

Big Band New Year's Eve – *Price Reduced to \$25*

Welcome 2002 to Roosevelt Island at Manhattan Park Theater Club, with **The Ray Abrams Big Band**, presented by River Music, The PTA, and *The WIRE*.

Vol. 22, No. 9

Saturday, December 15, 2001

Next scheduled issue:
January 11-12, 2002

The Main Street **WIRE**

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

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



Angel in Sneakers This young lady was among two dozen or so with roles in the Cabrini Christmas Classic Wednesday night at Chapel of the Good Shepherd. More photo coverage on page 16 and (in color) on *Website NYC10044*.

Farmer's Market Move Goes to Back Burner Through the Holidays

Gristede's, with New Manager, Making a New Effort to Please

by Robert Laux-Bachand

Gristede's new manager, Adrian Ramirez, said the first thing customers noticed about the Island's renovated Mega Store was the clean, shiny floor. He mimicked a shopper's startled double-take, eyes staring downward, arms outstretched.

Checkout impressions are important, too, and customers have heard more *Thank you's* and *You're welcome's* from the cashiers lately, and even the occasional *Have a nice day!* – this from a crew that has a few studious young mimes, too, their silent snubs capable of sending shoppers storming out of the place, fuming.

Ramirez, a big, friendly man, is the scourge of dirt and of what he refers to as “snotty” behavior by employees. His contributions since taking over at 686 North Main Street four months ago are as integral to the makeover as the company's installation of an expanded produce department and a deli island with six tables and a commanding view of Queens – the Gristede's Café.

The store, with 22,000 square feet of selling space, is Gristede's biggest in Manhattan, but for several years it could not be called a crown jewel in the 43-

See **Gristede's**, page 7

PTA Backs Farmer's Market; Farmer Will Move If Required

by Robert Laux-Bachand

Israel Wengerd stood in his usual spot – about 320 feet south of his closest competitor – and carefully watched what he judged to be a brisk business at last Saturday's outdoor Farmer's Market.

“I agreed to move and this morning they're telling me I can maybe stay here,” he said.

Wengerd, an Amish farmer from Pennsylvania who has been coming to Roosevelt Island for 12 years, was the last person directly involved in the recent Gristede's dustup to find out that the company had backed off, at least temporarily, from its insistence that he move his tables of vegetables and meat and other products to a point at least 1,900 feet away from Gristede's newly-renovated supermarket.

No one could get hold of him on Friday. He was on the road, stocking his Penske cargo truck. So here he was the next day, 200 miles from home, finding himself in the middle of a Hell Gate

of economic crosscurrents.

On one side is Gristede's Foods Inc., annoyed that Wengerd, so close to its doors, is getting what it called a “free ride” to siphon business from its showcase

See **Market**, page 6

School Plans Steps to Retain Students

by Anusha Shrivastava

In a determined bid to woo more children and retain the ones already enrolled, the Island's public school will introduce an accelerated-program option for its kindergarten and first-grade students beginning in the fall of 2002.

“I have scheduled a meeting on January 10 with District Superintendent Shelley Harwayne and parents of all kindergarten and first grade students to discuss how to put together a program offering enrichment and an accelerated program for gifted students,” said PS/IS 217 Principal Sherry Gregory in a recent interview. “The addition of the pre-kindergarten program to the school was a great asset. I am hoping that the gifted program will be, too. Even so, right now, there are many more questions than there are answers.”

Three options will be discussed at the January meeting. The first is to have a separate section of hand-picked students who have been tested using a formal assessment. “This may create a ‘have’ class and a ‘have-not’ class so I am not very keen on it. In a small, heterogeneous school like ours, this may create a situation that is less than

ideal for learning and the self-esteem of children,” said Gregory.

The second option is to train teachers to handle all kinds of children while specialists are made available to work with children who are falling behind. This would be an extension of the reading-recovery program. There would be an enriched curriculum including science and a second language. More of the day would be spent in varied

activities like music, art and learning another language rather than the current morning literacy program and afternoon math program.

The third, and most favored option, is to mix and match schedules of children such that groups are formed in the afternoon. Each group would follow a different schedule. In this case, the “gifted” children would be doing more ad-

See **PS 217**, page 12

In Brief

New Year's Eve, Translators, Music...

Plans for New Year's Eve on Roosevelt Island have changed. Faced with an apparent lack of interest in a dinner-dance combination, the PTA, River Music, and *The WIRE* have eliminated dinner and cut the price of the event in half, to \$25 per person. Hors d'oeuvres will be served instead. Tickets: **339-0016**.

The event features the 18-member Ray Abrams Big Band in a 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. dance.

Speak a foreign language? The Residents Association is seeking speakers of foreign languages and sign-language interpreters to help in the event of an emergency by translating vital information or answering questions. Nneka Pope is gathering the information at **758-8634** or nneka@compuserve.com.

Patricia Ricketts was chosen to head the Residents Association's **Legal Action Fund Committee** at last

week's Common Council meeting, replacing Sherie Helstien, who lost her Council seat after moving from Manhattan Park to Westview. RIRA is an intervenor in the Southtown case currently before the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court. The decision in that case, which challenges RIOC's interpretation of the Island's General Development Plan in the siting of the development's first three buildings, has been pending for months, with the start of serious construction delayed throughout that period.

A championship a capella vocal group, The Accidentals, will perform December 22 as part of the Youth Program's celebration of Christmas that day. The group has performed with the Brooklyn Philharmonic. The free concert is slated for 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at PS/IS 217.

Subway=F

Roosevelt Island's subway service becomes consistently the **F** train tomorrow. It's a long-awaited resolution of a hodge-podge of **S**, **Q**, **F**, and **B** service cobbled together around construction concerns over the last couple of years.

The **F** line will provide service through Rockefeller Center down Sixth Avenue, and eastward past Roosevelt Avenue out to 179th Street.

Merchants Give Incentives for Blood Drive

Island merchants have pitched in to give a boost to the January 5 Blood Drive being conducted by the Residents Association and the Icla da Silva Foundation.

Blood donors will be given a coupon good through January 12 for any one of the following items:

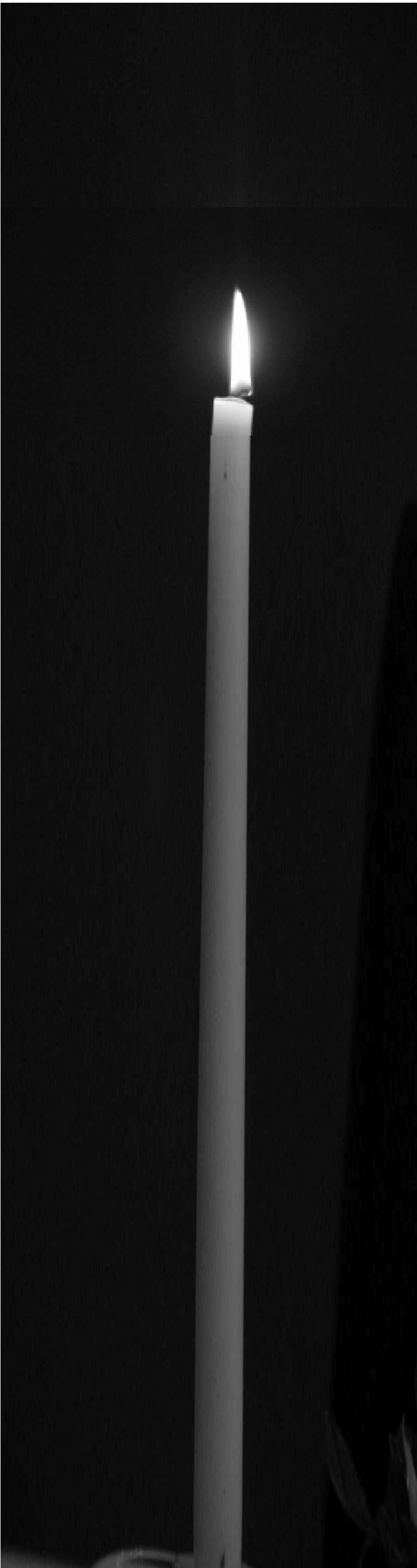
- A milkshake from Trellis
- A can of tennis balls from the Racquet Club
- A free slice and soda from Capri Pizza
- A free drink from the Back Page
- \$5 off cleaning from Roosevelt Island Cleaners
- 50% off any item from the Thrift Shop
- A Lotto and a Take 5 lottery ticket from the Corner Shop
- A free classified ad, up to 20 words, in *The WIRE* in any issue, January through March.

Residents willing to donate blood for the critical post-New Year's period are asked to call **593-1807** or sign up on-line at www.icla.org/signup.

The goal is 100 pints. By press time, about 65 donors had signed up.

Happy Holidays to All from *The Main Street WIRE* and **Website NYC10044** www.nyc10044.com

The Editorial Page



Something less than a thousand words about pictures...

This issue of *The WIRE* is heavy on images. It’s appropriate for this marvelously visual season.

Main Street is ablaze with decorative light – the work of a determined Julie Palermo, head of the Chamber of Commerce, who rounded up the contributions necessary to rent the lights and have them installed. See page 10.

At the Main Street Theatre, the annual fundraiser is in a series of performances that end this weekend – a musical revue called *We’re Not Doing a Show*. It’s worth seeing for Bob McDowell’s clever opening number alone, but the evening continues with your neighbors singing and dancing their way through the season and into your hearts. See the photos, page 14, and the ComingUp listing on page 3 – or better yet, just call the Theatre at 371-4449 to see what seats remain available.

