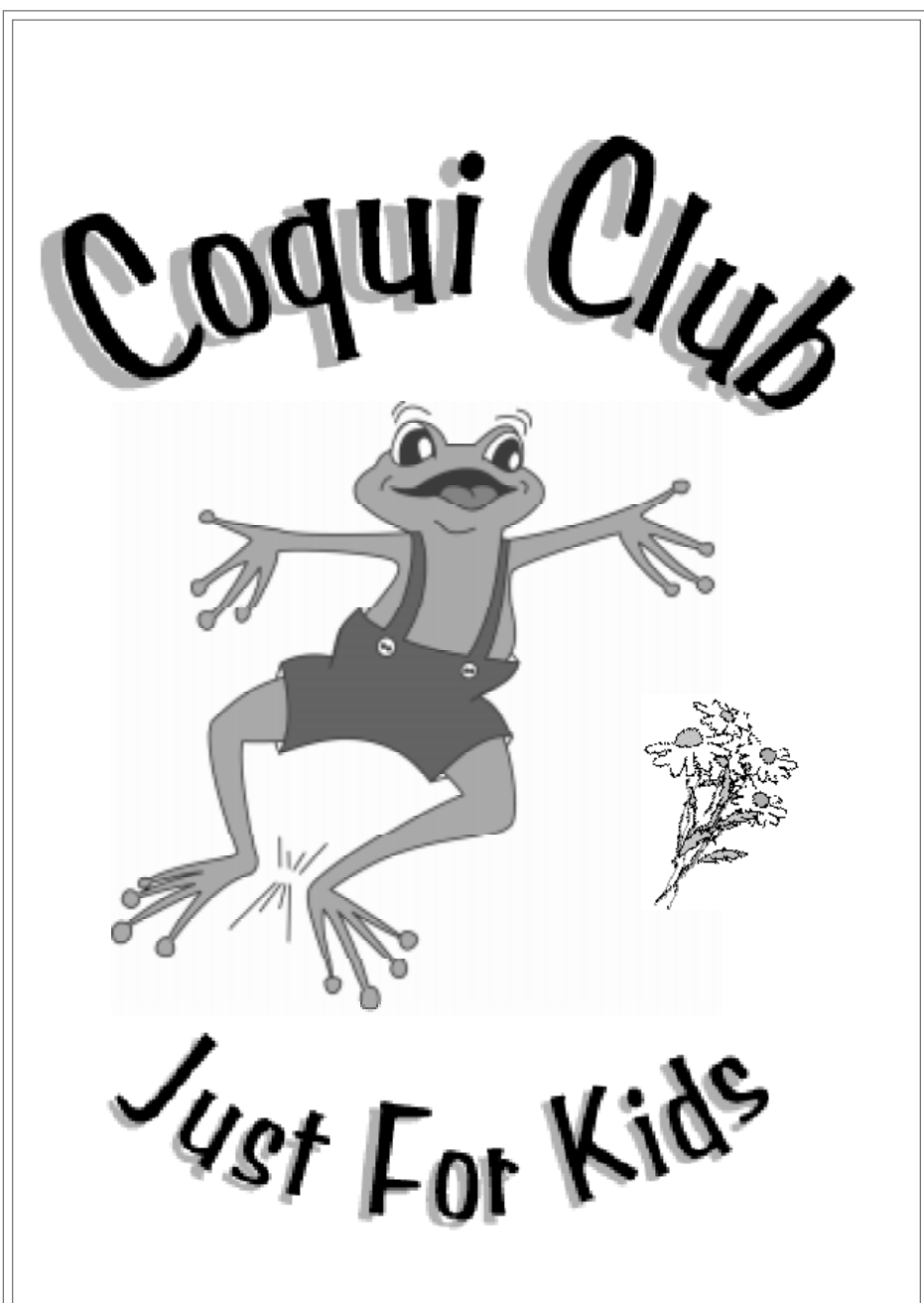
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- Accounts may not be joint with an adult. (Adults wishing to have a joint account with a child may do so by opening a regular savings account.)

Minimum Balance Requirements and Fees

- A minimum balance of \$5.00 must be maintained in order to keep the account open.
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- Accounts with balances of less than \$5.00 and which have no deposits or withdrawals for one year will be charged an inactivity fee of \$1.00 per month.

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- Interest rate will be equal to the regular passbook rate.
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Friends Bearing Bears Roosevelt Island and New York City got a visit this week from four Floridians, who brought Daytona Beach's gifts of teddy bears for those touched by the World Trade Center tragedy. Left to right, they are Butch Pahel, Melanie Jordan, Lori Grant, and Judy Pope. With them on Main Street are Jordan's sister, Roosevelt Island resident Lael Freeman (standing, right), and Lael's daughter, Nia Bailey.

Fall of the Towers

by L. Nandini Moorthy, MD

Twin cigarette stubs smoking the sky,
Clouds!
Clouds, not ringlets, turning to gray
Dwarfed meanly this morning.
Stench reeking from the windows,
Blood and rubble,
Rubble and blood,
Debris and pieces.
Mutilation in grand scale...
Bodies and souls,
Manhattan, America.
Air filled with shrieking ambulances,
And patrolling jets.
Interrupting the unusual deathly silence of the FDR,
Fleeing home o'er the Queensboro Bridge,
Never so many walked on that highway!
War!
Spells the smoke behind the Empire State,
And behind the shining Chrysler
Rise the fuming clouds.
The Twin Towers of Oz are gone.

