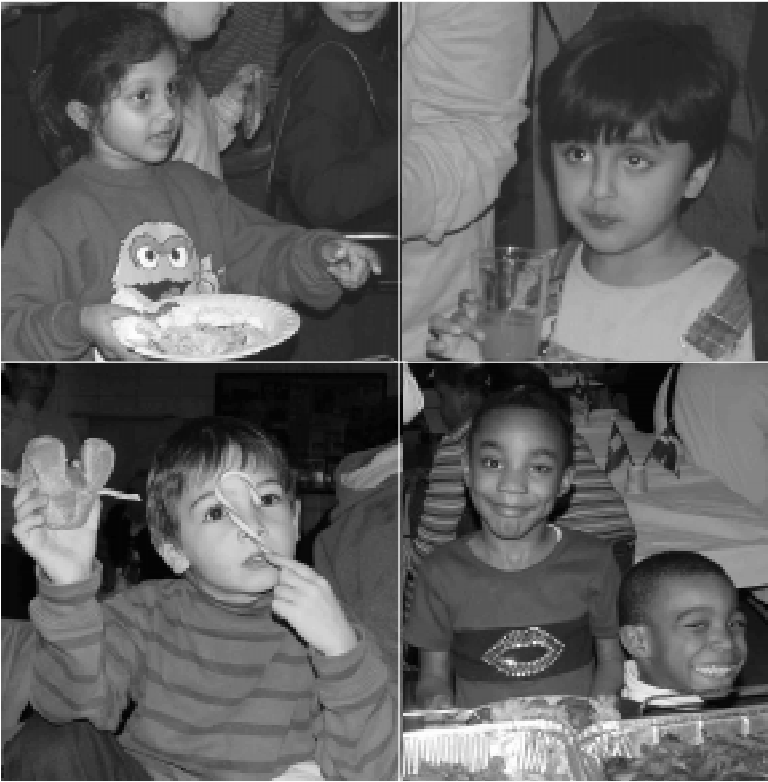


Next scheduled issue:
Saturday, February 23

The Main Street **WIRE**

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

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



I'll take that, and that, and some of that... These PS/IS217 kids were among hundreds having a good time Wednesday night at the PTA International Dinner.

Company Plans On-Line Grocery Shopping for RI

Roosevelt Islanders will be able to do their grocery shopping on line or by phone at savings up to 35%, according to a plan presented Wednesday night to the Residents Association Common Council. Start-up is scheduled for mid-March.



The Island is the first area to be served in a plan that will eventually cover many other New York neighborhoods, according to John Boris, Vice President of Marketing for FreshDirect. He told Common Councilors, "Roosevelt Island was selected because it is a neighborhood with few grocery-shopping options."

The company plans to give Islanders a \$50 first order free as an incentive to try the service. The plan calls for three deliveries without a delivery charge, after which a \$3.95 delivery charge will apply. Minimum order will be \$40.

Boris claimed FreshDirect will offer meats, pastries, baked goods, seafood, fresh produce, cheeses, and a full range of basic grocery items at prices as much as 35% lower than area supermarkets.

The company will operate out of a 300,000 square-foot processing and distribution facility in Long Island City, scheduling deliveries in two-hour blocks. Boris said the warehouse will be kept at 38 degrees, and that the cold surroundings plus a "more direct path to consumers" will provide buyers with fresher foods. Further announcements, which will pin down the start date and other details, are planned soon.

Inside

In a special section, Islander George Rubin tells his story of air combat over Germany – and life as a POW in the final days of the Second World War

Tram's Return Date in Question As State Ponders Cable Plan

by Robert Laux-Bachand

The State Department of Labor said Thursday that it was still reviewing a proposal to change the Tram's haul rope connection, and that its approval to resume operations depended on load testing that could be done only after the design is approved.

Betsy McCormack, the DOL's director of communications, also reported that the Department was considering consulting with an independent engineer to evaluate American Tramways' plans for correcting a maintenance error that resulted in the haul rope's being cut about eight feet short. In response to questions from *The WIRE*, she said the problem represented a "unique challenge" to the Department's engineers and that there is no database of similar fixes that would help guide DOL deliberations.

McCormack's comments, and those of other people who have been tracking the process, suggested that American Tramways' goal of resuming service in mid-February – under the best of circumstances – is in doubt.

