

Next scheduled issue:
Saturday, December 1

The Main Street **WIRE**

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

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



Larry Parnes

The Roosevelt Island Bridge was being lifted this week to allow passage of ships that would otherwise use the West Channel, which is closed to traffic because of events at the United Nations. At the request of Federal law enforcement agencies, the Division of Bridges of the City Department of Transportation (DOT) has scrapped plans to make the bridge "fixed" (unmovable), which could have involved removal of its distinctive towers. DOT has extensive rehabilitation work scheduled for the bridge in 2004.

Briefly...

Tram Shutdown, Holiday Lights, More

The **Tramway** will be closed from Saturday morning, November 24, through Wednesday, December 19, according to a maintenance schedule announced this week by RIOC.

Red bus service will leave the Island on the hour, 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., from in front of Public Safety; and will leave Manhattan, from 60th and 2nd, near Favia Restaurant, on the half-hour from 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Saturday schedule will be extended to 3:00 a.m. leaving the Island, and 3:30 a.m. leaving Manhattan.

RIOC warns, in its notice, that "rush hour schedule cannot be guaranteed."

Work to be done includes full electrical and mechanical inspections, an upgrade of brakes, and replacement of haul and counter cables.

Subway Service over the next two weeks will be along Sixth Avenue, by S train except several overnights (12:01 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. Tuesday through Friday), when F trains will serve the Island.

The **Roosevelt Island International Cookbook** is on the way, but production has been delayed and the deadline for submission of recipes extended to November 30. It's a joint project of the PS 217 PTA and the Legal Action Fund Committee of the Residents Association (RIRA), which hope to publish in time for the holidays, but no later than the PTA's Annual International Dinner in February.

A Free Arterial Elasticity Screening will be available to residents over 55 on Friday, November 30. (See story, page 2.)

The Campaign for Holiday Lights on Main Street is going well, according to Chamber of Commerce President Julie Palermo at 935-8779 or the cell-phone number, 1-646-226-6671. Palermo says RIOC has been very helpful, and is providing the electricity and outlet installation for the lighting. She also credits Fay Vass Charlie de Fino, and Vicki Feinmel for work on the project.

Winners in the Historical See **Briefs**, page 10

Bank, the Young Adult League, Dorothy Donald, and Palermo herself. Additional contributions have been made by the Catholic Parish, the Eastwood Building Committee, the Redeemed Christian Church, and Island Kids – with more expected to join in before Tuesday (November 20). Residents who'd like to participate financially in the holiday lighting project can call

RIOC Goes for Ads on Tramway

The RIOC Board of Directors voted unanimously Thursday night to seek advertising on the Tram.

The move potentially puts the Board at odds with City Council-member Gifford Miller, who in the past has insisted that ads on the Tram cabins would have to be tied to availability of the MetroCard on the Tramway, with free transfers to and from the City's subways and buses.

The move came on a motion from Board member Leo Kayser, who characterized it as responsive to the community's demand that Tram service be maintained on its present schedule. "There is an economic imperative," Kayser said, alluding to the Tramway's operating deficit. "Discussion as set forth in the resolution makes it clear that this is purely an economic issue from

our perspective, and [it] should not be tied to other matters which would negate the streams of income that would be realized from this." Kayser was saying, in short, that Miller's wish to link Tram advertising to MetroCard availability is not in the cards.

Kayser added, "Since this is an RFP (request for proposals), the time period will lend itself to continued negotiations with those who should be our champions in the City Council."

Resident board member David

Kraut raised some concerns – "trepidations," as he termed them. "I share Leo Kayser's view that it is time to get serious on this issue, however it plays out, and to take a look at what's possible and what's not. I don't automatically agree with his hypothesis that [this resolution] will bring to the table those in City government who might instead be alienated by our action."

"Leo feels we have a responsibility to move this thing forward and see what happens next," Kraut See **RIOC**, page 8

RIRA

Helstien Loses Council Voting Rights in Move

Sherie Helstien, who had represented Manhattan Park on the Residents Association Common Council, was formally stripped of voting rights last week at the meeting of the Council. She had sought to keep her vote by virtue of being the Council's secretary, on the grounds that position is an Island-wide one, like the RIRA Presidency or First Vice Presidency.

Helstien and her husband, Matthew Katz, who is President of RIRA, cited what they believe are ambiguities in the association's constitution, and received the support of ten Councilors in that posi-

tion.

Those in opposition cited a constitutional provision saying members lose their seats when moving from one election district to another, holding that because Katz and Helstien moved from Manhattan Park to Westview in May, Helstien had lost her only claim to a Council vote. That position received the support of 13 Council members.

Discussion of the matter took some two hours of the Council's meeting time in the Wednesday night session. Debate grew heated when Council parliamentarian Frank Farance ruled that because the motion, as stated by Eastwood representative Joan Christianson, named Helstien and would deprive her of a member's rights, passage would require a two-thirds majority under Robert's Rules of Order.

Opponents of continued voting rights for Helstien objected to the two-thirds requirement. The conflict was resolved when a Helstien supporter, Rivercross delegate Steve Marcus, suggested amending the motion to make it a simple interpretation of the constitution, which would require only a simple majority. His amendment of the motion was quickly accepted, and the 13-10 vote recorded.

See **Helstien**, page 10

Energy Firm Seeks a Spot on the Island

An energy transmission company wants three to ten acres of Roosevelt Island.

Atlantic Energy Partners has been in conversations with RIOC, and with small groups of resident leaders, talking through the details of putting a distribution substation here. One location under consideration has been the space under the Queensboro Bridge, where their structures would replace the Sportspark and tennis bubble. They're also looking at the northernmost portion of Southpoint.

Paul M. Rich, Chief Operating Officer of Atlantic Energy Partners (AEP), met Wednesday night with RIRA President Matthew Katz and several other Islanders and has met previously with other interested residents. The company is a start-up, but has already moved through several parts of the permitting process

for what they plan and, though the technology involved is not widely employed, Rich says it is well-proved.