September 11th

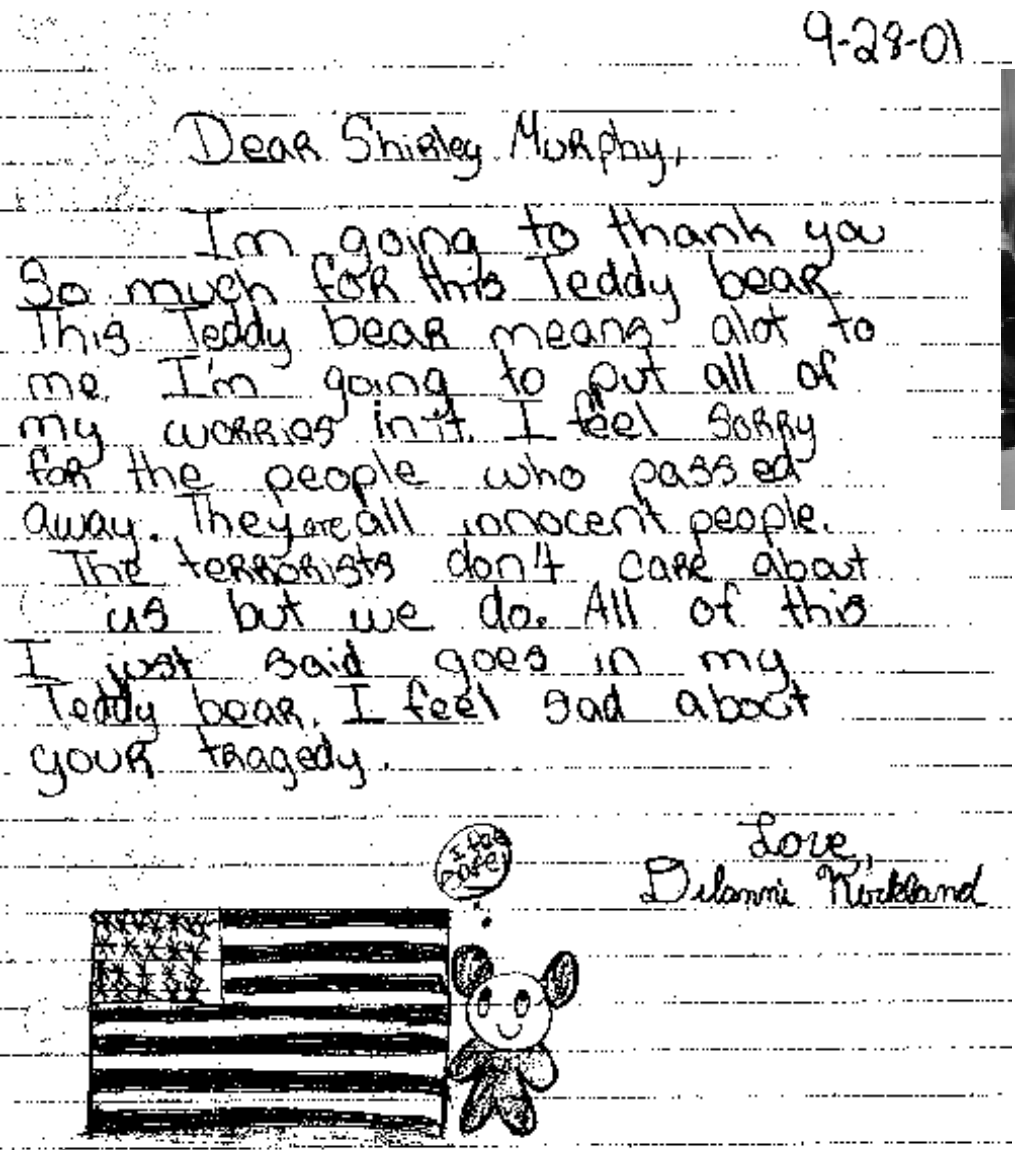
by Chloe C. Grimes

America is reeling
From the September 11th terrorizing
Of New York City and Washington –
Much, too much, death and destruction.
Despicable acts to bring down our country,
Tremendous sorrow to you, me and all humanity.
Some say, was this payback time?
Quite possibly, have we committed crimes?
Think back to our many atrocities
And, if the cap fits, pull the string please!

My heart overflows with sadness for what was done,
But wake up, everyone, there is a battle to be won.
Militarily, intellectually, for a fight we are equipped.
Spiritually, mentally, seems we are whipped.
Ever ready to use our might.
But this is not a free-for-all fight.
Force with force is not the response.
Leaders, use your wisdom, even just this once.
And that requires looking within
For that's where lies the strength to win.
Taking action is very, very necessary
But the wrong one could cause us a huge catastrophe.
What's the right action, maybe dialogue?
Not us, you say, not with those rogues!
Hundreds of them are roaming the world
To perpetuate their hate and their weaponry hurl.
A turning point for every American this must be
As we grit our teeth and swallow this adversity
For now, that is, while we make the best plan
To eradicate those hateful terrorists from the land.
Whose only goal really is to destroy our freedom
Of which they are envious and would desperately welcome.
Maybe, one day, some day, we'll touch their hearts –
When, who knows, if even by fits and starts.
The point is, whether we like it or not,
Terrorists are twisted human beings turned inside out.