The Roosevelt Island Tramway has been shut down since November 24, when American Tramways, Inc., began a major maintenance and repair project. Its scheduled reopening in late December was pushed back when the maintenance team cut the rope short, making it impossible for the cabins to dock in their proper places. Since that time, the Tramway's 21 employees have been out of work, and Island residents have had to rely on the F train and shuttle buses to get back and forth from Manhattan.

Red Blomer, the president of American Tramways Inc., based in Watertown, N.Y., said Thursday that the company was in the same position as Island Tram users: waiting for the State bureaucracy to run its course. The 38-ton haul rope, a 41mm-thick polypropylene core wound with steel wire, normally wraps 2.25 times around the drum, or bollard, at the top of the Tram carriage. The company's proposed "retrofit" – a 1.25 wrap with six clamps instead of three –

was devised by Gottfried Hofmann, the same Swiss engineer who designed the Tramway in 1974, two years before it went into operation.

The Labor Department's Division of Health & Safety, which regulates ski lifts, elevators, scaffolding, and carnival rides, among other things, has been studying Hofmann's proposal since mid-January. Several people who have tracked the studies told *The WIRE* that the division's three-member engineering team had already made

dispatched Wally Renfrew, the engineer in charge of the State's review in Albany, to the Tramway's Manhattan station on Thursday to take photos of the bollard. (The Manhattan cabin is hanging from the track cables over the Second Avenue sidewalk; the Roosevelt Island cabin is disconnected and on the ground.) This report suggested that the review had moved up a step from the engineering level to that of the Department's top appointees, and that other calculations



a decision on the fix. It was formally submitted to the State on January 23, when all the pages of the plan were stamped, or certified, by a State-licensed engineer. These people assert that the decision now lies with top officials in the Department of Labor.

Blomer said he met with the engineers, exchanged correspondence, and now stands available to answer any questions.

But through Thursday, the State itself has been guarded in its handling of information about the Tram, releasing few details about its deliberations to the public, to American Tramways, the operator of the system, or even to the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, the State agency that owns the Tramway.

One unconfirmed report, for example, was that a top official had

were involved, besides those that can be obtained with a slide rule.

But these speculations were quickly doused by the Department, and McCormack said that the review thus far was primarily "a matter of engineering computations and analysis of the company's proposal."

"We are actually approving the anchorage connections to make sure they are designed to hold the load," she said. "The engineers believe there will be no difference in the useful life of the rope – ordinarily it is a three-year to four-year life; this particular rope lasted five years and ten months. We inspect it annually."

"No testing has been done yet because the change cannot be done until we approve the amendment. If the designs are approved, the work can be done and then it will be load-tested. The ability to operate the Tram is conditional on passing the load test. To do a load test, weights are put in for the maximum load and the Tram is operated."

Blomer told *The WIRE* several weeks ago that the State is subjecting American Tramways' engineering submittal to a rigorous review. He has also said that if the State does not accept the repair, it could be months before a new rope, manufactured in Europe, could be installed.

In the meantime, Island residents have been coping with the loss of service, and some figures indicate that they're simply staying home. In January, the peak RIOC passenger count on buses between the Island and Manhattan – before the beginning of half-hour service – was less than 400 per day, while the Tram normally averaged over 2,500.

Islanders

Community's New Priest, at 39, Pursues Life Plan

by Anusha Shrivastava

His brothers told him he would make a good attorney.

When he was in elementary school, Father Peter A. Miqueli decided he wanted to become a priest. Elementary school was not too long ago. He's a year shy of forty.

"I don't remember a time when I wanted to be anything other than a priest," he says. "I belong to a very religious family. We were very involved with the church. My uncle was a priest so we had a priestly presence in our close-knit family."

The eleventh child of Anna, 78, and Gerry Miqueli, also 78 years old, Peter Miqueli was born in Brentwood, New York. Gerry Miqueli worked as a welder. His

wife Anna, raised the couple's twelve children. The oldest, Laura Scaduto-Vigneaux, is a schoolteacher in Long Island. She was in high school when Peter was born. "He was a doll," she says. "He loved gymnastics as a child and he always gathered all the neighborhood kids to do cartwheels on the lawn."