AEP's business is based on the idea of bringing high-voltage DC (direct current) power by undersea cable from areas of Canada that are rich in natural gas. On Roosevelt Island and in two other locations in the City, that electricity would be stepped down to lower voltage and converted to AC – the alternating current used in local distribution – and fed into the area power grid.

Rich claims appealing environmental advantages for the approach. Because no power generation is involved, he says, there is no pollution. And the power is cheaper because the natural gas used to generate the power in Canada is not taxed as it passes through

See **Energy**, page 10

Islanders

Rose McCarthy: A Gift of Hair for a Child in Need

by Francine Lange

At first glance, Rose McCarthy's dark blond tresses cascading down her back suggest a modern-day Rapunzel. Like the fairytale princess, her locks will eventually be shorn. But instead of the hair being used to deceive (as the story's witch did to trap Rapunzel's prince), McCarthy will donate her hair to improve a child's life. Her 12-inch-plus ponytail will become a wig for a child who has lost hair due to a medical condition.

McCarthy, an Island resident since 1994, speaks with a hint of the Southern accent from her Georgia roots as she discusses her unusual mission, which began four and a half years ago. One day, she

happened to watch a documentary highlighting an organization that gave custom-fitted wigs to disadvantaged children who had lost their own hair, either as a side effect of chemotherapy or radiation treatment, or from a condition called alopecia areata. The group accepts donations of hair ten inches or longer. The hairpieces were made with a special vacuum fitting so that wearers can engage in regular activities, such as swimming and other sports, without losing the piece. Usually, a hairpiece can cost as much as \$3,000, but the organization provides them free of charge.

"It interested me because I don't have a lot of money that I can donate to research," she says. Even



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though she donates time to other groups – she tutors kids as a Learning Leader and serves on the leadership team for the PTA – McCarthy wanted to do more. What she does have is thick, healthy, strong hair that grows quickly. "When I saw that documentary, I thought, 'Well, now, that's something I can do.' So I just started growing it."

McCarthy, now 57, says she had worn her hair short for many years because she preferred a no-nonsense approach to beauty care. Short hair was just easier to care for. Her patience would be tested over the next several years because the longer hair required 30-minute

See **McCarthy**, page 8

The **WIRE** Wishes All a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving 2001

The Editorial Page

A Fight to Own a Vacuum

What’s funny about RIRA is how little power is the subject of such a struggle.

The Roosevelt Island Residents Association presides over a power vacuum that makes Electrolux and Hoover look like wimps. Its Common Council may debate the merits of various development proposals, take stands on the disappearance of parkland, rail over the lack of MetroCard on the Tramway, and decry RIOC’s failures of basic maintenance...

...But nobody in power listens.

Nobody *has* to listen.

Nobody has to listen because RIRA has no power. Even when it resorts to public opinion – for example, gathering thousands of signatures opposing a Tram cutback, then passing a resolution asking RIOC to put a priority on keeping the Tram hours as they are – even then, RIOC is free to ignore the residents of Roosevelt Island. That very resolution about Tram hours was as innocuous as could be, since the Board could have agreed to it and then, anytime, could have agreed to rescind it in a cost-cutting move. But they didn’t pass it. The message? Residents just don’t count.

So even the most innocent requests of residents are ignored by the RIOC Board. Residents, speaking through RIRA, are utterly powerless.

That wouldn’t be so bad if RIOC paid heed to our elected representatives in the State Senate and Assembly, or on City Council, when *they* listen and then speak for us. No such luck. RIOC ignores them, too.

Despite that, there’s a power struggle of epic proportions going on in the RIRA Common Council as two factions battle for votes, or to deny votes to one another. It happened in this month’s meeting, when a multi-month battle culminated in Sherie Helstien’s being stripped of voting rights. Curiously, the very resolution that was proposed to take away her voting rights on constitutional grounds *also* proposed to allow her to remain as the Council’s secretary – something specifically contrary to the RIRA constitution.

There was the obligatory claim, of course, that “it isn’t personal,” but Helstien was *named* in the motion, and as the wife of RIRA President Matthew Katz, she is part of a group that handed former President Patrick Stewart a profound defeat in November, 2000, giving Katz the RIRA Presidency.

The Failure of Grace in Defeat

Usually, defeated Presidential candidates call upon their constituency to support the victor and, as losers, they fade discreetly from the scene. Al Gore would be a recent example. Not Stewart, though; even though decisively defeated even for a seat representing his own building, Stewart invokes the RIRA constitution and votes on matters of resident interest by virtue of his post on the RIOC Board of Directors – claiming a vote that represents nobody but his own faction or, worse, the RIOC Board itself.

Whatever happened to grace in defeat?

One might ask, in fact, who’s morally more entitled to a vote on the RIRA Common Council: Helstien, who was elected from Manhattan Park and is perfectly capable of representing its residents’ interests even though she has moved to Westview (there is no war between Westview and Manhattan Park that we know of), or Stewart, who was elected by nobody and, in fact, was specifically *diselected* in his own building. Indeed, by virtue of his RIOC Board seat, Stewart is being sued by RIRA, where he also claims a seat at the table.

But factionalism and near-cannibalism rages on in RIRA in a tug-of-war over... what? Over no power except, alas, the power to mute even more the voice of residents who, despite living in a democracy, have no elective rights.

What’s Wrong with This Picture?

What’s wrong is that the RIOC Board itself, the presumptive holder of power on Roosevelt Island, is not an elected Board. Its members are appointed by the Governor.

So we’re back, once again, to the desperate need for resident election of the RIOC Board, and for a right by that elected Board of residents to hire professional community management obligated to *listen*, and subject to dismissal if resident priorities are ignored or mismanaged.

Virtually everybody who matters sees that. Residents voted by a 92% margin in 1998, then an 80% margin in 2000, for a plan that would give residents the power of the ballot box in their own affairs.

And still, nobody who holds power listens. Because nobody *has* to listen.