Remembering How They L

Residents of all ages continued to express themselves this week, some turning to poetry and some to art. Children in Ms. Winik's fourth-grade class at PS217 hugged bears sent to them by kids in Oklahoma City, then wrote letters of appreciation. Members of the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association began preparing a tribute to the heroes of the Twin Towers which will appear in a Main Street window starting late today (Saturday, October 6). People came from Daytona Beach with gifts. And this community mourned its losses in harmony with those who were closest and felt them most...



Dear Darith Bi
Thank you for
much better
feeling in my
I bet you
when your bick
You and I k
Thank you for
and I ho
terrorists.

ived... Not How They Died

Remember How He Beamed...



On behalf of my children and myself and our extended family, I thank you for the outpouring of love and support you have offered us in our time of great sorrow.

To those of you who knew my husband, well - smile. He was a great guy with an incredible sense of humor. Remember the laughs he brought you and laugh again when you think about him.

To those of you who knew him through our family, remember how he beamed when he was with his children. Remember the love he exuded. That love will carry us through life without him.

Smile when you think of Anthony "Tony" Fallone. Laugh when you remember him, and pray for us all, as we will for all of you.

All my love,
Patty Fallone

Scott Larsen

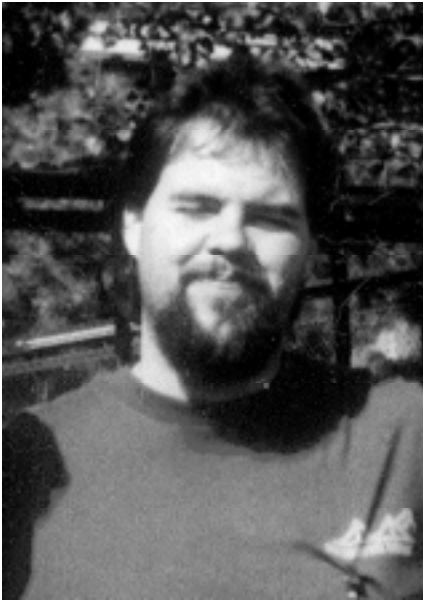
Scott Larsen, FDNY firefighter, gave his life September 11 at the World Trade Center. His Ladder Company, #15, was the second group of firefighters to go into the building.

Larsen worked for Housing Management for 13 years, from 1985 to 1998, as porter/shop steward.

He and his wife, CarolAnn, are the parents of four children: Marisa, 9; Brenda, 8; Scott, 4; and a son born September 13, two days after the tragedy.

Scott Larsen was a devoted family man who enjoyed spending his free time with his children. He is described as a great husband, father, son and brother, and a friend to everyone living in Eastwood. We pray for his family.

Fay Vass



Remembering a Friend

by Tom Brown

Ed Beyea and I met in 1984 and have remained friends ever since. It would take a book to adequately tell his story. Challenge certainly was no stranger, but he faced each one with courage and confidence.

As a result of a diving accident, Ed became a quadriplegic and was confined to a motorized wheelchair. After being discharged from Goldwater Memorial Hospital, he wasted no time in pursuing a career in computer programming. He graduated in 1987 and went to work for Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield. In the years that followed, he dealt with numerous physical setbacks and underwent several operations, but always bounced back with an enthusiastic determination to go on with his life. Early each morning, rain or shine, he would join thousands of other New Yorkers who ride the subway to work until he arrived at the World Trade Center. He once told me, "Every day's an adventure; you never know what you're going to find."

Ed made many friends, who loved and respected him. He had a disarming manner about him that enabled him to make people forget that he was disabled and speak to him as an equal. He was admired by all who knew him and an inspiration to other physically-challenged individuals because he proved that where there's a will, there's a way.

Over the years, Ed and I spent many memorable hours together listening to music and watching movies that we both enjoyed. He had a great sense of humor and could find humor in almost everything. I can't recall any conversation between us that didn't contain the phrase, "Did I tell you the one about..."

One thing that Ed enjoyed very much was sitting down by the water on the Manhattan side of the Island. He loved the view of the river and the New York skyline, which ironically included the Twin Towers in the distance. Now, whenever I pass that way, I am deeply saddened. The Towers are gone, and so is my friend Ed.



Courage... and a Will to Survive

by Paulinita Punzalan

At age 22, Edward Beyea became a quadriplegic. He was a resident of the Goldwater Memorial Hospital when I first met him. I had been working there as an RN for over a year.

Most people who did not know Ed may have thought that he spent an unproductive life. And although he spent most of his waking hours on a chin-controlled electric wheelchair, he did have a considerably productive life. Those who knew him will remember him as someone who faced life and dealt with its challenges head-on.

Ed and I fell in love. My twelve years with him were filled with innumerable memories. I know how much he cared for his family, especially his nephews, Shawn and Chad, who enjoyed his sense of humor. Ed did not express it much, but I know that he had a very special place in his heart for Irma Fuller, his day nurse of almost 15 years. In losing Ed, Irma has lost a son, too.