Wednesday night at the Chapel, Cabrini Parish put on its annual Christmas Pageant, with a couple of dozen charming urchins going through their carefully memorized paces to tell the story of Christmas.

island observer

Some are pictured on page 16, but alas, it’s too late to see it and hear the singing in person.

Those children, their faces alight with the glow of Christmas or the fear of error in a first performance, are what photography is all about. The earnest efforts of the players across Main Street (and behind the video store) as they work their theatrical magic – that’s what photography is all about. Or those lights, glistening against a winter-dark sky, announcing the season – that’s what photography is all about.

The picture, however many words it may be worth, has upon occasion an eloquence that cannot be attained in mere verbiage. Exhibits A through Z are all the meanings you can find in that candle at the left edge of this page.

The regret, in fact, is that we can’t use many more of the photographs that were available – of the performances and the lights and other Island events. On the other hand, there is the opportunity to use them, sooner or later, in color, on *Website NYC10044* at www.nyc10044.com where the space limitations aren’t anywhere near as severe.

It is *The WIRE*’s good fortune that so many Island photographers now have digital cameras – and carry them – and get shots that otherwise just might not be available. Even so, there are so many we cannot use. This issue, for example, there were terrific photos of Tex Allen and his group in performance at the Chapel, taken by Susheel Kurian, and a shot of the Tram undergoing repairs, taken from the Queensboro Bridge by Larry Parnes – and several not used for lack of time or space.

After Christmas, there should be several more digital cameras in the hands of residents, and we look forward to having your shots by e-mail (Editor@MainStreetWIRE.com) for possible use here. Would that we could print them all.

The WIRE wishes you a picture-perfect holiday season.

DL

A page 1 caption in the December 1 issue of *The WIRE* gave the wrong day for the UN Singers concert. (The *ComingUp* listing on page 3 was correct.) We apologize for any inconvenience.

Letters

To Gristede’s:

I am writing to you as one local business owner to another business owner on Roosevelt Island. Two weeks ago I visited Gristede’s and was pleased to see all the improvements that had been made. It had become a much more attractive place to shop and, as in the past, there was a good selection. I realized that you had made a big investment, so I thought to myself, “Maybe I should do most of my shopping here instead of Queens even though the prices here can be higher.” I even said a quick prayer on your behalf because I want to see your business succeed.

Then I was deeply saddened to learn that the Farmer’s Market was to be relocated due to the “exclusion zone.” This decision did not seem neighborly, particularly since the original Gristede’s Megastore threatened a number of small businesses on Roosevelt Island; I still feel the loss of the independent Bigelow’s Drug Store for a number of reasons. Therefore, one must question the justice of potentially hurting a small business which has meant so much to the community and has contributed to making Roosevelt Island a nicer place to live. The possible relocation sites seem less adequate due to the lack of shelter and one must keep in mind that the Farmer’s Market operates only seven hours, once a week.

It is important for all of us who are in business to do what is right, especially if we want our businesses to be blessed. I would urge you to reconsider your decision.

Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.

To the Editor:

Weeks ago, they installed a set of two bumps on River Road, between 20 and 30. The purpose is obviously to prevent accidents in this area with supposedly high volume of pedestrian traffic. (Well, not as high as the traffic we get on the southwest bend of River Road, of people walking from the bus stop to 20 River Road... but that’s another story.)

I’m a little annoyed seeing people avoiding these bumps (both left and right wheels) by driving over the sidewalk. I am appalled to see that Public Safety patrol cars are doing this on a regular basis, and not on the river side, but on the park-side sidewalk (where there’s little clearance for anybody who would be on the sidewalk). And I’ve seen them doing it on rainy nights, where visibility is limited and people might be running from the park to their home for shelter, through this – *Hello?* – supposedly safe path.

I think they should show some decency and provide an example of safe driving.

Bertrand Legault

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:

By e-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com (ASCII text preferred or use any word-processing software, but no MSWord files with macros), or PC-standard 3.5-inch floppy disk left at 531 Main Street for *The WIRE*. 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 Jan. 12 issue: Jan. 7
Letters received after deadline will be considered on a space-available basis

The WIRE
Published by The Main Street WIRE
©2001 Unisource2000™ Inc.
531 Main St. #413, NYC10044

News (212) 826-9055
Urgent news 1-917-353-1647
Advertising (212) 751-8214
Circulation (212) 935-7534
Fax (212) 755-2540
e-mail Editor@MainStreetWIRE.com
in association with Website NYC10044
www.nyc10044.com

Managing Editor – Dick Lutz
Chief Feature Writer – Anusha Shrivastava
Reporters – Robert Laux-Bachand, Gabrielle Parnes
Ombudsman – Armand Schwab – 838-3184
Chief Proofreader – Kay Thompson
Proofreader – Linda Heimer
Chief Photographer – Margery Rubin
Photographers – Vicki Feinmel, Susheel Kurien
Advertising Manager – Ellen Levy
Circulation Managers – George Rubin, Sherie Helstien
Circulation Assistant – Dexter Benjamin
Founding Publisher – Jack Resnick
Editor Emeritus – Jim Bowser

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, Valerie Davis, Robin Day, Jenny Olivera DelMastro, 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 Tsreshkin, 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

Fri., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., **A Christmas Concert** with tenor Daniel Rodriguez and the cast of *Broadway Magic*, Chapel of the Good Shepherd; fund-raiser for Chapel organ. Tickets \$20; \$15 for seniors and disabled. Information and tickets: **751-1347**.

Fri.-Mon., Dec. 14-17, times vary, **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. Friday, 8:00 p.m.; Sat., 6:00 and 9:00 p.m.; Sun. & Mon., 7:30 p.m. Tickets: **371-4449**.

Sat., Dec. 15, 11:00 a.m., **Memorial Service for FDNY Deputy Chief Raymond Downey**, SS Cyril & Methodious R.C. Church, 125 Half Hollow Road, Deer Park, NY 11729. For information on visitation Thur., Dec. 13 and Fri., Dec. 14, call Boyd-Caratozzolo Funeral Home, **1-631-667-8614**; for directions to memorial service, call **1-631-667-4044**.

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

Every Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., **Children's Picture Book Hour**, Library.

Thur., Dec. 20, 9:30 a.m., **Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation Board of Directors Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. The Board will go into executive session at 9:30; session open to the public is expected to resume at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Sat., Dec. 22, 12:00 noon, **Beacon Program Christmas Parade** with Santa and Rudolph, from Blackwell House; followed by...

Sat., Dec. 22, 1:00 p.m., **Magic Al**, magician performance, PS217 auditorium, presented by the Beacon Program. Free.

Sat., Dec. 22, 7:00 p.m., **The Accidentals** in a Beacon Program concert of Christmas and seasonal music, PS217 auditorium. Free.

Mon., Dec. 31, 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m., **Roosevelt Island's New Year's Eve Big-Band Dance Party**

featuring, on-stage, the live music of **The Ray Abrams Big Band** under the baton of Ervin Simpson, presented by River Music, the PTA of PS 217, and *The Main Street WIRE*; Manhattan Park Theater Club. **Only 200 tickets available.** Price reduced to \$25 per person (no dinner), benefiting the PTA and River Music. Cash bar. Call **223-1975, 339-0016**, or ***82-588-0388**.

2002

Sat., Jan. 5, all day, **Blood Drive**, Senior Center, sponsored by RIRA, the Icla da Silva Foundation, and the New York Blood Center. Sign up at www.icla.org/signup, on Saturdays at the Farmer's Market, or by calling **593-1807**.

Wed., Jan. 9, 8:00 p.m., **Residents Association Common Council Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Fri., Jan. 11, 10:00-11:30 a.m., **Adult Computer Class: Basic Internet**, Library. Pre-registration required; call **308-6243**; limit of four in class.

Sat., Jan. 12, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Jan. 4; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Jan. 7, with materials due Thur., Jan. 10. **Future issues** generally every two weeks as follows: Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Feb. 23, Mar 9, Mar 23, Apr. 6, Apr. 20, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15, June 29 (Fourth of July issue), July 27 (reduced summer schedule), Aug 24, Sept. 7, Sept. 21, Oct. 5, Oct. 19, Nov. 2 (pre-election issue), Nov. 9, Nov. 23, Dec. 14 (holiday issue). **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.

Sat., Jan. 12, 10:00 a.m.-12 noon, **Adult Computer Class: Introduction to Microsoft Word**. Pre-registration required; call **308-6243**; limit of four in class.

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

Thur., Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m., **Nuts & Bolts of Writing Fiction** with Island novelist Gwynne Forster, Library. Pre-registration required; call **308-6243**.

Elaine Lewis

A 12-year resident of Roosevelt Island, Elaine Cleoda Brathwaite Lewis, died November 12. She was known as "Grandma" to many here.

She was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Francis Brathwaite of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. After attending the Abraham Lincoln School in Charlotte Amalie,



she parted briefly with her infant daughter to seek a better life in New York. She was married briefly in 1935 to James Lewis.

She worked in the garment district, then in retailing at May's, and later Bloomingdale's, from which she retired in 1988.

She became a resident of Roosevelt Island, at 2 River Road, in January, 1989, when the building opened.