DL

Seniors to Offer a Free Heart Test

A test that can detect heart disease will be offered free by the Roosevelt Island Seniors Association on Friday, November 30.

Intended for residents 55 and over, the procedure doesn’t even require disrobing, but it detects arteriosclerosis, the leading cause of coronary heart disease, which contributes more than any other condition to death and disability in the United States. Results are available in four minutes.

It’s called an “arterial elasticity test.”

Typical patients report no warning signs or symptoms, but the results can be angina, aneurysms, circulatory problems, heart attack, or stroke. The root cause is a condition in which cholesterol, fat, and other blood

components build up on and in the walls of arteries, creating lesions or plaques.

Early detection can prompt a victim to make lifestyle and diet changes, and new therapies are making arteriosclerosis preventable and treatable.

The non-invasive test, which is administered at the brachial artery of the left arm (near the bend) uses the latest CardioVision technology.

The screenings will be offered from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 30, at the Senior Center. Appointments are required for the sessions, which take ten minutes. Call Selena Ng at **980-1888**.



Vicki Feinmel photos
Daffodil Planting City Council-member Gifford Miller (center, above) joined some four dozen Islanders in planting daffodils two weeks ago. He is flanked by (left to right) his wife, his mother, Judy Berdy (who organized the event), Peter Jungkunst, Arline Jacoby, and Miller aide Jessica Lappin.



Letters

To the Editor:

I would like to thank everyone who came out and helped us plant the 3,000 daffodil bulbs in public areas of the Island on Saturday, November 3. Thanks also to the housing companies, RIOC, and the hospitals, whose staffs were most helpful in preparing our very rocky soil to accept these bulbs.

My special thanks to all the members of the Roosevelt Island Garden Club. This includes: Nancy Cruickshank, Susan Barniker, Carole Kennedy, Pat Lyons, Marjorie Marcallino, Peter Jungkunst, Arline Jacoby, Carmel Calvin, Julie Lipp, Helge Taeger, Ali Schwayri, Joyce Mincheff and

the many others who took non-gardeners to the sites and taught them the art of bulb planting. A special thanks to Vicki Feinmel for helping coordinate the efforts.

Lynden Miller, mother of Gifford Miller and a renowned gardening expert, joined us on the Island and planted bulbs at the new commemorative tree near Good Shepherd Chapel.

Everyone returned with a special story about the planting. Our volunteers who were at the firehouse

truly enjoyed planting in this special area and the firefighters were thrilled to have them. They provided bandages and heavy gloves for the gardeners working in that area.

It was truly a special day for the Island. A special thanks to José Baca, who decorated each volunteer’s hat with a beautiful hand-drawn daffodil.

Judith Berdy, President
Roosevelt Island Historical Society



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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.

Letters deadline for Dec. 1 issue: Nov. 25

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

Judi Arond, David Bauer, Judy Berdy, Stephanie Berry, Steve Bessenof, Virginia Boykin, James Brock, Mary Camper-Titsingh, Melanie Castine, Lynn Chambers, Mark Chambers, Viviane Codderrrens, Malcolm Cohen, Susan Cohen, Pearl Cooper, Shirley Cruz, Tammy Culler, Harold Davis, Joan Davis, Valerie Davis, Robin Day, Jenny Olivera DellMastro, Morty Dinerstein, Rebecca Dougherty, Katarina Dougos, Konstantin Dougos, Juanita Elliott, Mary Fitzgerald, Zoraida Fonseca, Teresa Hasing, Felicia Hassan, Roberta Hershey, Emmanuel Jackson, Jonathan Jackson, Nythae Jackson, Peter Kaplan, Mickey Karpeles-Bauer, Matthew Katz, Steve Kaufman, Boyana Kovacevic, Dan Kovacevic, Lynda Laux-Bachand, Ruth Limmer, Bridget Lowy, Mercedes Lugo, Hazel Lynch, Beatrice Marcus, Clarissa McCraley, Mike McEvoy, Morgan McEvoy, Merle McLean, Dorene McQueen, Terry Moses, Claudia Narine, Clinton Narine, Sandra Narine, Kathie Niederhoffer, Juan Nieves, Nancy Olivera, Joan Pape, Gabrielle Parnes, Gladys Rasheed, Irene Rivera, Paul Russo, Ron Schuppert, Bernie Schwartz, Beryl Seaforth, Marilyn Sherman, Haley Shinozaki, Michael Shinozaki, Joyce Speziale, Joseph Strong, Lynn Strong-Shinozaki, Pearl Thomas, David Tsireskin, Elena Vrinceanu, Rece Walford, Maggie Warner, Robin Williams, Nina Winteringham, Rose Woods, and Alice Padilla with members of the Island Girls Project

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

Now through Nov. 30, UNICEF Window Display, Rivercross window gallery.

Sat., Nov. 17, 10:00 a.m., Roosevelt Island Walking Tour, led by Judy Berdy. Meet at the Library.

Sun., Nov. 18, 4:00 p.m., Concert: Rebekkah Hilgraves, soprano, with pianist Martin Garratt (Good Shepherd Church Choir Director), Chapel of the Good Shepherd; songs of Gershwin, art and operatic songs. Fundraiser for Good Shepherd organ. \$10; seniors and students \$8.

Mon.-Tue., Nov. 19-20, 7:30 p.m., Dialogue and Workshop with Marte Fenton: Life After September 11th, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. All invited.

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



Tex Allen

Thur., Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m., Jazz Concert with Island resident Tex Allen and group, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Admission, \$20; seniors, \$10.

Fri., Nov. 30, 9:00-5:00, Arterial Elasticity Screening at Senior Center. (See story, page 2.)

Sat., Dec. 1, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Nov. 23; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Nov. 26, with materials due Thur., Nov. 29. **Future issues:** 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.

Sun., Dec. 2, 2:00 p.m., Memorial service for Ruth Limmer, Manhattan Park Theater Club, 8 River Road.