With his intelligence, courage, perseverance and patience, Ed completed a course in computers sponsored by the Cerebral Palsy Foundation. The Foundation also helped him land a job with Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield. He rose through the ranks during the 14 years he worked there. He was a Chief Computer Analyst when the tragedy happened.

He became a member of the Goldwater Memorial Hospital Community Advisory Board, which addressed patient concerns.

My memories of him will stay with me for a long time. The inspiration that his courage and will to survive, and his dignity, will hopefully transcend this tragedy.



Sept. 28, 2001

erig,
the bears. I feel
now. I feel a warm
heart when I hug it.
felt the same way
ling got bombed.
now that it's over.
the bears again
pe they catch the

Love,
Ana Paula
Martinez

Dear friends,

I'm sorry about what's going on. I hope everything
will turn out great. So good luck.



Sincerely,
Harold Hove
5th Grade
Heronville

...more on page 8...

Sept 13, 2001

Dear Firefighters,

I'm really proud of all the firefighters
sacrificing their lives for other people. God bless
the firefighters in heaven. I'm really happy for
the people that the firefighters saved. I hope
the firefighters, police men, and other people find the
missing people and I hope there there are
some alive. If there are people alive, please
take them to the hospital immediately. When
you bring them to the hospital and they
did not make it God bless them too.
All the people you firefighters saved makes
me feel safe. That is why I'm really proud
of all the firefighters.

Sincerely,
Analeigha Ewing

Going Home

by Pat Poggi

I managed to stay away from my home on Roosevelt Island for more than a week after the terrible destruction that occurred on September 11th. Then, nine days later, on September 20th I ventured in. My Dad is 86 years old and lives in Queens. I had been talking to him daily on the phone. I knew he was all right, but I needed to see him.

I did not know, however, if I wanted to see the devastation of that neighborhood I am so very familiar with, that neighborhood I wander around in almost every day after work when I walk from Brooklyn to lower Manhattan over the Brooklyn Bridge. I was scared to see in reality what I had seen on TV.

So I stayed uptown for the first two days getting my feet wet, getting back into a New York City that was irreparably changed. Then, on the third day home, I ventured to Union Square to see the street activity my neighbor had told me about. “It’s like the sixties,” she said. And in a way it was.

Groups of people were playing music and singing solemnly. Many were just wandering around. There were signs and drawings depicting people’s sorrow at the senseless death of the many workers in the Towers. There were posters announcing future gatherings and town meetings. There were pleas to the government to think outside the box, not to react to violence with more violence. Some of these were written over with admonishments not to support the enemy by criticizing the government.

I had found a place in New York where people were coming together to express their remorse at the loss of so many lives, and to express their fear of further devastation. I had found a place where people were expressing their sadness, and I needed that. The overriding emotions I had been feeling were sadness and fear – sadness at the loss of so many lives and fear of the loss of so many more. Milling around Union Square with its signs and posters expressing these very emotions gave me an infusion of a kind of peace and perhaps even a little strength.

Then a friend, who lives on Chambers Street a few blocks north of where the Towers stood, suggested I might want to see something very different. I might want to see what is going on at ground zero. I was immediately filled with trepidation. I had kind of decided that I was not going to do that, that I was going to return to my beach house at the Jersey shore without having done that on this trip to New York. Then, in a flash, I just knew I had to do it. I had to see it with my own eyes, to try to somehow reconcile all the turbulent feelings inside me.

We walked down lower Broadway, which was packed with traffic. A few blocks before we reached Canal Street, we could see the empty streets beyond, where no traffic was allowed. It looked eerie and yet nice – calm and quiet – so unlike the streets of Manhattan. I was flooded with memories of a night last December when my family and I went downtown after a major snowstorm and walked the eerily quiet streets in the whiteness of the newly-fallen snow with not a car in sight. What a treat that was. But somehow this was not a treat. It was too ominous. Knowing why the streets were so empty made it not something to be enjoyed, but rather an experience that somehow had to be endured and understood.

That was nothing compared to what came next. Walking down to Duane Street, we came upon a second police barricade. No one was allowed south of that point except those living there. We joined the gawkers jammed up against the police barricade – adults and children alike trying to get a glimpse of the devastation. Many were taking photos. We could see the remains of building #7, the 50-story building that was the third to collapse. It was charred and mangled.

I stood there speechless, feeling a little foolish amid all those people straining to see the horror. But when I said that to my friend, she replied that maybe they needed to see it to try to make some sense of it all. And perhaps I did, too.

We were carded and allowed to pass through, since she resides down there. The next two blocks going south were even more chilling. Now only residents, of which there were few in the streets, and police and soldiers were to be seen – that and the hundreds of closed stores, many of which will never reopen.

As we plodded on I was thinking how hard it must be for my friend to live down here in the midst of this barrenness. But the worst was yet to come. Upon reaching Chambers Street I saw it – the DMZ.

A chain-link rent-a-fence was set up to close off everything beginning at the south side of Chambers Street. Right across from my friend’s building is the final barricade – the barricade closing off lower Manhattan from us all, the barricade drawing a line at the beginning of the crime scene. It hit me hard.