According to her granddaughter, Alexis Maria Culpepper, Elaine Brathwaite Lewis enjoyed life on Roosevelt Island, including the Farmer's Market, Trellis, summer bazaars outside the Chapel, and the Halloween parade.

She died at Lenox Hill Hospital. She is survived by her daughter, Leona, grandchildren Terence and Alexis, sisters Rose and Olympia, nieces, nephews, many friends; and David, her "adopted" grandson and neighbor, who was especially kind to her and whom she especially loved.

Last Saturday, during the first cold snap of the season, several Common Council Members set up shop under a tent at the Farmer's Market. We made a first effort at signing up blood donors, and thirty-five of you responded to the call. Thank you, and keep 'em coming.

Last Tuesday, Julie Palermo, president of the Roosevelt Island Chamber of Commerce, invited me to address the members. I asked our shop owners to provide some incentives for blood donation. They came through in spades! When you give blood on January 5, you will be presented with a coupon listing the many merchants offering goods and services for free or at reduced prices. Choose the one that fits your needs and cash it in. Many thanks to Julie and our participating merchants (see the page 1 story for details).

Mea culpa, I gave you some wrong info in my last column. The correct phone number to register for the January 5 blood drive at the Icla da Silva Foundation is **593-1807**. Sorry 'bout that! We still need helping hands to sign up donors. Please call me at **935-7534** if you have a bit of time free and can help publicize the effort and encourage pledges. And remember, you can register to give blood on-line at www.icla.org/signup. What could be easier?

RIRA hosted the Roosevelt Island Chamber of Commerce, representing Island merchants, at our Common Council meeting last week. The flap over Gristede's exercising its legal prerogatives over Wengerd Farms, our farmer's market, has disturbed the merchants and residents alike. It has awakened ongoing and festering dissatisfaction with Gristede's service and prices and prompted a spate of letters and e-mails to John Catsimatidis, owner of Gristede's. In his detailed response to these complaints, he offered to meet with the community at a Town Meeting. I called Catsimatidis to arrange such a meeting, but he pled social and travel commitments through the New Year. However, he pledged to leave Wengerd Farms where they've always been, under Motorgate, until he meets with the community; certainly a gracious gesture. I'll try again for a Town Meeting with Catsimatidis in January, and I hope you will bring your comments and complaints, but in a spirit of conciliation, not vituperation. The goal is to improve Gristede's relations with us, not to alienate them.

P.S. Here's a rhetorical question: We live in the most diverse community in the most diverse city in the world. Thirty-five per cent of Roosevelt Island's population is foreign nationals, with most working at the United Nations or at the UN missions that service them. So, how come only two of the sixty or so kids who rang my doorbell on Halloween requested money for UNICEF? When I was a kid in Brooklyn, every other child carried a cardboard box for nickels and dimes that went to UNICEF. Are kids today not taught about responsibility and their place in the world? Anyway, if you plan to send cards this year, I recommend the UNICEF cards, carried by some banks and other outlets around the City, to you. They are far and away the most attractive around, and it is a *mitzvah*, a blessing, to buy them, as the purchase supports United Nations efforts for children around the world.

I wish you the joys of the season and a happy and successful, and especially a peaceful, New Year. Thanks for reading my stuff. God willing and the dam don't break, I'll continue to clutter this column in 2002.

The RIRA Column



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

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 Lan-**

guage (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

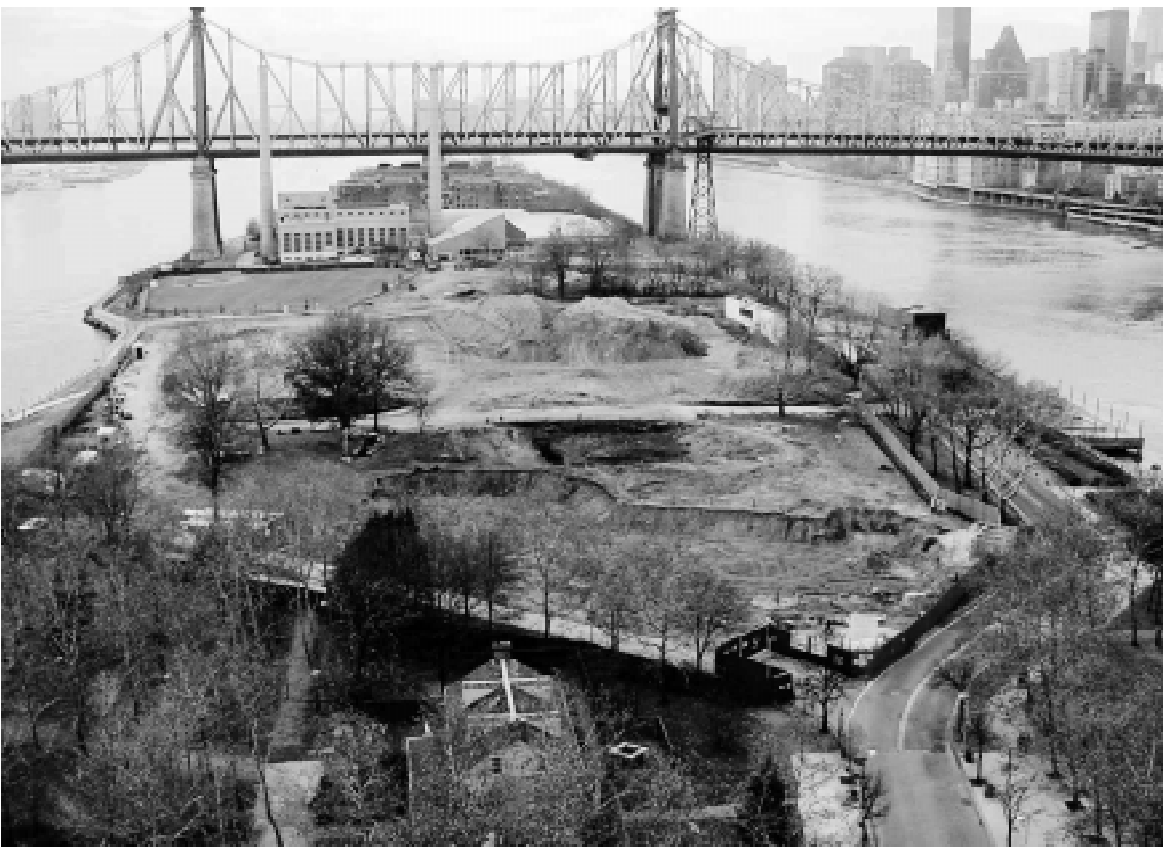
Mon., Dec. 17, 10:00 a.m., Health Lecture, Blood Pressure Screening

Sat., Dec. 22, 6:00 p.m., Holiday Party

Mon., Dec. 31, 7:00 p.m., New Year's Eve Party

Thur., Jan. 10, various times, Cardio Vision Screening. Limited availability – call 980-1888 for appointment.

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



Southtown status: Work at the Southtown site appears slow to stalled as contending sides in a challenge now on appeal before the State Supreme Court await word on the outcome of the suit. A pit has been dug roughly indicating the outline of the first building scheduled to be built; its edges can be seen in this photo enhanced to make its outlines clear.

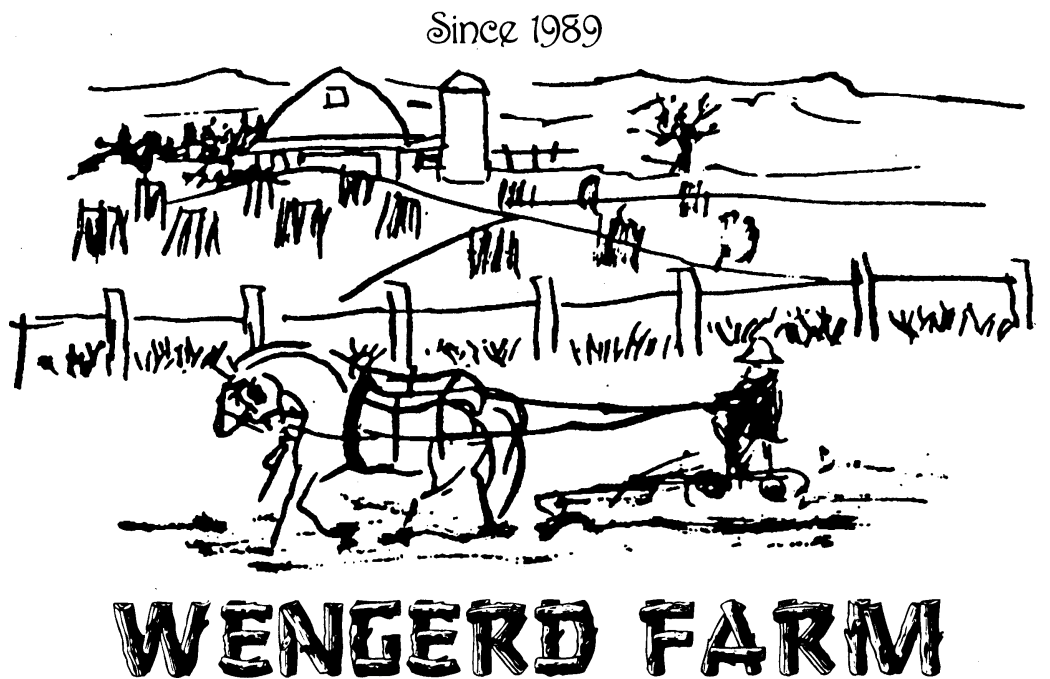
The
**Farmers
Market**

wishes you and yours a

*Joyous Holiday Season
Happy New Year*

Holiday Pies, Breads, Jams & Jellies ♦ Fresh Vegetables of the Highest Quality

As always, Thank you for shopping with us every Saturday. Open Saturdays before Christmas and New Year's



Watson town, Pa.