Wed., Dec. 5, 8:00 p.m., RIRA Common Council meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Fri., Dec. 7, 8:00 p.m., Benefit for the Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance, We're Not Doing a Show: A Musical Revue, Main Street Theatre. \$20; seniors and disabled, \$10. Tickets: 371-4449. Additional performances December 8, 9, and 14-17.

Sat., Dec. 8, 8:00 p.m., Benefit for the Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance, We're Not Doing a Show: A Musical Revue, Main Street Theatre. \$20; seniors and disabled, \$10. Tickets: 371-4449.

Sun., Dec. 9, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Benefit for the Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance, We're Not Doing a Show: A Musical Revue, Main Street Theatre. \$20; seniors and disabled, \$10. Tickets: 371-4449.

There is no charge to list Island events here. E-mail information to Editor@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.

Chapel organ. Tickets \$20; \$15 for seniors and disabled, available after Catholic services Saturday and Sunday. Information and tickets: 751-1347.

Fri., Dec. 14, 8:00 p.m., Benefit for the Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance, We're Not Doing a Show: A Musical Revue, Main Street Theatre. \$20; seniors and disabled, \$10. Tickets: 371-4449.

Sat., Dec. 15, 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., Benefit for the Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance, We're Not Doing a Show: A Musical Revue, Main Street Theatre. \$20; seniors and disabled, \$10. Tickets: 371-4449.

Sun., Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m., Benefit for the Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance, We're Not Doing a Show: A Musical Revue, Main Street Theatre. \$20; seniors and disabled, \$10. Tickets: 371-4449.

Mon., Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m., Benefit for the Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance, We're Not Doing a Show: A Musical Revue, Main Street Theatre. \$20; seniors and disabled, \$10. Tickets: 371-4449.

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

Senior Center

Monday
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screening**
12:45, **Arts & Crafts** (RIDA)

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**
7:00, **Dance Class**

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

10:15, **Yoga Stretch**
11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (intermediate)
11:15, **Stay Well**
7:30, **Lotto**

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

Special Events
Sat., Nov. 17, 7:00, Annual RISA Dinner
Wed., Nov. 21, 12:30, Oriental Calligraphy
Mon., Nov. 26, 10:00, Medical lecture and blood pressure screening
Tue., Nov. 27, 12:15, Basic Estate Planning
Wed., Nov. 28, American Rhapsody Concert trip
Fri., Nov. 30, 9:00-5:00, **Arterial Elasticity Screening**. (See story, page 2.)

Concert Set for Sunday at 4:00



Soprano Rebekkah Hilgraves, an Island resident, and pianist Martin Garratt will present a concert tomorrow afternoon (Sunday, November 18) in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, in one of two concerts scheduled over the next month as fund-raisers for the Chapel's organ.

Hilgraves has appeared as a soloist with the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra, and was a member of the San Francisco Chamber Singers. She has offered solo recitals in North Carolina, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Illinois, and was named best actress in a musical by the San Francisco Bay Area Critics' Circle for a performance with the Lamplighters, a light opera company there.

Hilgraves is a software technical support engineer by day, but studied classical voice after a teen-years decision to become a rock singer. "Then I met Puccini," she says, "and I've never been the same."

Sunday's program will include works of Gershwin, Beethoven, Charles Ives, and Richard Strauss, as well as some operatic favorites. Tickets, which will be available at the door, are \$10 (\$8 for seniors and students).

On December 14, at 7:30 p.m., Police Officer Daniel Rodriguez and his *Broadway Magic* company will appear at the Chapel in a return engagement, following on a successful October concert. Tickets are \$20/\$15, for the limited Chapel seating for that event. Call 751-1347 or 644-8332.

A six-month debate ended at the last Common Council meeting. The question was whether Sherie Helstien, Secretary of the Council and my wife, could keep her seat despite moving from Manhattan Park to Westview. The Constitution was clear: you move, you lose your seat. But then, the Constitution muddied the waters by allowing that the Secretary was obliged to be elected from among the seated members of the Council (and Sherie was elected Secretary last March by her colleagues on the Common Council), not that she retain her district seat thereafter. Would the Council determine to give her the looser interpretation, the benefit of the doubt, if you will, or apply the stricter provision? On November 7, by a vote of 13 votes to 10, the Council stripped Sherie of her seat.

I think the Common Council will miss Sherie's leadership, her consistent willingness to do the most labor-intensive, unheralded but necessary jobs during the next year, because there are so few people willing to take her place. Nevertheless, Sherie will find a myriad of ways to apply her energy, her intelligence and her devotion to this community, and now we all need to move on. Some interesting points were raised during the final debate, however, that I think are worth discussing.

In arguing for Sherie's removal, Karen Stewart said the following; "RIRA is the constitution. The thing that remains when the individual presidents, officers, counselors come and go is the constitution. This is what you said you wanted to be when you ran for this election." I couldn't disagree more.

The only entity that I know of that is defined, that takes its mission from a Constitution, is the U.S. Supreme Court. While the Executive and Legislative branches take an oath to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution" their function is defined by service to their constituents. In the case of the Common Council, we haven't even taken any oath. RIRA is the people who volunteer to work on behalf of their neighbors, not a piece of paper. While the cast of characters changes over time, the value of the organization is measured by the efforts of the people who comprise it. I know of no one who ran for office to "preserve, protect and defend" our constitution. The document exists to provide boundaries and guidelines for our community work, and when it ceases to expedite that work and begins to impede it, then it is our obligation to change it.

Karen listed other Common Council members who were unseated as a result of the constitution's mandate over the 25-year history of RIRA. She mentioned her chagrin at not being able to keep some of them on the Council. This troubled me. If this constitutional requirement is denying us a commodity in short supply, that is, volunteers already elected by an Island constituency, then why has no member, no earlier RIRA President, attempted in 25 years to amend the constitution and remove this foolish provision? RIRA rarely takes on building-specific questions that could be compromised by district-centric allegiances. The building committees and task forces were created to do that job. We elect our representatives by building district, but to cut a Member loose based on this "fiefdom mentality" is shortsighted and profligate.