During his weekly visits to his parents' home these days, Roosevelt Island's new priest is the reigning favorite among his 35 nieces and nephews. "They feel they can trust me," he says.

Having attended Catholic school with his siblings, Peter Miqueli went on a retreat at age sixteen. When he returned home, he announced his decision to join the

priesthood. "There was a mixed reaction from my family and though they were supportive, some warned me about the sacrifices a priest has to make." He says his friends, mainly police, firefighters, and teachers, are very proud of his decision, too.

After studying at a preparatory seminary in Uniondale, New York, he attended the Cathedral College of the Immaculate Conception in Douglaston, Queens. Then, after graduating in 1985, he took a two-year hiatus from his religious education. He decided to work as a direct-care counselor at an agency whose clients were substance abusers and schizophrenics. For a short

See **Priest**, page 6



Letters

To the Editor:

I love Roosevelt Island: the view, the open spaces, the “so close and yet so far” feeling of this small town one subway stop from Manhattan. It’s a tennis player’s paradise, and the best place in the city for families with children. Even the grumpy activism is endearing; I like living in a place where people care about what’s going on around them.

Sometimes, however, our grumpy activism degenerates into plain ol’ bitching and moaning. To last issue’s writer of the letter about the F train I can only say: *Get a real problem!* Instead of waiting twenty minutes for a train, you get one every five; instead of not knowing from one day to the next where the train is going to take you, you’ve got one train taking one route every time, every day; instead of transferring to a bus for eastside destinations, you’ve got a free transfer to the 4/5/6 line at 59th St.; instead of a dead end one stop to the east, you’ve got easy access to Queens.

Is the F train crowded? Yes, it is. *Welcome to New York City!* Welcome to the same overcrowding that every other straphanger has had to deal with for years. Now you know why 4/5/6 riders want a Second Avenue line. Now you know how 1/2/3/9 riders feel (and they had it bad even before 9/11). If you’re too special to sharpen your elbows and fight your way onto a subway car like everybody else, then the Big Apple is not the place for you. Try Tokyo; after you get used to some real crowding, you’ll be in a better position to appreciate what a blessing the F train is.

Alternatively, you could call Straphangers and find out how to help them improve the subway system.

Roosevelt Island is a great place to live, and the F train has made it better than ever.

Dawn Helene

Mr. Lawrence Reuter
President, MTA NYC Transit
370 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear President Reuter:

I am writing to you regarding the F Train station on Roosevelt Island. I have recently received letters, emails, and phone calls from many constituents on Roosevelt Island who describe the tremendous overcrowding on the F train each morning as they attempt to commute into Manhattan. Riders are tired of seeing trains pull into the station each morning with no room left for them to board. The problem seems to be most severe between 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. In addition to the great inconvenience to subway riders, the overcrowded subways create overcrowded platforms that present a serious risk of a commuter falling onto the tracks.

I am requesting that you look into this matter at your earliest convenience and take whatever steps are within your power to address the needs of these subway riders.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your reply. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Alissa Batson in my office at (212) 788-7210.

Gifford Miller
Speaker, City Council

To the Southtown Developers:

There are 150 apartments in Eastwood and about 50 in Rivercross that directly face Southtown.

In these 200 apartments, and in many affected apartments in adjacent wings, as well, there are senior citizens, retirees, evening- and night-shift workers, people who work from home, preschool children, mothers kept up at night by infants, etc. These residents should not have to be awakened at 7:00 a.m. by drilling, the incessant, piercing beeping of machinery backing up, and other noisy apparatus five days per week.

It is clear from the three lawsuits brought opposing the Southtown plan (one by RIRA which represents *all* residents), that this development is *unwanted*, as currently planned, by the majority of Island residents.

You are giving nothing back to the community as compensation for the inconvenience of *years* of construction (like the millions of dollars the Manhattan Park developers gave in Public Purpose Funds); you wouldn’t even *consider* the alternative plan proposed by residents that, by moving a building or two to the southern end of Southtown, would have saved our Blackwell Soccer Field. And, by eliminating the traffic turnaround, you have inconvenienced residents, guests, taxi drivers, and others. Furthermore, you are *costing* the community millions for Southtown infrastructure, half of which comes from community funds that could have been spent on much-needed capital improvements or maintenance elsewhere on the Island.