Become a Foster Parent



Sheltering Arms

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

SINCE 1951



RESTORATION
SERVICE INC.

144-67 Northern Blvd.
Flushing, NY 11354

718-463-3800

**Wheelchair and
Scooter Service**

Your authorized repair & sales
experts. Fast pick-up and delivery.

Serving the New York
Community for 51 Years



The Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance
wishes our friends and neighbors

peaceful & Joyous Holidays



We offer classes in
DRAMA, DANCE & FITNESS.
Our winter/spring semester
begins in January.
Scholarships are available.

For information **CALL 371-4449**

Our entrance is located behind the video store.

The MST&DA programs are brought to you in part by public funds
from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

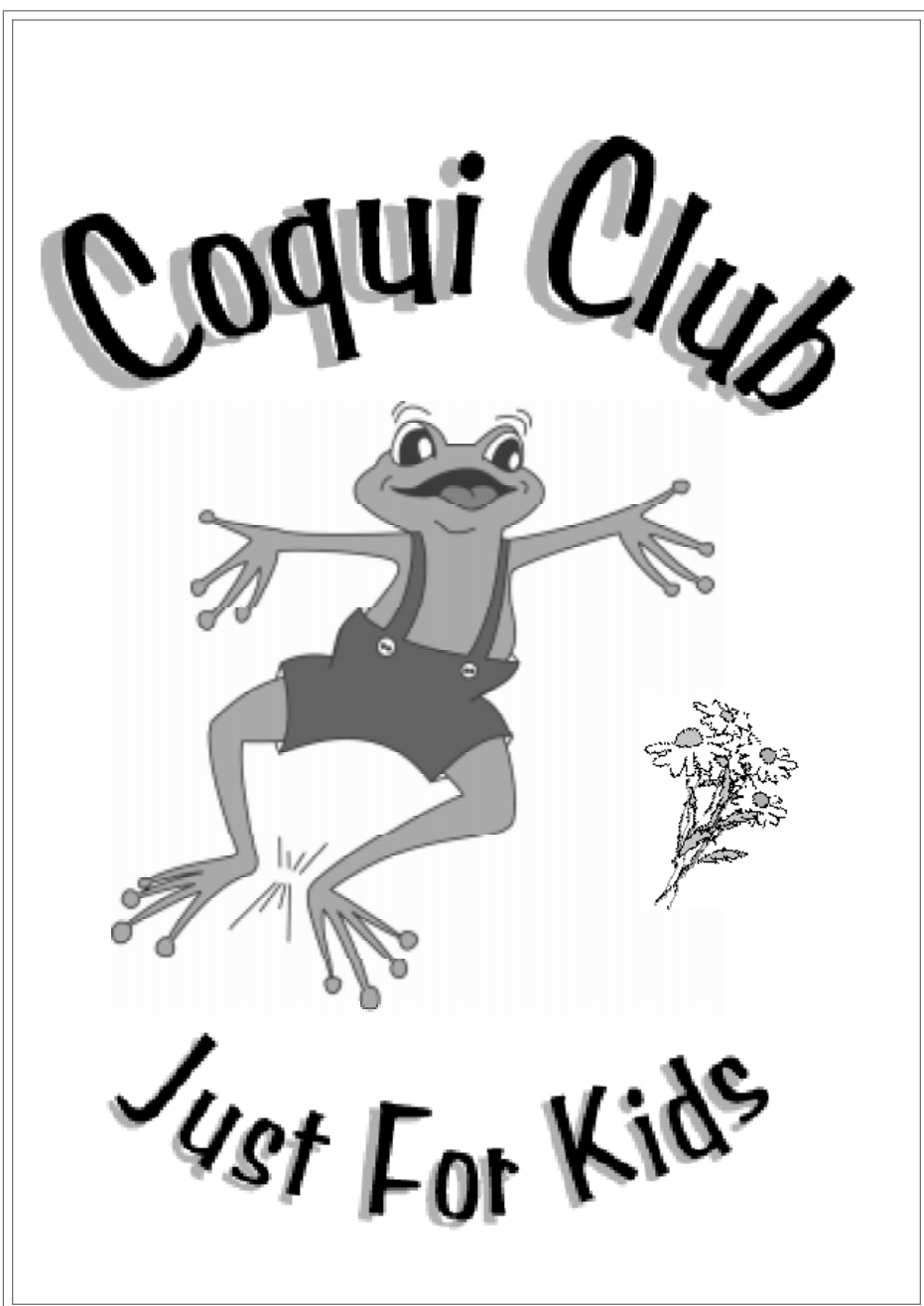
Should a kid have a savings passbook?
Can a kid have a savings passbook?
Can a kid open an account with
as little as \$5.00?

Yes! Yes! and Yes!

but only at

NEW YORK NATIONAL BANK

619 Main Street
212-319-0029



Opening Requirements

- Available for children 17 years old or younger; no minimum age but the child must be old enough to sign his/her name.
- Child must have a Social Security Number and must sign the IRS required certification – Form W-9.
- Parent or Guardian must sign a Guarantee/Consent Form enabling the child to make his/her own deposits and withdrawals.

Account Ownership

- The account is owned by the child, and withdrawals may be made solely by the child.
- 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.
- No fees for active account.
- 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.

Interest

- Interest rate will be equal to the regular passbook rate.
- Interest is calculated daily and is credited and compounded quarterly.



NEW YORK NATIONAL BANK
MEMBER FDIC

*Banking Where Banking Wouldn't Be.
Bankers Like Bankers Used To Be.*

Market from page 1

Manhattan Mega Store (that’s the official Gristede’s spelling). On the other side are residents who regard the Farmer’s Market as an Island institution that must be protected.

There is no shortage of third parties: The Island PTA, which depends on Wengerd as its main source of revenue under a vending permit granted to the PTA by the Roosevelt Island Operating Corp.; some Main Street merchants, who feel powerless to compete against Gristede’s; RIOC itself, which collects rent and enforces lease provisions; the Roosevelt Island Residents Association, which heard some talk of a boycott at a meeting last week; and, ultimately, the Island’s consumers, a population that ebbs and flows each day with the comings and goings of residents and the Island work force.

Gristede’s roiled these waters last month by telling RIOC it wanted to enforce part of its lease that creates an exclusion zone for fresh foods. No one contested the company’s right to invoke this provision, and Wengerd made an extra trip from Watsonstown, Pennsylvania, to the Island on December 4, a Tuesday, to meet with RIOC President Robert Ryan and select a new site. It would be near the Blackwell

put it in context, how would you feel if your next-door neighbor was not paying rent while you were paying full rent?” he asked in an e-mail to former RIRA secretary Sherie Helstien.

Catsimatidis told *The WIRE* that the situation was akin to that of a pushcart operator who pulls up in front of a grocery store and sells bananas for 29 cents a pound, while the store sells them for 49 cents. The pushcart is cheaper because the vendor has little overhead, he said, while the store has to pay taxes, insurance, employee benefits, and all the other expenses of running a business.

“We all must pay our fair share of the costs of running Roosevelt Island and the city,” he said in his e-mail.

According to RIOC, Gristede’s is paying \$13,233 per month rent on its Mega Store, plus \$2,406 on the space in Rivercross formerly occupied by the Bigelow pharmacy, which became part of Gristede’s three years ago. These payments amount to about 28.5 percent of the commercial rental income that RIOC has budgeted for the current fiscal year.

Catsimatidis denied that Gristede’s decision to defer enforcement of the lease provision was made as a result of political pressure. “When you’re in the right, you don’t accept pressure,” he said.

duce market. He also sells packaged chickens, brand-name bacon and sausage, and cheese, butter, eggs, and other items from local Pennsylvania purveyors.

Some of these goods apparently touched off Gristede’s enforcement effort. In the e-mail, Islanders were told: “This all started when [the] flea market started expanding its products being sold.” Catsimatidis’ biggest beef seems to be with the chicken, which is bagged and iced but not commercially brand-labeled: “If I sold chickens on the sidewalk, they’d throw me in jail,” he said, asserting that these sales wouldn’t pass agricultural inspection standards.

Wengerd does not seem bothered by such accusations: “The only meat I do handle, I have a very limited selection, and everything I do carry is prepackaged.” He said that some of his customers told him that Gristede’s real worry wasn’t price, but quality. He gathers his produce from small farms and local purveyors, including a tomato greenhouse, and hauls in Pennsylvania apples from cold storage. Some of the vegetables are from his farm. The cauliflower he was selling Saturday, approaching 29 inches in circumference, was homegrown. “It can take up to 20 degrees” in the field, he said, as the leaves reach around to cover the big heads.



The Farmer’s Market has become something of a Saturday community center. Last weekend, there were tables for the RIRA Blood Drive, New Year’s Eve ticket sales, and gift rocks and gems

House and would be set up to accommodate a tent and electrical connections needed for winter operations.