I'd like to try to pass this amendment. My colleagues

who voted to remove Sherie were adamant that there was nothing personal involved, merely a concern for the constitution as currently written. I appreciate this, and hope they will support my effort to change this provision that is so wasteful. Council Members sacrifice significant time, energy and stomach lining when they volunteer for a two-year term. To toss aside such a volunteer because they move across the street is an obeisance to our building districts that we can't afford. I propose to create a category of member, an "at-large" member, for those who move. This status would only exist for the remainder of a term after the relocation, after which time the person would be obliged to run for office in his or her new building.

This would allow a member who has put together a volume of work for the Roosevelt Island community to continue it despite changing domiciles.

The best, most consistent constitution in the world, written by world-renowned scholars, will not make RIRA a better organization; only better volunteers will accomplish that. I'm thinking of people

like Margie Smith, currently an alternate from Rivercross, who has volunteered to put together Thanksgiving dinner for the guys at the Firehouse. No one asked her to do this, nor was this an idea that sprang from a committee. She saw the need and she's getting it done. If Council Members (or you, for that matter) want to help cook and join the firefighters for Thanksgiving dinner, let Margie know. But with you or without you, she's getting it done. I'm thinking of Jim Tendean-Luce, alternate from Eastwood, and Island House member, Judy Berdy, who hold down paying jobs, have family and religious obligations, and

yet manage to run significant volunteer organizations while helping RIRA by raising money, tending bar, pushing a broom, whatever needs doing. RIRA is those people, and many others, and those who will follow in their footsteps.

We need to devise a constitution that stays out of the way of our generous neighbors and friends, a constitution that enhances their work. The RIRA Constitution is neither holy writ nor graven in stone, and if we treat it as such, we cripple our efforts to make Roosevelt Island a better place.

Two housekeeping notes: RIOC has moved the northbound bus stop from in front of 546 Main Street fifty yards south to accommodate construction vehicles. My understanding is that neither the Senior Association, the Disabled Association nor Housing Management were asked for input or informed of the change. For most of us, this is no biggie, but if you are a resident of the senior building and walk with a cane or walker, this could be a significant inconvenience, especially in inclement weather. If this issue is of concern to you, let your voice be heard.

And finally, Housing Management General Manager, Doryne Isley, informed the Westview community at last Monday's meeting not to expect the Westview pool to reopen any time before spring. I've inquired as to whether Rivercross or Sportspark pools might be available to this displaced aquatic community on a temporary basis, and met with profound disinterest. On an Island of five underutilized pools, there is an opportunity for neighborliness that seems to be escaping the powers that be. Won't someone come to our aid?

The RIRA Column



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

CABRINI

ALIVE AND WELL

Upcoming Events

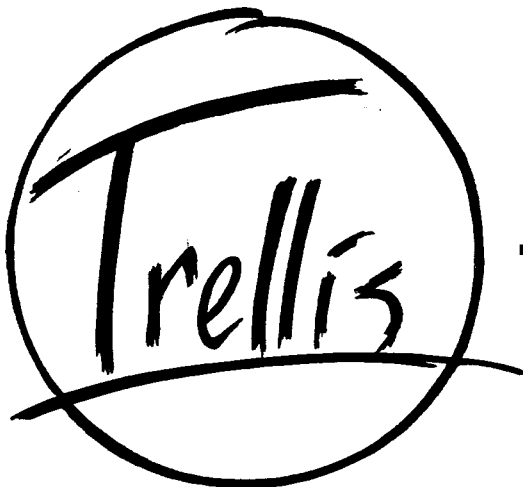
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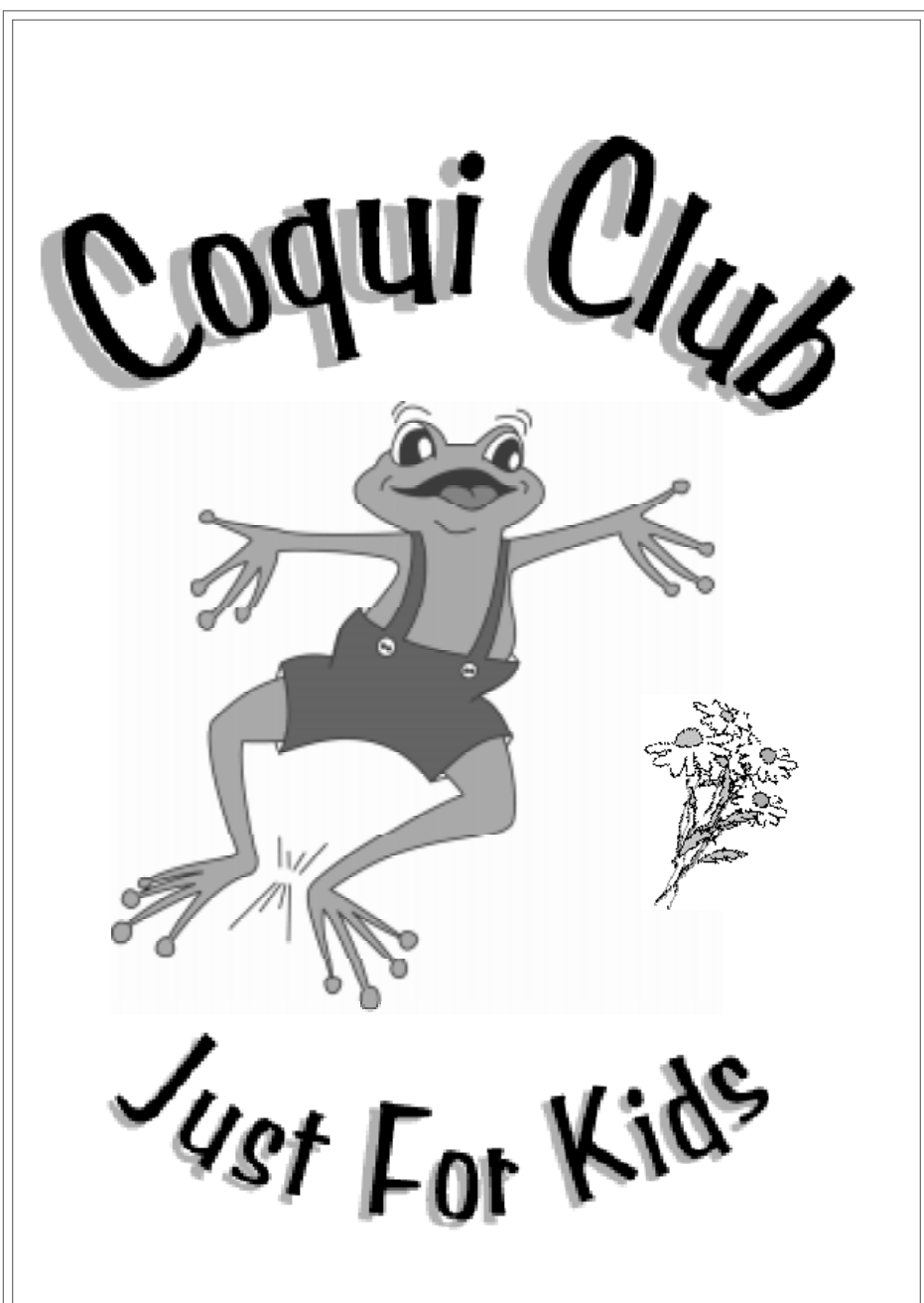
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- Accounts may not be joint with an adult. (Adults wishing to have a joint account with a child may do so by opening a regular savings account.)