The very *least* you can do is prevent noisy equipment from disturbing the peace of so many so early in the morning. I’m sure there is other work that could be done in the early hours that wouldn’t be so disturbing to residents. There are rules in our buildings preventing work or entertainment that would cause noise before 9:00 a.m. And most people wouldn’t think of calling a stranger before 9:00 a.m. for fear of disturbing them too early.

But then you have proven you don’t care what the residents want or think. I hope in this one, small thing you can change your attitude away from purely mercenary concerns and show that, by becoming part of this community, you accept some responsibility for how you affect the lives of your neighbors.

Name Withheld

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 wordprocessing 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 Feb. 23 issue: Mon., Feb. 18

The Editorial Page

There is an expression among native Hawaiians – a shorthand description they use when they observe one of their own speaking disparagingly of the success of another. I can’t reproduce the Hawaiian words, but I know the translation: ***Crabs in a bucket.***

Captured crabs, confined in a bucket, will attempt to climb out. When one makes some progress, it will be pulled back to the bottom of the bucket by others attempting to climb out.

island observer

A quarter-century ago, it was an important concept for native Hawaiians, who were taking a cue from their African-American brothers and sisters. They were seeking ways to preserve their laid-back culture – yet claim their piece of the American dream – in an environment dominated by European and Asian cultures mixed with hard-driving American commercial enterprise. When someone among them would find a successful formula, the rest would be divided into two camps – those cheering the success, and those decrying a perceived departure from *the Hawaiian way*.

The latter were the *crabs in a bucket*, pulling their fellows back.

There’s a lesson in this for Roosevelt Island’s political community – and, unfortunately, something of a parallel.

As Island activists try to find a way out of our particular bucket – no voice in local affairs – there are others who would drag them back. Recently, the Maple Tree Group (MTG), after some years of work and through the good offices of Senator Olga Mendez, managed to meet with Governor George Pataki to put before him the essentials of a plan under which residents would elect members of the RIOC Board. Ordinary, democratic, local government, in other words.

Soon enough, other activists got crabby, and not just in the Hawaiian sense. Island e-mail flowed green with envy and suggestions that no crab should climb out of the bucket – achieve any success – without permission of the others every step of the way. Suddenly, nearly five years of MTG work toward Island democracy, overwhelmingly endorsed in two referendums (1998 and 2000) and repeatedly backed by the Common Council of the Residents Association, was “secretive” and “mysterious,” and part of some sort of evil axis involving *The WIRE*.

That’s hogwash. *The WIRE* chooses not to be a crab. *The WIRE* chooses, instead, to support efforts likely to result in an improvement of our circumstances. It’s easy, when one has grown excessively comfortable with the status quo, to conjure a threat in every effort at change.

There’s nothing mysterious about success except for those to whom success is a stranger. It involves having a good plan, building support for it, and putting it across with determined hard work.

We can’t know just yet what the outcome will be of MTG’s continuing effort to bring democracy to Roosevelt Island. We can hope, however, that the crabs who are comfortable stuck at the bottom of the bucket will grow weary of trying to haul others back to the bottom, let the strivers reach for the stars and, perhaps, bring success – and freedom – to us all.

DL

Joan Matula is stepping down as a RIRA Council Member. If you don’t know her, Joan is 91 years young and has represented the senior building, 546 Main Street, on the Common Council for more years than most of us have been voting. She sent me the following letter: “After much debating with myself the pros and cons I have decided to step down from my position as member of the RIRA board. Twenty-five years is a long time to be on [the] RIRA board. Sorry, as much as I love you all and would like to continue, I would like to take life easy. True, I will miss you all. I am available at all times if I can help you in any way.” How typically Joan to continue offering her services. When she called me to confirm my receipt of her letter, she said, “Is it touching enough?” Yeah, Joan, I’m touched and tickled by your remarks and, most of all, grateful for your years of service to Roosevelt Island. Council Member, president of the Senior Association, community activist; Joan has cared for this community since its inception. If anyone on Roosevelt Island has earned the right to take it easy, it’s Joan. She may be retiring from the Council, but her untiring *joie de vivre* and sense of humor will continue to sustain her and us. Joan, you’re a treasure!