Erin Feely-Nahem, the PTA president, said that Blackwell would be a good location, especially after Southtown is built, and that Wengerd’s customers – and other vendors who rent tables from the PTA – would follow him to that spot. The switch was to take effect at the beginning of 2002. “He is an integral part of this community,” she said.

But Feely-Nahem conceded that the current site is a better location (the market moves inside the Motorgate atrium in cold weather), and it appears that Wengerd could have saved himself a trip if he had known what a tempest the news of his impending ouster would create when it was reported December 1 in *The WIRE*.

Judith Berdy, whose heads the Island Historical Society but jokingly calls herself “the chief butt kicker of Roosevelt Island,” got things rolling with an e-mail campaign directed at John Catsimatidis, the chairman and chief executive of Gristede’s Foods. “Your efforts to throw the Green Market out of your turf are a disgrace,” she wrote, and then invited 92 other people – everyone from her neighbors to the Governor – to join the effort.

Catsimatidis said he got the message and was unimpressed. “Out of 3,300 apartments, I got eight e-mails and one fax,” he said last Thursday. “I answered every one.”

His e-mail reply dwelled on simple fairness. “To try to

But something happened to alter the company’s stance and, if it wasn’t the e-mails, perhaps it was the flurry of calls and letters that the store itself received on that first weekend in December. The manager, Adrian Ramirez, said the complaints from residents were that Gristede’s “was trying to put the small guys out of business.” He brought the complaints to his management meeting in midweek.

Catsimatidis subsequently told RIRA president Matthew Katz that nothing would be done until he had a chance to attend a meeting with Island residents. “I love the people, I’m willing to do a town meeting,” Catsimatidis told *The WIRE*. He said the situation had gone on so long that another month or two wouldn’t make a difference, especially at a time of year when people were busy with the holidays.

The interim could present an opportunity for fact-checking on both sides. Some of Wengerd’s defenders, for example, have accused Gristede’s of overreacting to the threat of a merchant who comes here for only six or eight hours a week. But Catsimatidis said that Saturday represents almost one-third of a supermarket’s weekly sales.

Catsimatidis’ assertion that Wengerd is getting a free ride is also an exaggeration. The PTA’s fee of \$25 per table for vendors has not gone up for several years, but Wengerd has other expenses, including the truck rental, wages for three employees, and the cost of citrus and other non-local products that he picks up on Friday from the Philadelphia pro-

It is this far-off connection to the land that Wengerd’s patrons here, in high-rise apartments, seem to prize. He has solidified his connection by paying the PTA every week and making seasonal donations of cider and pumpkins and money for various school events.

Feely-Nahem said she appreciates Wengerd’s constancy. “It’s very hard to raise money,” she said, noting that, at a white-elephant sale, “we stood out there all day and made \$168.” She did not mention Catsimatidis’ offer “to substitute any payments that the flea market was making to the PTA.”

She said that Wengerd’s customers would follow him to the Blackwell House, but other Islanders were not so certain. Berdy said, “There’s a magnet that residents in this part of the Island have and it points north,” noting that many customers stop at the Farmer’s Market en route to Motorgate, Gristede’s or the post office.

Katz hopes that the competing interests can be resolved. Although some RIRA Councilors favor a smaller negotiating session with Gristede’s, Katz said, “I am leaning to a town meeting if we can do it in an atmosphere seeking a solution, not in terms of Gristede’s-bashing.”

Catsimatidis himself seemed to favor a broader format. He was asked how he could be assured that a meeting here would reflect his actual customer base. He said there could be no such assurance and that “certain people make believe that they represent a thousand people.”

Gristede's

from page 1

store chain. Now that it is, some Islanders cling to their misgivings, wondering how long the improvements will last and still complaining about prices, even as Gristede's smaller competitors on Main Street worry that the supermarket's gains will come at their expense.

For now, though, Ramirez is enjoying the compliments of shoppers and suppliers. He can't control the pricing – that is handled by Gristede's corporate headquarters in Manhattan – but he does seem to have righted the ship in other respects, and the company says sales are up 25 percent.

"The number one thing was the floor," Ramirez said in an interview last week. He has a cleaner come in six nights a week to mop and buff. "Every day is supposed to be like the grand opening," he said.

The store's work force has also been expanded to about 70 people with the addition of 21 new hires – including six who signed up at a Madison Square Garden job fair held for people left unemployed by the September 11 terrorism. Four of the store's employees live on the Island, including two

cashiers, Ramirez said.

The store manager started with the company in the Red Apple stores in 1975. He has been something of a trouble-shooter over the past five years, assigned to stores with problems. He acknowledged that Roosevelt Island is not the most popular destination for company employees, because it's hard to get to. Ramirez commutes from Hastings-on-Hudson, which is north of Yonkers.

How long will he stay? That is the sort of question that bothers some longtime residents. Judith Berdy, the Island's historian, said, "He's cleaned it up, but will it last?"

"We're very skeptical," she said, noting that after 24 years on the island, "you take nothing for granted." She is still on the prowl for outdated merchandise, but noted that a new set of shopping carts had replaced ones that she described as dirty.

Matthew Katz, president of the Residents Association, said that "prices, service, and quality of personnel" were among the concerns that he hoped Gristede's would deal with at a possible town meeting.

Patrick Stewart, a resident member of the Roosevelt Is-

land Operating Corporation Board, brings a trained eye to the aisles, because he spent much of his career in the food trade, working for Nabisco and Best Foods, and in food-related advertising.

Stewart said that the management "has done a laudable job. The store, compared to a month ago, is a hell of a lot better." But he viewed the store's efforts as largely a "rearrangement," saying he has not seen a significant change in prices or quality, aside from the special offers associated with the Grand Opening promotion. He questioned whether the Island's customers are receiving the full benefit of manufacturers' discounts, and he criticized the store's delivery surcharges as excessive, especially for elderly residents.

"This store has a captive audience and that captive audience is the seniors and the disabled people who cannot get off the Island" and shop elsewhere, he said.

Another captive audience – the Island's other merchants – are also keeping a close eye on Gristede's, because whatever it does has the potential to affect their income.

Julie Palermo, owner of the Back Page bar and president

See **Gristede's**, page 12



Gristede's new café at its Island store has a view of the Roosevelt Island Bridge

Gristede's and John Catsimatidis – By the Numbers

Roosevelt Island's biggest store is a small part of the holdings of John A. Catsimatidis, a New York businessman who could be called a one-man conglomerate.

The Mega Store is owned by Gristede's Foods Inc., a publicly traded company (AMEX symbol: GRI) that operates 42 supermarkets (down one since September 11), two pharmacy stores, and a produce company. Sales for the quarter ending September 2 were \$53.6 million.

Total employment in early 2001 was 1,533, including 139 in executive offices, according to the company's most recent annual report. Less than half of the employees worked full-time; the supermarkets employed 498 full-time workers.

The company had more than 19.6 million shares of common stock outstanding on October 30, and a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission shows that Catsimatidis, the chairman, president, and chief executive officer, owned nearly 18.6

million, or more than 90 percent. The stock opened Thursday at \$1.15; its 52-week range is 92 cents to \$1.70.

By certain measures, the stockholders have not done all that well. The SEC requires companies to calculate a five-year cumulative total return and compare it to market and industry performance. One hundred dollars invested on March 3, 1996, in the corporation now known as Gristede's Foods, would have been worth \$29.32 on December 3, 2000. The company reported a loss of \$472,895 in its most recent quarter, which reflected a typical summer slump; the two previous quarters were profitable. There is no dividend.

But the raw numbers show only part of the picture. The bulk of Catsimatidis' shares, nearly 12.5 million, were held by corporations he controlled, and several of Gristede's business relationships were with subsidiaries, affiliates and companies controlled by Catsimatidis. For example, one section of a

recent SEC filing shows that Gristede's leased store equipment, warehouse space and four supermarkets from companies owned by Catsimatidis. Until early this year, a company owned by Catsimatidis also provided advertising services, which cost \$1.3 million in fiscal 2000.

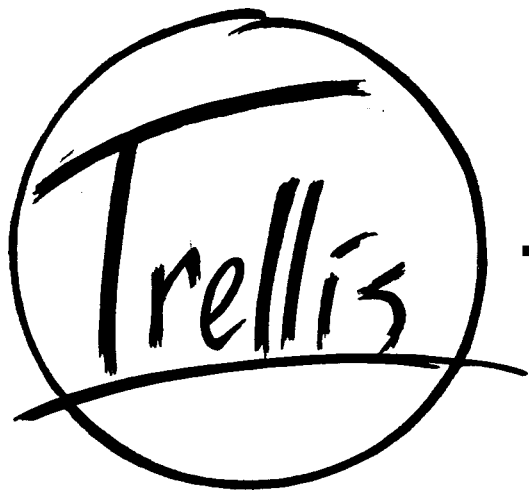
Gristede's corporate home on 11th Avenue is the headquarters of Catsimatidis' Red Apple Group Inc., a \$1 billion company that is ranked 250th this year in the Forbes Private 500. Catsimatidis is CEO of Red Apple, a holding company that controls Gristede's, United Refining Company (an oil refiner and retailer – KwikFill gas stations in three states), and is also engaged in real estate.

Catsimatidis has held his title with Gristede's Food and its predecessor corporations since 1988, 20 years after it began as a public company. It has been listed on the American Stock Exchange since 1972. The corporate entity's business until 1992 was jewelry and it was known as Designcraft In-

dustries Inc. The corporation changed its name to Sloan's Supermarkets in September 1993 and to Gristede's Sloan's in November 1997, when the grocery chains were merged.