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The WIRE thanks these residents and other friends who've joined in our twice-yearly Business Card issue with contributions of \$35 or more. In addition, a number of residents have made other contributions (without a business card), and they are listed below, as well.

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PO Box 673 Geneva, NY 14456 Pres., Island House Inc. & Westview Houses, Inc. CHARLES A. LUCIDO, ESQ. 315-789-2081 Fax - 781-2814	 The Ray Abrams Big Band Dances - Concerts - Cotillions ERVIN SIMPSON Director 117 Juniper Hill Road Greenburgh, NY 10607 (914) 428-0391 All Jazz	Contributors: Belle Bleifeld Maurice Bleifeld In Kyu Park Frances Salten Kay & Tommy Thompson Raymond A. Werchen Tessie L. Werchen Thank you for supporting The Main Street WIRE

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McCarthy from page 1

sessions to shampoo and condition, and a six-hour stint to air-dry. Although she wore it in a simple ponytail and pulled off her face, she still had to watch for unexpected hazards. (Sticky suckers from a grandchild occasionally tangled in her hair.) The weight of her hair also gave her headaches.



Rose McCarthy

says she likes to imagine the expression on a child's face, perhaps a little girl, the first time she glimpses her own face framed with braids, or curls or soft waves. That makes McCarthy's years-long mission worthwhile.

Hair Donation Guidelines

The majority of hair donated to Locks of Love comes from children who wish to help other children, but the organization needs hair from men, women, and children of all ages and races.

Locks of Love accepts ten-inch minimum hair length, not wigs, falls or synthetic hair. (Pull curly hair straight to measure.)

Hair must be bundled in a ponytail or braid, clean and dry, and placed in a plastic bag. Layered hair may be put into more than one ponytail.

Hair may be colored or permed, but not chemically damaged. (If unsure, ask a stylist.)

Locks of Love cannot use hair swept off the floor. Hair cut years ago is usable as long as it has been stored in a ponytail.

Hair that is short, gray or unsuitable for children is separated and sold at fair-market value. Proceeds offset manufacturing costs.

tion about Locks of Love, click on www.locksoflove.org, or call 888-896-1588.

Those challenges were small compared with what McCarthy says a sick child endures, sometimes at the hands of other kids. "Small children – they don't understand. They see a little girl who's bald-headed, they say, 'Oh look, she doesn't have any hair.' I can imagine how that would make a child feel to hear that from another child," she says.

Last year, after watching another program about the Locks of Love organization on a Queen Latifah talk show, and with her daughter's quick Internet search, McCarthy gathered the details for donating her hair. She waited one more year to add a few inches to the length, then made an appointment at the Island beauty salon to cut it this week.

She'll mail the hair to the Florida-based Locks of Love headquarters, where it will be matched and combined with nine other ponytails to make one hairpiece. McCarthy

She doesn't have an answer to the question of whether she'll grow her hair long again. "I don't know," she says, and laughs. "I want that feeling of nice short hair for a while." Then, gazing with steady blue eyes, she shares her vision: "I see a lot of people with long hair," she says, "and maybe they'd like a change. If more people knew about this, maybe they would cut their hair and do the same thing."

For more informa-

RIOC from page 1

continued. "So it's with some concern that I support the motion."

Another resident Board member, H. Patrick Stewart, said he suspected that the late Al Weinstein, who headed the Residents Association Tram Committee, would fight advertising on "his" Tram. But Stewart said he would prefer to see "a more businesslike approach" to future such proposals, suggesting that, although he intended to vote for the proposal, he felt more research should have preceded its presentation to the Operating Corporation Board.

Later, during the public session, resident James Kaufman, an attorney, told the Board that he had once inquired about Tram ads on behalf of a client, and had been waved off by City officials, who had commented that the City already had too much of a "honky tonk" look. He outlined several difficulties with the idea, including possible resistance by the City Council's Franchise Committee, and likely resistance by the City Parks Department to advertising in Tramway Plaza in Manhattan.

The Board also heard a proposal from The Child School to renovate and occupy the Eastwood, Island House, and Westview minischools, in a move that would expand the institution's capacity from 165 at its East 33rd Street location to 230 on Roosevelt Island, for ages from 5 to 21. Representatives of the school, which was founded on Roosevelt Island in the mid-'70s with five students, said they would spend some \$8 million repairing and renovating the spaces, then would pay an annual rent of some \$200,000.