Every day when my friend and her daughter leave their house they see this fence. They see the soldiers, the police, the emergency vehicles. They see it in front of their noses every day. How can one survive that emotionally?

I declined the invitation to go upstairs, as I saw no reason to socialize under those circumstances. I continued walking east on Chambers Street to Broadway, where you could then walk south to Fulton Street. It got even worse.

At the corner of Broadway and Fulton, no one was allowed to stop, but anyone who wanted was allowed to take a photo as long as they would “keep walking.” There you could see the giant that was taken down. Those majestic Towers were reduced to a pile of rubble no more than a few stories high. It was inconceivable.

Octagon from page 1

having housing suitable for families.

Under the new plan, there will be five floors within the Octagon structure, with the ornate spiral staircase restored around them. The top three floors will each have four apartments, while the lower two floors will be “amenity space,” partly available to the community.

To deal with the GDP matter, the developer, Becker and Becker, has drafted an amendment for approval by the City.

In a major change to the project, parking for 144 cars would be built at the Octagon tennis courts, expanding the site across the Island from the west channel of the river to the east channel. The courts would be moved to a deck above the parking area. In a September 20 meeting, members of the Residents Association Planning Committee, chaired by Larry Parnes, had reservations about parking separate from Motorgate.

Representatives of Becker and Becker told the committee that RIOC has told them that Motorgate parking would not be adequate for both the Octagon apartments and Southtown. (The Hudson/Related plan for Southtown is currently on appeal in the State Supreme Court, with a decision expected within the next month or two – possibly as early as next week.)

This week, the Becker and Becker architect on the project, David Levine, told *The WIRE* that the firm intends to investigate whether the parking grade might be depressed slightly, to reduce the overall height of the building. He said there are questions about water table that must be answered before a decision can be made on that. “We will design the exterior to be attractive and compatible with the restored Octagon,” he said,



The late Mort Pavane made this photographic portrait of the Octagon before its upper portion was ravaged by fire twice, in both the 80’s and the 90s.

Presuming RIOC gives Becker and Becker extension of site control at the Octagon, the developer hopes to start building by March, 2002, with occupancy possibly as early as the first quarter of 2004.

Becker promised a site plan would be made available for community review as soon as possible.

Berdy from page 1

people about the Island’s history ever since I began taking Oliver Chapin’s historical tours on the Island,” says Berdy, referring to the late vicar of the Church of the Good Shepherd, who had built up an impressive archive relating to the Island’s history.

Having grown up in Manhattan, Berdy was aware of Roosevelt Island and moved to 580 Main Street in 1977. “It was the only place I could find a decent apartment that was not a fifth-floor walk-up and the rent was less than \$300.”

Stretched out on a couch in her 13th-floor Island House apartment where she lives now, Berdy talks about the Island’s history with a passion matched only by her love for her three cats, Speedy, Tatiana and Valentine. The felines’ pictures are in frames that sit right next to family portraits.

Berdy acquired her first cat in 1997. “She was called Carmen Verandah because she came in through my backyard. She used to bring me dead birds and, one day, she got locked in a closet and met with an untimely death.” Soon after, Berdy was interviewed for the ownership of a cat by a friend, who gave her Speedy. A year later, Berdy brought Tatiana from a shelter. Tatiana works as a volunteer therapy cat with patients at Coler-Goldwater Memorial Hospital.

On Valentine’s Day in 1999, Berdy was asked if she would take care of a cat who was being ill-treated by its owner. “I brought Valentine home. She was unkempt, shy and neurotic. I nursed her and normalized her into being only slightly shy and neurotic,” says Berdy.

“I am *not* a crazy cat lady,” she declares emphatically. “I will not go out in the middle of the night to rescue stray cats.” Even so, Berdy admits she will not get married because there is no place for a man in her apartment, thanks to the cats. “I even got rid of the sofa-bed in my living room. I like to think of myself as friendly and hospitable. But my apartment is not for overnight stays. Here, it is just me and my cats.”

Even as I looked at it, even as I saw the empty space – the sky where the Towers used to rise – even as I looked at the blackened lower level where Borders Bookstore used to be, I was not believing that it was real. I was looking at the empty space, but I was not believing that the Towers were gone. It was just too much for my mind to process in that quick glimpse. I needed more time, but we could not loiter. We were told to keep moving.

As I shuffled with the crowd, I began to feel it in the air. Handkerchiefs and face masks – in my case a tissue – were brought up to our mouths and noses. The soot and dust of the rubble were heavy in the air here. We veered farther east through the dark, narrow Wall Street area keeping our noses covered, keeping our mouths shut. We were sobered by the sight, quiet as we moved away, needing to get back uptown, needing to get away from the horror we could not register in our brains. The buildings there were covered with a gray dust. Nothing had yet been done to clean them. They showed the evidence we refused to swallow.

Now the streets of lower Manhattan are unclogged like the quiet streets of my beach town in winter. There is more light now that the Towers are gone. But at what a horrible price.

adding that the parking structure will be open-air, without mechanical ventilation.

Becker and Becker has hired a landscape architect to design the park component of the Octagon project, which would satisfy the GDP’s requirement for an “ecological park” on the site.