For many years Catsimatidis did not draw a salary from the corporation. That changed in November 1997, when his salary was set at \$100,000.

The company's annual report says that the merger "has enabled it to achieve the critical mass necessary to execute its future growth strategy." It has allocated millions of dollars to remodeling stores and starting new ones. The Mega Store on Roosevelt Island is part of that effort, and Catsimatidis told *The WIRE* that the company plans to open five or six stores next year, including one in the area of 167th Street, near Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. With about 20,000 square feet, that store will rival the Roosevelt Island store in the amount of selling space.



*May your holiday
season be full of
peace and love and
the light of
understanding*

See you at Trellis...

752-1517

*At the heart of the community,
next to the historic Chapel of the Good Shepherd*

**Trellis: 6:00 a.m. to midnight,
7 days every week. We also deliver.**

CABRINI

CATHOLIC

CHRISTMAS TIME

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 22
5:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 23
8:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 24
8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 25
8:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29
5:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 30
8:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 31
5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 1
11:15 a.m.



**COLER/GOLDWATER
SPECIALTY HOSPITAL
&
NURSING FACILITY**

**WISHES YOU
HEALTHY HOLIDAYS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*Peace on Earth
And in Your Home
This Holiday Season*

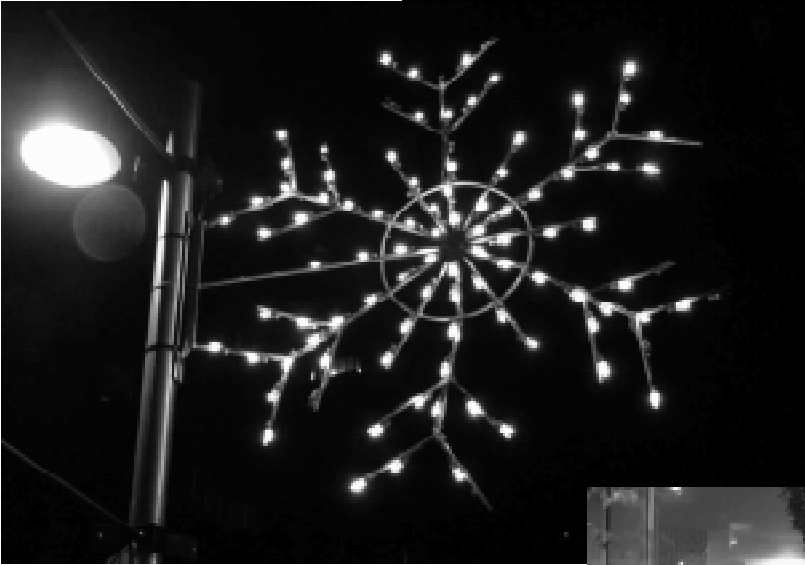
**From the Staff of
Roosevelt Island Housing Management**

**MTA full
page
cameraready
in hand**

Roosevelt Island Dressed Up...

...for the season over the last couple of weeks, thanks to the efforts of The Chamber of Commerce, Housing Management, the Youth Program, and several merchants.

Photos by Vicki Feinmel and Website NYC10044
www.nyc10044.com



What Are You Doing
New Year's Eve?

River Music
The PS/IS 217 PTA
The Main Street WIRE

proudly present

Roosevelt Island's

New Year's Eve

Big Band Dance Party

featuring the classic big-band-era music of

The Ray Abrams Big Band

under the baton of Ervin Simpson



The 18-piece
Ray Abrams Big Band
played July 4, 2000,
in a WIRE-sponsored concert
in Good Shepherd Plaza

Monday, December 31, 9:00 p.m. to 12:55 a.m.,
Manhattan Park Theater Club, 8 River Road

Gentlemen in jacket and tie, please

Donation benefits River Music and the PS/IS 217 PTA

Total now just \$25 per person

Cash bar (also benefits PTA)

Tickets available from the PTA Saturday mornings at the Farmer's Market
or call

223-1975, 339-0016, or *82-588-0388

Only 200 tickets available.

Tram Repairs May Go Past Target Date of December 20

Vincent Kopicki, chief engineer for the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, said late Thursday that it's uncertain whether repairs and maintenance work now being done on the Tramway would be completed by December 20, the date originally estimated.

Work began November 24. It includes replacement of the ropes, rehabilitation of brake assemblies, and extensive inspections. RIOC officials said the elevator at the Manhattan station is also being repaired.

The work is being carried out under the direction of the tram operator, American Tramways Inc., a unit of the Doppelmayr group of Austria.

Kopicki said it appeared that additional parts, not foreseen when the work started, are being replaced. Some of these parts have to be made in Switzerland, where the tram was built. Kopicki said it is still possible that the original date for resumption of service will be met, but he was anticipating a delay of several days. The most important thing, he added, is that everything is 100 percent safe before service resumes.



Margery Rubin

Gristede's from page 7; starts on page 1

of the 24-member Island Chamber of Commerce, said it was "very unfair" that Gristede's had been able to move into formerly lease-protected businesses such as stationery and flowers. She said some merchants have been caught in a cost-revenue bind because of increased competition, insufficient resident population, and more aggressive efforts by RIOC to collect steadily-escalating commercial rents.

"They had a dream when they started these businesses," she said. "They don't want to give up and they shouldn't have to."

Tony Moccia, who has operated the Capri Restaurant & Pizzeria for seven years, made a presentation last week to the Common Council of the Residents Association, dealing specifically with Gristede's in the aftermath of the company's effort to displace the Farmer's Market.

"He doesn't need to take it out on the little guy if he knows his business," Moccia told *The WIRE*, referring to Gristede's principal owner, John Catsimatidis. In this view, Gristede's ought to forgo some specialty items like newspapers, as a matter of fairness, and concentrate on competing with its off-Island counterparts such as Trade Fair in Queens. In fact, he suggested that Catsimatidis spend a week standing on the Red Bridge watching cars, so he could see how many grocery bags they were bringing back.

"Why do those people have to cross the bridge? There's a big question mark. Why? Saving money!" Moccia said. "There's nothing else: Macaroni over here, macaroni over there, tomatoes over here, tomatoes over there, the only difference is, I get three for one dollar and I get one for one dollar."

"You think moms don't look at that?" Moccia asked. "If she gets a hundred dollars from her husband to spend, everything she saves is her money, isn't that true? She never returns the change!"

In effect, Moccia's argument appears to be that Gristede's should compete on price, while the smaller merchants should concentrate on service, which he said the residents

here expect: "This is a special place and we're going to get treated special. That's it, the bottom line."

Historically, however, Gristede's has never been just about price. The store founded in 1888 by Diedrich and Charles Gristede at Second Avenue and 42nd Street, "close by the fine estates along the East River" offered the best that money could buy, according to a company history.

In this account, on the company's website, "Gristede's is a modern supermarket chain still serving an upscale carriage trade." One of its specialty stores even made it into *The New York Times* last year when it started advertising and taking coupons, and put up racks of chips in addition to ten kinds of caviar.

Thus, the new gourmet deli section on the Island is very much in keeping with the company's roots. But Ramirez says the design has the added benefit of making it much easier for people in wheelchairs to shop. The products are within easy reach, he said, and those customers appreciate it.

Ramirez, in his short time here, has gotten to know a many-layered constituency. He briefly interrupted an interview last Friday to handle a phone call from a customer who wanted him to personally take his order. He took a Farmer's Market complaint letter from a customer, put it in his shirt pocket, and told her that he would pass it along to the top management. And he made the observation that the nearby Farmer's Market trade "works both ways" — that some customers only visit Gristede's on Saturday after shopping at the market and buy certain specialty items.

He's even reaching out to visitors who do not spend any money at all — the Island's children. A life-sized mechanical Holstein, head sticking out of a little barn, emits a loud "Moo" upon the push of a button.

Ramirez said it's just for fun, and the children enjoy it. But, this being New York, no good deed goes unpunished. The store manager said vegetarians complained to him that he had stuck the cow in the meat aisle.

PS 217 from page 1

vanced activities than the others.

"I want to provide extras rather than labels," said Gregory. "In speaking with the parents, I know that many children have close friendships and that they may all like to stay together because they have been together in pre-school. In that case, how do we decide that two friends should be in an accelerated section even if one is not eligible or that two children who have the right scores but are not friends are put in the same class?"

Gregory pointed out that socialization is so large a part of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten that it is important to keep friends together. "Maintaining friendships and keeping up self-esteem is important because, if you feel good about where you are, you will achieve more."

PS 217's middle school offers an accelerated program, but this is the first time the program will be offered in the lower grades. The decision to start this program was made because the principal and staff found that, while parents were very pleased with the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs, they were having their kids tested for the gifted programs being offered elsewhere in the City's public schools.

"I want to be able to provide whatever the parents are hoping for," said Gregory. "I want to provide all the extra perks that attract parents to move to other schools. Establishing this program will help keep Roosevelt Island's school *the Roosevelt Island school*."

Parents whose children are in the pre-kindergarten program currently are very excited at the news of the gifted program. It may actually help them decide in favor of keeping their child on the Island.

"We are currently deciding whether to take Sarah out of the public school and try for a private school," said Muli Torkornoo, whose four-year-old daughter attends the pre-kindergarten program. "We like the program at the school. There is a very nurturing atmosphere in the classroom, the kids love it and they learn through play."