The school's founder and executive director, Maari de Souza, is an Island resident, with an apartment in Island House. At the time she founded the school, she was an Eastwood resident, and ran it in her apartment there. The school serves children with special needs, preparing them for Regents examinations and diplomas. Its funding comes on a student-by-student basis from New York State.

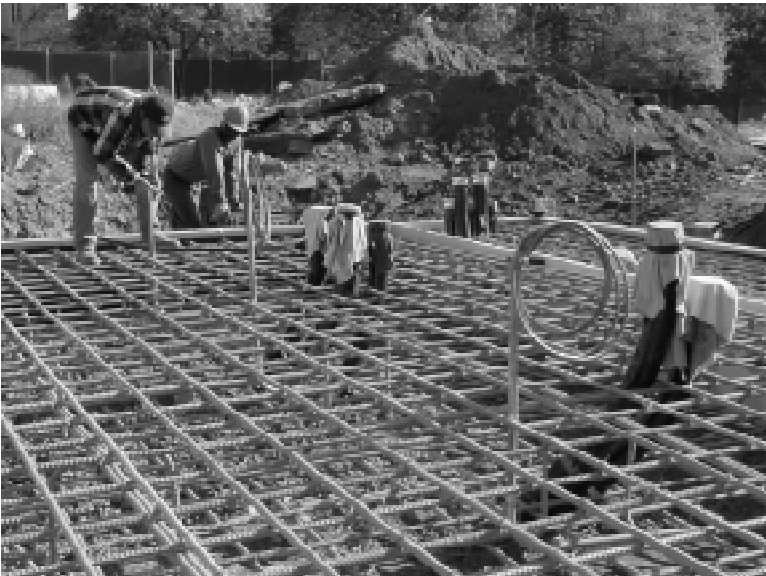
No action was taken on the proposal, which will be the subject of further presentations.

Southtown Work Starts



Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com

Southtown Work Starts Trees were being removed from the Southtown site this week, and concrete was poured for a structure bringing temporary infrastructure lines to the planned site of the first building. Although considerable work has been done on the new soccer/baseball field just north of the Queensboro Bridge, this week's work is the first concrete poured at a building location. A case is still pending in the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court, challenging the siting of the northernmost buildings. Oral arguments in the consolidated cases, brought by Alternative Southtown Development Committee and Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development (RIRSD), were heard in June. A decision has been expected for some time.



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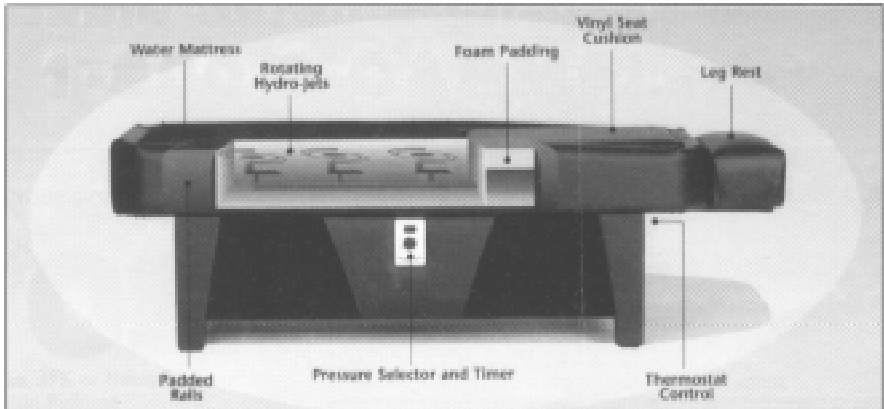
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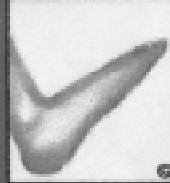
NERVE PAIN



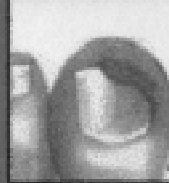
CUSTOM
INSERTS



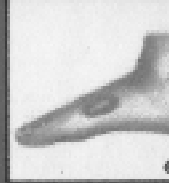
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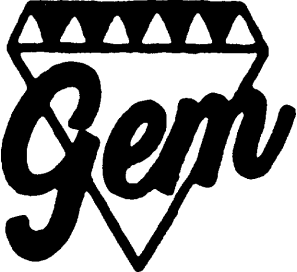
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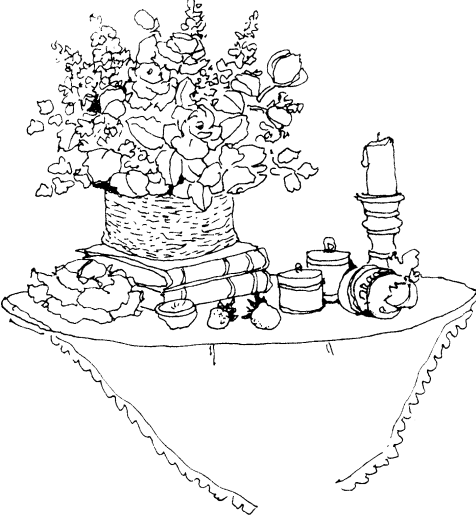
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SPORTSWIRE

FLAG FOOTBALL After seven weeks of play in the Youth Program’s Flag Football League 12-14 Division, the Raiders and Giants are tied for first place in a very tight race:

Raiders	4 - 2 - 1
Giants	4 - 2 - 1
Jets	3 - 4
Broncos	2 - 5

In November 3 action, the Giants defeated the Raiders to claim a share of first place. The Giants opened an 18-7 halftime lead and built the lead to 25-7 when Thomas Herlihy scored and Shirome Dixon added the extra point midway through the third quarter. The Raiders fought back, with Remy Armenakis and Eric Miranda scoring to close the deficit to 25-19; however, with one last opportunity for the Raiders to tie or take the lead, the Giant defense held and closed out the victory.