“I hate February... My thoughts are on spring training and the day Mets tickets go on sale (February 17th this year). I’m also thinking about opening day of Roosevelt Island Little League and the vista of white blossoms when Cherry Tree Walk is in bloom. We all do what we need to get through winter, and this works for me.”

I wrote this last February, and it still applies. It’s cold and the days are too bloody short. Football is over, the Knicks are “rebuilding” – again –

and I don’t like hockey. I’m grumpy and so I’m going to write a grumpy column.

Someone said, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” Actually, it sounds better in the original French, but I can’t be trusted to spell anything correctly in French. The Westview swimming pool has been closed since July. Housing Management created a Westview pool committee four months ago that has been neither informed of, nor consulted regarding, the pool’s status. RIOC considered closing the third shift of the Tram last summer in order to save money. The Tram has been expense-free as a result of service cessation since Thanksgiving. Now, the bakery is closed with a health-code violation, apparently resulting from a leaking water pipe.

Perhaps people of good will in RIOC and Housing Management can expedite repairs and restore the business that has sustained two generations of an Island merchant family.

We are well into the second year of this Common Council. People have asked me how I assess our first year. Well, we’ve had some successes and some failures. Our Southtown suit failed in the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court, but RIRSD is pursuing the legal questions into the Court of Appeals. We haven’t achieved elected representation yet, but Governor Pataki has heard the issues and understands the inequities. We have reason to hope. Nothing has changed so far with the RIRA constitution, a document that has not changed with the times. Given the complexity of amending the constitution, the Common Council may shrink from this daunting task. But, at least, we will have

See **RIRA Column**, page 6



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Edith Mastrangelo

Edith Mastrangelo, a Roosevelt Island resident since 1978, died January 25. A life-long New Yorker, she was born in Brooklyn on May 23, 1911. Her parents, Luigi and Vincentina Petrocelli, had immigrated from Italy in 1907. She was the last survivor of six siblings.

Edith was educated in the City’s public schools and earned a B.A. degree from Hunter College at age 20, with a major in mathematics and sufficient additional credits for majors in both Italian and education. Her desire to teach in high school was frustrated by the hiring freeze of the Depression. She took a crash course in foreign stenography and took work as a secretary in an importing firm specializing in European products. Nine years later, when she left to have her first child, she had risen to Treasurer of the company. She married Peter Mastrangelo in 1935 and settled in Greenwich Village.

After the birth of her third child, she renewed her efforts to gain a teaching license and was hired by the NYC public schools as an elementary school teacher in 1947. She taught for 28 years, mostly first grade, in Harlem, the Bronx, and Chinatown. Because she held strong beliefs concerning a well-



rounded education, her students received considerable training in arts and crafts and music in addition to the “three R’s.” Near the end of her career, she became a music education specialist in a Chinatown elementary school. She struggled to learn a few words of Cantonese, but believed that music would help even the shyest of her students to master the sounds of English.

She successfully promoted the first free breakfast program in that school in the belief that her students were too hungry to concentrate and their parents too intimidated to demand the help to which they were entitled. She also served as a union delegate representing teachers in her school.

She retired at 65 and devoted herself to caring for her husband, who died of Parkinson’s disease in 1986, as well as her grandchildren, two of whom, Paul and Kristin Sheehan, are Roosevelt Island residents. She and her husband moved to Rivercross in 1978.

Edith loved city living, particularly the theater and the opera. The events of September 11 saddened her greatly, and she joined with the rest of her New York-based family members in donating funds to charities in lieu of buying Christmas gifts this past year.

She is survived by daughters, Virginia Delfico of Alexandria, Va. and Margaret Sheehan of Roosevelt Island, five grandchildren, and two great-grandsons, who were her greatest joy in her last years. Her son, Peter Mastrangelo, also a New York City school-teacher, died in 1994.

COMING UP

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

Sat., Feb. 9, 10:00 a.m., How to Nurture Your Child’s Sense of Internal Motivation, seminar led by Dr. G. Lipton, sponsored by Island Kids, 536 Main Street community room. \$20. Information: 758-8408.

Sat., Feb. 9, 10:00 a.m., Roosevelt Island in Brief: Living on the Island, 18th-21st Centuries, program for newcomers, long-time residents, and history buffs, presented by Judy Berdy, President of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society; Library. Free.