"I am concerned about what I hear about the older children who appear aggressive. If the school can assure us that they can keep a handle on this and the gifted program is offered, we may keep Sarah right here."

"I would much rather my son stay here," said Bridget Johnston, mother of four-year-old Jordan, who is in pre-K, too. "I chose the public school because it is right across the street from me. We had a group of six

kids who had been together in Learning Group at Island Kids. All the parents had a meeting and we decided we would keep our kids together at the public school."

Happy about their decision, the group likes the fact that all six friends are together. However, they are all wary of the higher grades and the fact that these young kids are exposed to pre-teens and teenagers whose behavior is unacceptable to them.

"We love the program and the way our kids are encouraged to learn in a fun environment. But at lunch, they get yelled at to hurry up along with older kids. This is not conducive to children's learning at such a young age. The disciplinarians need to address the older kids strongly but our kids get yelled at for nothing," said Johnston.

The gifted program would be a factor in Johnston's decision to let her son continue at the school. "I don't necessarily believe in a separate program for kids this age," said Johnston, a native of Southern California where such programs are not introduced until middle school. "But New York is a different animal."

Forty-eight children are currently enrolled in the pre-kindergarten program. More than seventy are enrolled in the kindergarten program. Every effort is being made to keep these students in the school and to keep the numbers growing.

This September, only two students who had attended the pre-K program at PS/IS 217 left for off-Island schools. Alexander Enock, 5, is one of them. His mother, Gina Enock, said the decision to pull him out of the public school was not easy. "It seemed like such a good program. It was the next step from Learning Group at Island Kids. It was available right here on the Island and all his friends were attending so it was a natural progression from his pre-school."

"We knew that we would pull him out eventually so that he could be in a more multi-cultural environment and he got accepted into a private school so we switched. I think that for the younger classes the school is great but as the children grow up, I hear stories of a lack of discipline and an unruly environment."

While a program that provides for gifted students may serve as a magnet at PS/IS 217, it's clear that some parents feel that better discipline in the higher grades may be a key to making it fully effective in holding Island children in the Island's school.

How's Your Cellular Phone Service?

The WIRE is considering a Comparison Shopper report on cellular phone service and costs. If you use a cell phone, we're interested in your experience with reliability of service, dumped calls, availability of service in various locations on Roosevelt Island and elsewhere, and your other comments on the service you use. E-mail comments to editor@mainstreetwire.com or fax them to (212) 755-2540. Please provide a phone number or e-mail address for follow-up.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Our Traditional Candlelight Christmas Service with Choir will take place this Sunday, December 16th, at 8:00 pm in the Main Chapel.

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

- Support and encourage our Island's young people! *Sunday School Christmas Program*, December 23rd at 4:00 pm, Main Chapel. *Nothing will put you in the Christmas spirit like this wonderful program by our terrific young people.*

Please also join us for our regular schedule of Services:

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

Curtis Hart, Interim Vicar – (212) 746-6971



Season's Greetings from the Roosevelt Island Day Nursery

Nursery and Pre-K Programs
for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Plan ahead for next year
and come visit us

4 RIVER ROAD 593-0750

TWIN CAR SERVICE **936-6666**

**We have been providing quality service to
Roosevelt Island residents for over 20 years**

TWIN is licensed by the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission (Base#865)
All drivers are Taxi & Limousine Commission approved
24-hour service, 365 days a year
Service to and from anywhere – Manhattan & Queens our specialty

SERVICE INFORMATION

Hourly rate available
Airport Service
Flat rates from \$12

Accounts Welcome

Comfortable A/C sedans

Hot, Prepared Meals for Senior Citizens on Roosevelt Island

Roosevelt Island Senior Association
delivers hot, prepared meals to older
adults at home.



If you are age 60
or older, have
difficulty preparing
meals and are
homebound, you
may be eligible.

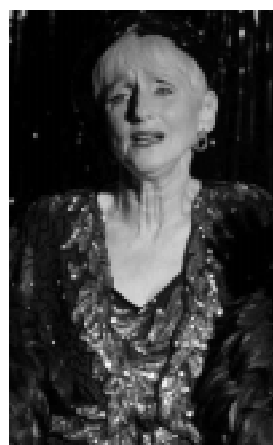
Call (212) 744-5022 ext. 1203

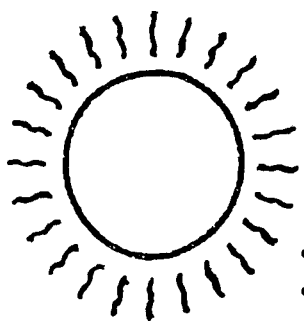
LENOX HILL
NEIGHBORHOOD
House

331 East 70th Street
New York, NY 10021
www.lenoxhill.org

suggested contribution of 75¢ per meal

Scenes from Main Street Theatre's
We're Not Doing a Show – A Musical Revue (continuing this weekend; see ComingUp, page 3)





MOUNT TOM DAY CAMP

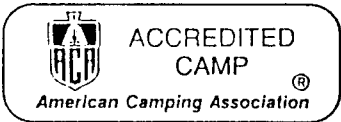
*Serving Discerning Families with Excellence Since 1955...
and Roosevelt Island's Families for Over 20 Years*

- Located Near Pelham Manor
- Door-to-Door Transportation/Short Commute
- Non-Competitive Atmosphere
- All Groups (ages 3-13) led by Professional Educators
- **Early Childhood Program** led by Experienced Mount Tom Day School Staff
- Red Cross Instructional Swim Program
- Music, Drama and Dance
- Tennis Instruction
- Origami and Arts & Crafts
- Skill Development in Team Sports
- Nature/Science Program

**Call Doug Volan or Stan Friedmann, Directors, to enroll,
schedule a visit or for further information.**

914-636-8130

48 Mount Tom Road New Rochelle, NY 10805
Web site: MOUNTTOMDAYCAMP.COM
E-Mail: MTTOMCAMP@AOL.COM



Roosevelt Island Corner Shop

(the card & gift shop)

Season's Greetings

*to all the residents of Roosevelt Island
Thanks for all your support.*

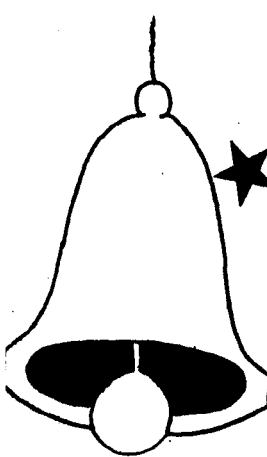
*563 Main Street
688-7928*



from

Rose Associates, Inc.

*Managing Agent for
Rivercross Tenants' Corp.*



ANNUAL

★ **CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE**

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

COME ONE... COME ALL! ★

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16
8 O'CLOCK PM

LET US SING CHRISTMAS

★ **CAROLS**

TOGETHER!

★ REFRESHMENT FOLLOWS

ADESTE FIDELES... ★

ADMISSION FREE

M&D Deli

Happy Holidays
A Happy & Healthy New Year

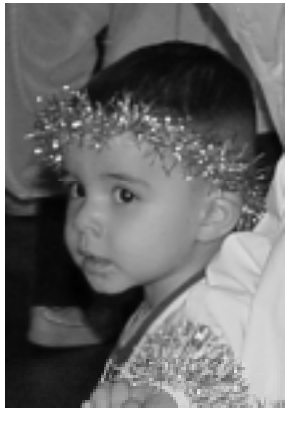
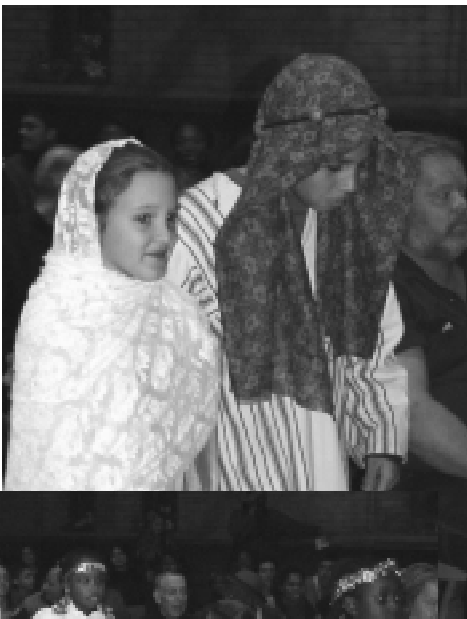
579 Main Street

838-3964

Free Delivery

Scenes from the Cabrini Parish Christmas Pageant

Wednesday night



*Best wishes for the Holidays
and a Happy New Year
from all of us at*



MANHATTAN PARK

ON ROOSEVELT ISLAND

and

Roosevelt Island Associates Inc.

Domenick's
wines & spirits

28-22 Astoria Blvd.at 29th

DECK the HALLS

....with holiday cheer

Celebrate with super values

on wine, champagne, spirits, & cordials

PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH EGGNOG

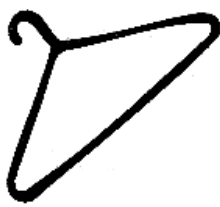
Available at this time of the year only

Absolutely delicious *Just \$6.99*

PH: 718-728-4666

FAX: 718-728-4803

FREE parking behind our store



**Roosevelt
Island
Cleaners**

**BEST WISHES
FOR A JOYOUS
HOLIDAY SEASON**

**758-1778
571 Main Street**

**BRACES
AREN'T FOREVER,
SMILES ARE!**

We offer free orthodontic consultations to children
and adults who are residents of Roosevelt Island.
Please call for an appointment.