A typical day for Berdy begins at 7:00 a.m. when Speedy jumps on her, demanding food. Between 8:30 and 4:00, she is at work in her family’s garment business in Manhattan and then, she says, her second life begins when she comes home. Berdy is active on the Common Council of RIRA, the Roosevelt Island Resident’s Association, active in the Jewish congregation on the Island, in the Historical Society, and she is part of almost every community activity, be it raising funds for the families of the victims of the World Trade Center attacks or having people sign posters encouraging the firefighters. “I’m not very philosophical,” says Berdy. “I am hands-on. I am an action person. I am curt and blunt, curt and abrupt. I don’t plan too much, I just raise money or do what needs to be done.”

Everyone who knows her agrees. “Judy is an extremely hard worker for the benefit of the Island,” says Carole Kennedy, who has known Berdy for the past two decades and works with her in the Historical Society.

“Judy deserves a lot of appreciation for the work she has done for the Island,” says Nancy Cruickshank, who worked with Judy on *The WIRE* in the 1980s. “She is always upbeat and dedicated, looking for ways to contribute.” Cruickshank added that she thinks Berdy is quite an adventurer. “Judy went down 800 feet in a construction cage into a water tunnel near the community garden when she got the chance,” recalls Cruickshank.

Berdy also took part in a practice rescue operation from the Tram where she had to climb out of the Tram’s window, mid-air, into a bucket seat that lowered her into a diver’s seat. “If anyone can represent Roosevelt Island, it is Judy. I hope she writes a book about Roosevelt Island some day,” Cruickshank said.

When asked if she would, Berdy smiled. “You do it,” she says.

Toastmasters Focus on Twin Towers and Terrorism

by Andy Williamson

With good fellowship and friendly laughter, the Roosevelt Island chapter of Toastmasters came together last week to deliver speeches filled with sadness and anger about the World Trade Center disaster. Twelve days after the attacks, the group’s pain was as apparent as their camaraderie.

In a scene of healing and catharsis, speakers addressed questions like, “Why are there people who hate the United States enough to commit these acts?”, “What impact will these events have on our daily lives?”, and “What military action do you think the U.S. will and should take?” Speakers told stories and urged the country to come together.

Toastmasters is an organization that helps people improve their ability to speak publicly, “to assist in the arts of speaking, listening, and thinking.” In last week’s session, each speaker was evaluated, as is customary, and attention was paid to poise and style. But when Marlene Flom, president of the chapter, choked up during a speech she titled “Com-

See **Toastmasters**, page 9

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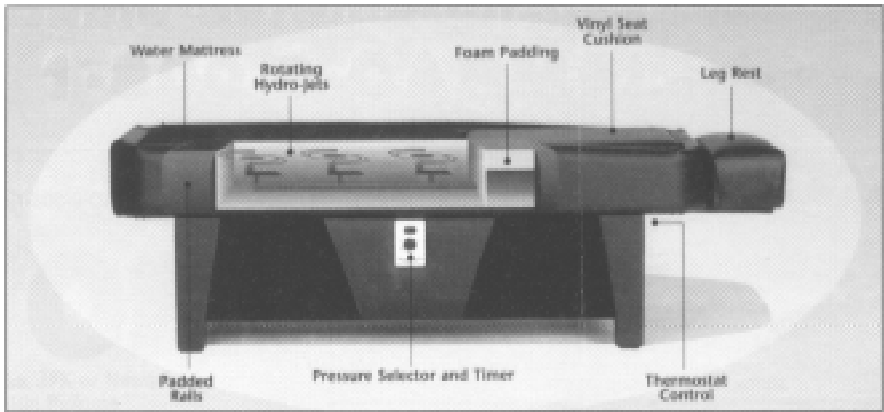
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NYNB from page 1

All the speakers took notice of the context – a New York City and its economy bludgeoned by the terrorist attack on the nation at the World Trade Center. All made comments about the renewed importance of a feeling of community, and about the community nature of New York National Bank, which was founded 20 years ago in the Bronx, is minority-owned, and is neighborhood-oriented.

“To rebuild, we need partnerships,” McCall said. “We all have to work together. That’s what we see here today.” He praised NYNB as “focused, and committed to going where there are needs and to provide the financial services those communities deserve.”

Mariel said, “This happens at a time when we have come to appreciate the importance of maintaining economic strength in all neighborhoods – all communities.”

He added, “Helping to strengthen the economic base of communities is a role we have played as we have opened up branches in other unbanked and under-banked communities. And that’s a role we are pleased to be playing on Roosevelt Island. We saw a community that was about to become an unbanked community, and we said we should do on Roosevelt Island what we have done in the South Bronx and in upper Manhattan.”

Mariel praised Shell Oil for its involvement. “This is a pace-setting level of enlightened help by a major corporation... Just imagine if a dozen corporations – or fifty or a hundred corporations – were so enlightened.”

Toastmasters from page 8

ing Together,” it was clear that content was primary to this meeting.

The group of approximately 30 people, who met at Rivercross, included men and women, young and old, Christians, Jews, and Muslims, all residents of Roosevelt Island.