Mon., Feb. 11, 7:00 p.m., Transportation Committee of Community Board 8, 525 East 68th Street, Whitney Room 117. Presentation on Roosevelt Island Bridge by the Department of Transportation Bridges division.

Mon., Feb. 11, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters meeting; public speaking without fear. For information, call (212) 759-0396.

Thur., Feb. 14, 6:00 p.m., The Slocum Burns!, U.S. premiere of 1999 documentary film by Christian Baudissin about the loss in 1904, in the East River, of 1100 passengers aboard the steam paddleboat *General Slocum*, followed by a discussion with historian Ed O’Donnell; Segal Theater, CUNY, Fifth Avenue at 34th Street. Free.

Fri., Feb. 15, 8:00 p.m. to midnight, Valentine’s Jumpoff Party at the Youth Center; registered members with IDs only.

Tue., Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, Surfacing by Margaret Atwood, Library. Advance registration required.

Tue., Feb. 19, 7:00 p.m., Roosevelt Island Committee of Community Board 8 meets, 505 Park Avenue (at 59th Street), suite 620. Agenda items include impact of F train on public safety, greater participation in subway meetings, and red bus difficulties in Manhattan.

Wed., Feb. 20, 7:00 p.m., Community Board 8 meeting, Memorial Sloan Kettering, 430 East 67th Street (York/First), auditorium.

Thur., Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m., Stories and Tales from Around the World, told by Getchie Argetsinger, Library. Free. Recommended for children 5-12.

Sat., Feb. 23, 10:00-4:00, African-American Heritage Month Celebration 2002, Senior Center, 546 Main Street. Storyteller Dr. Joyce C. Duncan, Cotton Club Swing Dancers, booths, arts and crafts, soul food, music, and more. For vendor information, call Kandle Fraser at 838-4747.

Sat., Feb. 23, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Feb. 15; decision on staffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Feb. 18, with materials due Thur., Feb. 21. **Future issues** generally every two weeks as follows: 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 (post-election), 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.

Mon., Feb. 25, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters meeting; public speaking without fear. For information, call (212) 759-0396.

Sat., Mar. 2, 7:00 p.m., Concert – Los Soneros de Oriente, Son style Afro-Cuban song, PS/IS 217 Auditorium, presented by the PS/IS 217 Beacon Program of the Roosevelt Island Youth Program. Free.

Wed., Mar. 6, 8:00 p.m., Residents Association Common Council Meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Thur., Mar. 21, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, The Reader by Bernhard Schlink, Library. Advance registration required.

Sat., Mar. 23, 10:00 a.m., How Many Activities Are Enough?, seminar led by Dr. G. Lipton, sponsored by Island Kids, 536 Main Street community room. \$20. Information: 758-8408.

Wed., Apr. 3, 8:00 p.m., Residents Association Common Council Meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Tue., Apr. 16, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood by Rebecca Wells, Library. Advance registration required.

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.

History Lecture at Library Today



Judy Berdy, President of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society, will give an illustrated presentation at the Library this morning (Saturday, February 9) at 10:00, covering the personalities (Boss Tweed, Mae West, Charles Dickens, et al) and places (Our Lady Counselor of the Afflicted, Holy Spirit, Good Samaritan) of the Island’s past. It’s free. At right in the photo above is the storehouse-elevator that once provided Island access from the Queensboro Bridge – the only route other than the river.



Doubly Happy Birthday Jonah Bobo and Lucia Cappello marked their fifth birthdays last week by asking their friends to forget the gifts and make donations to Ronald McDonald House instead. They raised over \$500.