Dr. Gerald Sweder and staff
20 years in Island practice

200 W. 57th Street
212 757-2285

501 Main Street
212 752-8722

The **Capri** *Restaurant
&
Pizzeria*

We Deliver
Visit our new Website
www.doric.org

(212) 688-4702

(212) 688-4703

532 Main Street Roosevelt Island, NY

SPORTSWIRE

FLAG FOOTBALL The Jets and the Giants are set to meet today (Saturday, December 15) at noon at the Octagon Soccer Field, for the Championship of the Youth Program’s 12-14 Division. In the opening round of the playoffs held on December 8, the Giants beat the Broncos by a 34-24 score, while the Jets defeated the Raiders, 44-13.

In the first game, the Giants took a 7-0 lead on a Paul Brown TD run and an extra point conversion on a pass from Thomas Herlihy to Jenna Stueber. The Broncos came right back and drove down the field but were stopped when Shirome Dixon intercepted a potential TD pass in the end zone. Paul Brown then connected with Thomas Herlihy on a long pass play to give the Giants a 14-0 lead, but Omani Guy got the Broncos on the scoreboard by returning an interception for a touchdown, making it a 14-7 game. The Broncos defense tightened and held the Giants scoreless for the rest of the first half. Meanwhile, Rahim Drame threw a TD pass to Omani Guy and, following a Steven Morabito interception, threw another TD pass to Seif Dorani to give the Broncos an 18-14 lead at halftime. The score stayed at 18-14 until midway through the second half. Then, on a fourth down play from the 30-yard line, Paul Brown found Neal Stueber in the end zone for the touchdown that put the Giants in front to stay. That play was the turning point of the game as the Giants scored on their next two possessions on TD passes from Paul Brown to Shirome Dixon, pushing the lead to 34-18. Omani Guy closed the scoring on a TD pass from Rahim Drame.

In the second game, the Jets opened a 14-0 lead early in the first half on TD passes from Richard DeLaCruz to Matthew Brodsky and Eyosyas Tadesse. A TD run by Eric Miranda of the Raiders and the extra point conversion cut the lead to 14-7, and the Raiders were marching for the tying touchdown when Damon Wolford came up with a back-breaking interception. The Jets then added two more touchdowns before halftime on passes from Richard DeLaCruz to Damon Wolford and Matthew Brodsky, and led 26-7. The Jets defense, led by Jack Huang, Le-Quan Francis, Maurel Clark, and Harrison Riley, never let the Raiders get back in the game in the second half, and the Jets rolled to a 44-13 victory.

SOCCER The Youth Program established the Anthony Fallone Sportsmanship and Character Award this year in honor of our friend and neighbor who perished in the World Trade Center tragedy. This year’s winners were Hugo Genes in the Senior Division, Emily Schuman in the Junior Division, and Javon Perry in the Minor Division. Congratulations to the winners.

Classified

Only 50¢/word
751-8214

Deadline for Jan. 12 issue: Jan. 7

TWO MALE CATS TO BE ADOPTED – Cats have never been separated. One Siamese, other solid black. Both neutered, declawed, very docile, affectionate. I seek someone who will provide a loving environment for both cats, who were loved by my late grandmother. **1-718-465-0571.**

LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST / Certified Reflexologist – Island resident Diana Brill. Gift certificates available. (212) **759-9042.**

VACATION IN PEACE – Will feed and play with your cat, water your plants, send you your mail, etc. (212) **751-8214.**

ELDER LAW – Wills & Trusts, Medicaid Planning, Nursing Home Matters, Estate Planning, and Living Wills. Free Home Consultation. Steven M. Ratner, Esq., 420 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY. (212) **754-9117.**

DAISY DOODLE CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT Magic, characters, dance, facepainting, balloons. Professional. (212) **501-4828.**

EXPERT PIANO REPAIRS & TUNING – Prompt service. (212) 935-7510. Beeper **1-917-483-1020.**

MAIN STREET THEATRE & DANCE ALLIANCE – Ongoing registration for dance and theater classes. (212) **371-4449.** Unique or period clothing & furniture gladly accepted.

VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY – Weddings, great packages for your event. (212) **308-4022.**

START YOUR OWN HOME-BASED BUSINESS. Herbal and Skin Care Products. Call **1-917-705-4606.**

EXPERIENCED PAINTER – Excellent references. Free estimate. (212) **751-8214.**

YOUR FRIENDLY AVON REPRESENTATIVE – Dolores Green. (212) **223-4077.**

A Gift Subscription For a Former Islander?

About subscriptions: *The Main Street WIRE*, which is delivered free to every residential door on Roosevelt Island, does not normally solicit off-Island subscriptions but, as a courtesy, provides first-class mailing on day of publication. The cost is \$50/year (for about 20-24 issues, published fortnightly September-May, and less often June-August) to cover postage and materials. A check payable to *The WIRE* should be sent, with delivery address, to *The WIRE*, 531 Main Street #413, NYC10044. Much of each issue also appears, with many archived back issues, on *Website NYC10044* at www.nyc10044.com.

The
Roosevelt Island
Fish Store
wishes all residents
of Roosevelt Island
a
Happy Holiday
Season



530 Main Street
750-3474

Sales & Service
Est. 1961

CHRIS TV

Repair Service Center

TV-VCR-STEREO-CD-PROJECTION TV-CAMCORDERS and more...

Free Estimates in Shop.
Free Pickup & Delivery with Repair
In-Home Service
All Work Guaranteed

718-392-7444

License #730671
Credit Cards Accepted

Mon.-Fri. 9-7
Sat. 9-6
21-16 36th Av.
LIC, NY 11106

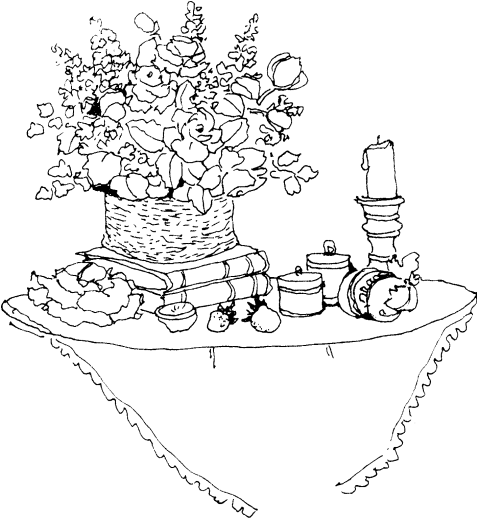
Give your apartment a lift

HOME SHOPPING SERVICE

Consultations Available – Use What You Have

Budget Oriented
Time-saving

Furniture
Upholstery, Slipcovers
Wallpaper & Fabric
Carpet & Area Rugs
All Window Treatments
Floor & Terrace Tiles
Lighting
Carpentry
Kitchen Renovation
Paint & Faux Finishes
All Accessories
Closet Design



Ellen Levy
Interior Decorator
531 Main Street

751-8214

No job too small

Absolutely FREE ~~checking~~ share drafts

At a Credit Union, “checks” are called “share drafts.” They function exactly as checks do, but at Montauk, ***the account is free.*** You buy the checks and keep \$25 or more of your savings in a “share account,” which earns interest, and we don’t charge you the usual fees for processing each check – oops, share draft – or for end-of-month statement processing.

Why would anybody want an old-fashioned “checking account” when our “share draft account” does it all, without all those annoying charges?

And oh, yes – we even pay you interest on what’s in your share draft account every day that it’s over \$500.

*Free checking • Competitive interest on savings accounts
1% daily interest on checking with balances over \$500*

Montauk Credit Union

MCU – Your Financial Neighbor

559 Main Street • Phone (212) 643-3900 Fax (212) 588-1123
ALL MEMBER ACCOUNTS INSURED UP TO \$100,000 BY THE NCUA



A healthy and
happy holiday
season to all
Roosevelt Island
residents

Lawrence M. Itskowitch, D.D.S.
Quality Dentistry for Adults & Children
On Roosevelt Island
501 Main Street • (212) 752-8722 / 23

*Best wishes for
a happy and healthy
holiday season*

Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.

If it’s in *The WIRE*, it’s probably in color on
Website NYC10044
www.nyc10044.com

Jack Resnick, M.D.
Board-Certified
Specialist in Adult Medicine
(Internal Medicine)

Health Plans
Accepted
32-BJ
Aetna/USHealthcare
Empire Blue Cross
CIGNA
HIP
Oxford

832-2310

Medicare
Now accepting
Oxford Medicare

501 Main Street
Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044

MALAGUETA

Restaurant

Celebrate New Year’s Eve With a Special Dinner Party

- *Wine and Champagne.*
- *Appetizer: Crab Avocado Salad, Lentil Salad.*
- *Entree: Filet Mignon w/ Gratin Potato
Red Snapper w/ Lobster Sauce and Saffron
Rice.*
- *Desserts, Coffee and Tea.*
\$35.00 Per Person

Reservations Request:
From 6:00 to 10:00
(For Every 2 Hours)
718-927-4821
25-35 36th Avenue, Astoria

Gristede's cameraready