Jim Tendean-Luce, Membership Vice President, opened the meeting with a story: “My father said that the worst thing he’d ever

State Senator Olga Mendez responded with instructions to her driver to fill up at Shell stations. She added, “Everybody and his brother have been wonderful” in paving the way for NYNB involvement on the Island. “The Governor has been wonderful.”

Mendez, Mariel pointed out, was the official who first called his attention to Roosevelt Island’s plight after Chase Bank decided to close its branch here. He also acknowledged the help of Borough President Fields and City Councilmember Gifford Miller in acquiring banking development district status for the Island, which permitted deposit of the \$10 million in State funds.

Assemblymember Pete Grannis said, “A community without a bank is like a community without a library,” and he exhorted the Roosevelt Island community to “pitch in the way they did with the Library” by supporting the NYNB branch with deposits and other business.

An employee of Housing Management, Vincent LoManto, won the TV/VCR set in a NYNB’s grand opening drawing.

seen was D-Day. Three thousand people died that day, about half the amount of this tragedy.”

One guest at the meeting pointed out that her decision to retire would depend on what turns the economy would take. “My decisions may change dramatically,” she said.

Flom, who won the meeting’s award for best-prepared speech, delivered a touching call for solidarity. “They were the rank and file of New York,” she said. “They went to work for a day’s pay. This great tragedy has brought us together, and we must come together.” Her speech, like many of the others, was thoughtfully composed and gracefully delivered, but rent with an emotion that only a tragedy like this can bring about.

Before Flom, in perhaps the most dramatic moment in the meeting, Bernie Silverman, a longtime member of the Toastmasters, delivered his assignment for that meeting, to receive a mock award. He performed as Osama bin Laden being recognized for his success in his destruction of the Towers, behaving proudly and boastfully, swaggering with exaggerated pride. While the speech was clearly a parody and his message clearly anti-bin Laden, the experience of being bin Laden’s applauding audience was chilling and the gentle audience was left shaken and unsettled.

Jimmy Tarar, a 17-year-old Muslim who was visiting the group for the first time, pointed out some comments he found offensive, but told the group he would join, nonetheless. He said he had also noted other language he found touching and supportive.

Jill Burk, the general evaluator for the meeting, summed up what seemed the feeling of unease that we’ve all been left with after this disaster: “The last time we were here,” she said, “the world was normal. In a very real way, every one of us has fallen 100 stories.”

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Katz from page 3

acting District Manager, that they are addressing this pending issue at their full Board meeting on October 4. However, as I’m obliged to write this column before that date, I don’t know the outcome, and can only hope that CB8 has added their influence to the unanimous roster of elected officials who have supported our demand for the retention of Tram hours.

Becker & Becker Associates, the developers who have been given conditional approval to build a new residential community around the old Octagon landmark, presented an update of their proposal to our Planning Committee last week. It was well received by the members, but raises serious, fundamental questions that were not appropriate to raise with these developers, but must be answered by this community. BBA plans to build 450 units of housing in ten-story wings off the central Octagon building. 80% might be fair-market housing, with 20% reserved as affordable housing. The Octagon would be renovated as five stories, with the bottom two used for some community purpose and the top three reserved as twelve three-bedroom apartments. The visual material presented was very attractive, and the committee’s questions centered on plans for the landscaping (to include an enhanced barbecue area and tot lot plus 1½ acres of open space) and parking facilities (which could be built under a revamped tennis court).

It seems to me that the first question we should ask is, do we want a new residential community of over 1,000 people to be built on one of our two remaining parks? Do we want to amend the General Development Plan, the part of the Master Lease between the City and the State that defined this Island as a planned community, in order to permit this use of designated parkland? If building Octagon Park Apartments requires that RIOC amend the GDP, should we, the community, approve this process, or insist that developers conform to the GDP as it currently exists? And then, what are the implications of changing the GDP on the remaining open space at Southpoint? And,

is it the responsibility of the City Council to effect this change, or does the Mayor’s office factor into the equation?

These are not easy questions, and I have requested that Larry Parnes and the Planning Committee host a Town Meeting to allow this community to address them. The potential benefits may include additional ground rents to increase RIOC revenue, possibly some additional lower-cost housing made available to current residents, additional customers for Island merchants, additional Tram riders and an attractive Octagon façade. The downside includes the loss of significant park space potentially available to City residents at large, the loss of the “ecological park” planned for this area and the Water Tunnel #3 area, as well as the loss of our ability to control development through our only “zoning” document, the GDP. After all, if the GDP can be changed whenever a lucrative deal is presented to RIOC, then any semblance of maintaining a planned community goes out the window.

At some point, our Councilmember, Gifford Miller, will need to hold hearings here to take the community’s temperature. The argument has been made that the General Development Plan is 30 years old, and things change. This is true. However, this community should, must, decide what changes are appropriate and what changes are not in our best interests.

Personally, I’m torn between the benefits of cleaning up a derelict piece of Island real estate and the liability of adding another population center, unplanned and originally designated as parkland, to our Island’s mix. My goal is to achieve passage of the legislation that will provide us with a RIOC president who is a trained, experienced community manager, who is dependent upon the approval of an elected RIOC Board for his or her job. Only then will there be the incentive to seek projects that conform to the Johnson/Burgee plan for Roosevelt Island. Until that happens, our choices are all Hobson’s choices, conforming to outsiders’ agendas and not our own.