Roy Eaton’s New CD: Preludes A’Plenty

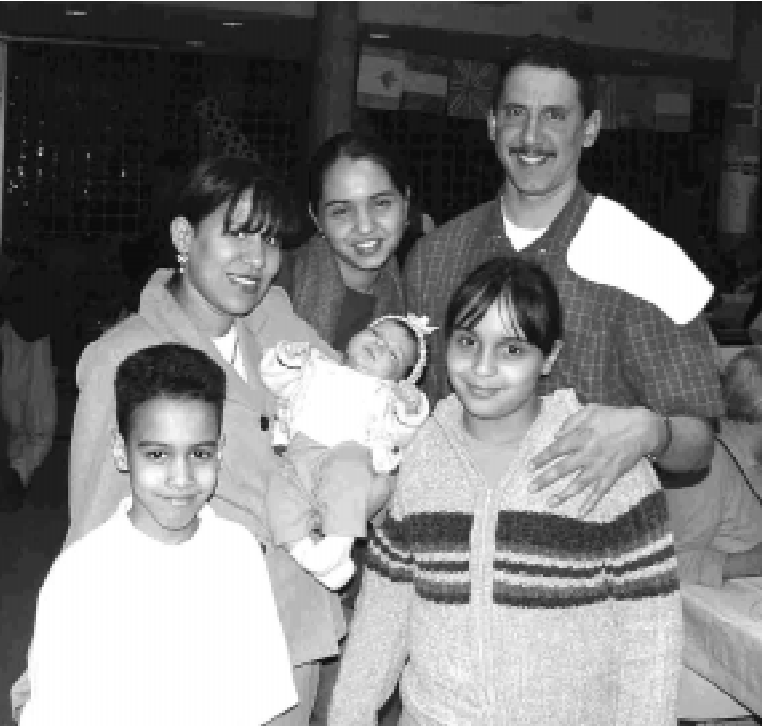
Pianist-composer Roy Eaton has a new CD out. It’s his sixth. Titled 24/7+7, the album represents the first time all seven of George Gershwin’s preludes are available on one disk, but it also includes two rarely-recorded Chopin preludes among a total of 26, and five by William Grant Still, one of the first black composers to have his music played by major symphony orchestras.

Cover art for the new album is by Leroy Neiman.

Eaton is the pianist for Cabrini Parish services, where he has been exploring the spiritual dimension of composers not usually associated with religious experiences.

He won the first Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Award in 1950, performed in his concert debut the following year with the Chicago Symphony, and had his New York debut at Town Hall in 1952. His concert career was side-tracked briefly by the Korean War, then for some 27 years by a career at Young and Rubicam, where he wrote copy and music for commercials – Beefaroni, Yuban Coffee, and Kent cigarettes. He still writes commercials, though now as an employee of his own company. Meanwhile, he has resumed a concert and recording career from his home base as a resident of Roosevelt Island.

Eaton’s latest CD is priced at \$15 (plus \$3 if shipped). It’s available directly from the artist by contacting him at (212) 832-9884.



Youngest Guest PS/IS217 Custodian José Inoa and his wife, Suli, show off the newest member of their family, one-month-old Daniela. They were at Wednesday night’s PTA International Dinner with son Brian, and nieces Sydney and Doris.

Senior Center

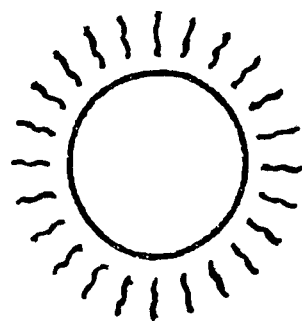
Monday
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screening**
12:30, **“Oldies” Movies**
12:45, **Arts & Crafts** (RIDA)
Tuesday
10:00, **Jazzercise**
1:30, **Games** (RISA)
Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well Exercise**
10:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beginner)
11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (intermediate)
Thursday
10:00, **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

Mon., Feb. 11, 11-12:30, MetroCard Bus
Tue., Feb. 12, 7:00, General Meeting
Thur., Feb. 14, 7:00, Valentine’s Day Party
Sat., Feb. 16, 6:00, Asian New Year Celebration
Thur., Feb. 28, 12:30, Winter Birthday Party