In the second game from November 3, the Jets came from behind to defeat the Broncos, 44-31. In the opening half, it looked like the Bronco’s day as Seif Dorani caught 3 touchdown passes from Rahim Drame and Byron Gaspard added an extra point to give the Broncos a 19-6 lead. However, the turning point of the game occurred right before the half as the Broncos were driving for another score. Jack Huang intercepted a pass headed for the end zone and returned the interception 95 yards to cut the Jets’ halftime deficit to 19-12 and turn the momentum in favor of the Jets. In the second half, Damon Walford scored three times and Matthew Brodsky and Eyosyas Tadesse each scored to offset scores by Omani Guy and Seif Dorani for the Broncos.

In November 10 action, the Raiders defeated the Jets by a 21-19 score and the Giants defeated Broncos by a 36-26 score. For the Raiders, Tyrell Anderson, Quincy Leon and Remy Armenakis scored the touchdowns, and Eric Miranda, Dax Armenakis and Abel Tadesse keyed the defensive effort. For the Giants, it was a complete team effort, with Shirome Dixon, Jimmy Elias, Thomas Herlihy, Phillip Santos, Jenna Stueber, Neal Stueber, and Shabaka White all contributing to the win.

SOCCER The playoffs began November 10 in all three divisions. In the Minor Division (ages 7-8), Red defeated Green 4-0 and Yellow defeated Blue in a shootout when the game ended in a 1-1 tie at the end of regulation time. In the Junior Division (ages 9-10), Blue, with goals from Anass Dorani and Brian Sullivan, defeated Yellow, 3-0, and Red defeated Green by a 3-2 score. In the Senior Division (ages 11-14), Red defeated Blue by a 4-1 score. Jason Fell and Elliot Levine scored for Red, while Seif Dorani scored for Blue. In the other Senior Division game, Green defeated Yellow 3-1 in overtime, with Thomas Herlihy and Chris Sullivan scoring for Green and Kwaime Phillips scoring for Yellow.

The standings in the Youth Program’s Soccer League at the end of the regular season were:

Minor Division	W	L	T	Junior Division	W	L	T	Senior Division	W	L	T
Red (B)	6	0	-	Blue (B)	4	1	1	Red (C)	5	1	-
Blue (C)	3	2	1	Red (D)	2	1	3	Green (B)	4	2	-
Yellow (A)	2	4	-	Green (C)	2	3	1	Yellow (D)	2	3	1
Green (D)	0	5	1	Yellow (A)	1	4	1	Blue (A)	0	5	1

Helstien from page 1

Under the RIRA constitution, Helstien is not eligible to serve as the organization’s secretary, but part of the original motion stripping her of voting rights as a matter of constitutional requirement had also proposed allowing her to continue in that post. Helstien indicated she would consider the matter.

Katz, as RIRA President, is seeking amendment of the RIRA constitution to correct several points of ambiguity, but also on several substantive items, including creation of an “at large” status for Councilors who move out of an election district. Katz suggests that dedicated volunteers should not be denied their full involvement in RIRA only because they have moved on the Island. He treats the matter in his column on page 3 of this issue.

In other action at its November meeting, the Council turned down a request for an additional contribution toward the Good Shepherd organ fund, agreed to support the cost of preparing Thanksgiving dinner for firefighters on duty at the Island station, agreed to support the Chamber of Commerce holiday lighting project, and heard an updated report from Vicki Feinmel on funds raised for Island families of victims of the World Trade Center attack September 11: The total is now \$8,846.

Energy from page 1

various political jurisdictions.

The transformer structures the company would erect here are 60 feet tall. Adjacent structures would be shorter.

In talking with resident leaders, Rich has been seeking their cooperation, and has discussed possible “givebacks” – inducements that might make the project attractive to Island residents. One possibility discussed briefly Wednesday night was the creation of the long-delayed FDR Memorial Park at Southpoint.

The company faces complications here. They include a probable need for modification of the General Development Plan, since virtually any Island location would mean at least part of the company’s buildings would take designated parkland; existing commitments for the land, such as the long-term lease at the tennis bubble; and various local construction rules, which might preclude permanent structures under the 59th Street Bridge, if that location were selected.

The company has a related website at www.cianbro.com.



Paul M. Rich, Chief Operating Officer of Atlantic Energy Partners, as he met with Islanders Wednesday night.

Briefs from page 1

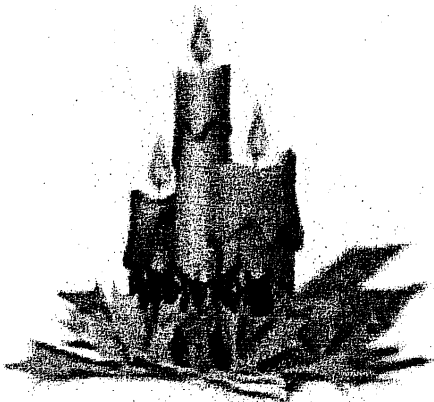
Society’s 25th Anniversary photo challenge, in which contestants had to identify 15 Roosevelt Island structures from photos in the Library window, were Susan Barniker, who took first prize; runners-up Anusha Shrivastava and Apurva Varma.

The History Quiz, based on material in the *Website NYC10044* TimeLine at www.nyc10044.com, netted four winners: Kumi Greissman, Matthew Katz, and Shrivastava and Varma, who scored in that contest, as well. Prizes were free memberships in the Historical Society.

The organization’s president, Judith Berdy, says some 25th Anniversary events that were delayed after the September 11 Twin Towers tragedy are being rescheduled for 2002, including an otherwise-undescribed “really fun event.”

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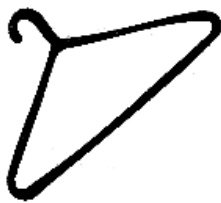
*Critics have said of Rebekkah, "...a gorgeous soprano
who can act!" and "...a silvery voice, impeccable diction and
real interpretive savoir faire..."*

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