You must decide.

SPORTSWIRE

FLAG FOOTBALL The Youth Program’s Flag Football League opened its season on Saturday afternoon, September 29. In the opening game in the 12-14 Division, the Raiders defeated the Jets by a 34-32 score in a well-played, close contest that went down to the wire. For the Raiders, Anthony Santiago, Eric Miranda and Tyrell Anderson scored TDs, and Remy Armenakis added two extra points. For the Jets, Damon Walford, Adam Silverschotz and Eyosyas Tadesse scored TDs.

In the second game, the Broncos routed an undermanned Rams team, 67-6. Paul Brown, Shirome Dixon, Jimmy Elias, Thomas Herlihy, Neal Stueber, and Shabaka White all scored TDs for the Broncos in an impressive opening-day effort.

Flag Football games are played on Saturday afternoons at 2:30 and 3:45 PM at the Octagon soccer field.

SOCCER The Youth Program’s Soccer League also opened its season last weekend. Standings will be published in future editions of *The WIRE*. Senior Division (ages 11-14) games are played Friday evenings at 6:30 and Saturdays at 1:00. Junior Division (ages 9-10) games are played on Saturday mornings at 10:15 and 11:30; and Minor Division (ages 7-8) games are played Saturday mornings at 9:00. All of these games are played at the Octagon soccer field. The Kinderkicker program (ages 5-6) plays at 9:00 on Saturday mornings at the Capobianco field.

For further information, contact the Roosevelt Island Youth Program (506 Main Street) at **935-3645**.



Fresh graduates from last year’s Kinderkicker program, a new batch of Minors eagerly takes the field on opening day, September 22. Left to right: Sameer Kurien, Julia Kern, Maya Kadirgamar, Michelle Holland, Javon Perry, Sabrina Davis.



Coach Jim Herlihy met with his fellow soccer coaches on opening day. Over 150 kids turned out for team assignments and try-outs for four divisions of play.

Fry from page 1

as Jerry Blue’s), the Island residents have received little or no information from you or your office on the topic of a Disaster Plan.

“It is my belief that it is irresponsible not to come forth to the population of Roosevelt Island regarding where you stand on disaster planning. Your responsibility in this area can no longer can be a guarded secret.”

In his letter (published in full on page 2), Fry shot back: “In times such as this, it is important for perceived community leaders to support the structures and agencies in place, so as to build confidence, rather than create fear without merit by misrepresentation. Especially when such deeds undermine people’s confidence in a system already under attack.”

“It is gratifying to note,” he added, “that other community leaders helped calm the community’s fears. Some examples are the vigil held by the chapel, the march to the fire house, numerous comments of gratitude to the emergency workers, the demonstration

of sympathy to those suffering personal loss, and unbeknownst to many, the round-the-clock efforts for almost two weeks of RIOC staff members working at Ground Zero, led by President Ryan and Vice President Antonek.”

Vass’s latest letter sharpens his area of concern: “This small Island consists of a very special group of residents, many disabled, many seniors, and many who do not speak our language fluently. Therefore, our problems... differ from most of the City.”

“The disabled want to be made aware of what standby systems are available,” Vass continues, going on to list oxygen and medical problems requiring special services.

Vass also shoots back at Fry, writing, “Historically, there was a known relationship between Public Safety and the disabled population which is now non-existent.” He concludes, “The residents of Roosevelt Island will become much more comfortable with RIOC and Public Safety when our special needs are being covered [in a] disaster plan, and this cannot and should not be a guarded secret.”



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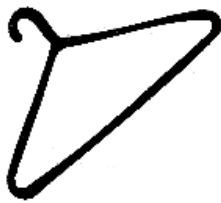
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RIRA Fund from page 1

The funds were raised largely at a table on Main Street manned by volunteers from the Common Council and others. In addition, merchants have hosted contribution boxes; Roosevelt Island Housing Management, Roosevelt Island Cleaners, and Roosevelt Island Bakery. Julie's Sports Cafe helped by collecting money, and Sr. Regina Palamara helped in the fund-raising campaign.

At Wednesday night's meeting, Feinmel thanked a host of residents for their work on the project, including Council members (or alternates) Dolores Green, Sherie Helstien, Rhoda Jacklin, Matthew Katz, Ruth Kolins, Cookie Lugo, Mosud Mannan, Steve Marcus, Joan Matula, Larry Parnes, Ethel Romm, Margie Smith, Jim Tendean-Luce; plus other community volunteers: Judy Arond, Isabel Bartley, Joan Blumberg, Marguerite Camaio, Virginia Granato, Linda Heimer, Nurit Marcus, Harriet Parnes, Teri Sheridan, Fay Vass, and Michelle Vidra. Smith, Vass, and Camaio are on Feinmel's committee.

Jack Resnick, M.D.

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Remembering How They Lived.. Not How They Died



Sept. 28, 2001

Dear Darith Bierig,

Thank you for the bears. I feel much better now. I feel a warm feeling in my heart when I hug it. I bet you felt the same way when your building got bombed. You and I know that it's over. Thank you for the bears again and I hope they catch the terrorists.

Love,
Ana Paula
Martinez

Sept. 28, 2001

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