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



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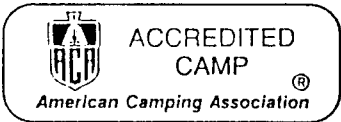
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Doors open until 7:30
Saturday
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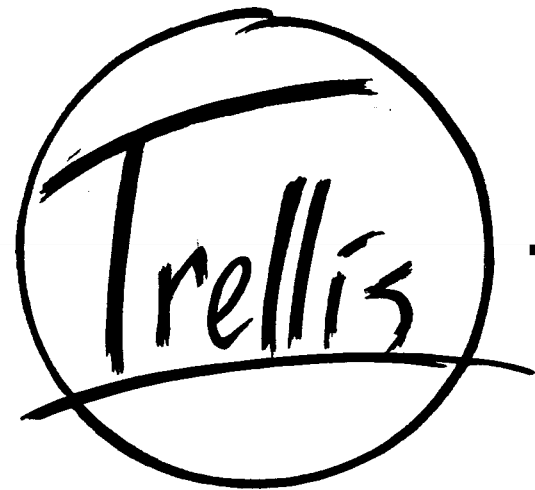
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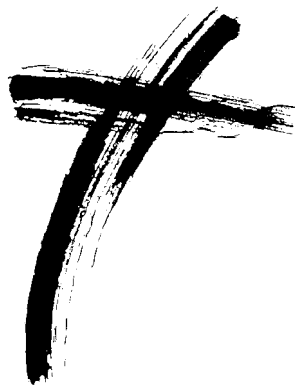
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February 13,
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7:00 p.m.	Mass and Distribution of Ashes

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THE ICDA DA SILVA FOUNDATION thanks all those who made possible the January 5 blood drive, and all the donors.

VOLUNTEER TYPIST – *The WIRE* needs a volunteer typist for jobs ranging from short to long, from rush to long-term. No compensation, but lots of satisfaction in being part of one of the community's oldest institutions. Call (212) **826-9055** or e-mail editor@MainStreetWIRE.com.

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New Wheels RIOC President Robert H. Ryan presents keys to one of two new Public Safety patrol cars to Rene Bryan, Assistant Chief of PSD, as Public Safety Officer Wayne Jones looks on.

Priest from page 1

period, he also worked as a crisis-pregnancy counselor at the Mother and Unborn-Baby Care Center in Long Island.

In 1987, he headed back to the seminary, attending St. Joseph’s in Dunwoodie, Yonkers. “It was a post-graduate institution and, with my graduation in 1991, I was ordained.”

His first assignment was in Staten Island where he worked for seven years until he was sent to Yonkers for a brief stint, and then returned to his first parish. It was from this church in Staten Island that he went to anoint the injured from the tragic attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. “That was the day that we, as a nation, came face-to-face with evil,” he says. “I went to the ferry building with a group of firemen from the firehouse right across from my church. We saw the mushroom of smoke and could not believe our eyes. When we crossed over to the Manhattan side, we were picked up by an ambulance and taken to 1 Liberty Plaza. My eyes were burning as we stood in a foot of ash in what was once a Burger King.”

The horrific destruction has etched itself into his mind. He recalls the scene as being “surreal,” and adds, “The devastation was far worse than anything I had seen on tape or video that depicted war. This is the problem with evil in the world. God permits evil. God gives men free will and they use it to commit acts of evil. The plan was diabolically clever.”

To make sense of all that happened, he turns to the gospel. “After ten years of priesthood, I still find incredible the suffering that people have to endure. As a priest, I have been called upon to offer sacraments and teach the gospel,” he says. He hopes his parishioners on Roosevelt Island will help him become a good priest.

He says he was surprised to be assigned this parish at his young age but adds that he feels quite at home here. Sister Regina Palamara thinks his age is an added qualification, for he can work with the young adults on the Island. For starters, he will take a group of ten young adults to World Youth Day in Toronto in July. “We will build on our past. The previous priests planted the seeds and we will bear the fruit,” said Sister Regina, who has herself been on the Island for over two decades.

Father Miqueli sees his role as a very down-to-earth one: “I am a regular person from the community who has been called upon to serve the community.”

by Seth Kaufman
SPORTSWIRE

BASKETBALL The standings for the RI Youth Program Winter Basketball League are:

12-14 Division		15-17 Division	
Lakers	4-0	Magic	4-0
Spurs	2-2	Bucks	3-1
Mavericks	1-3	Raptors	1-3
Kings	1-3	Celtics	0-4

12-14 Division: In action February 2nd, the Lakers, coached by Jim Armenakis, defeated Paul Sokoloff’s Kings 59-53. For the Lakers, four players reached double figures. Matthew Brodsky led the team with 19 points, while Derrick Moore had 14, Eric Miranda had 12, and Remy Armenakis added 10. Dan Moraru and Steven Morgan led the Kings with 19 points, while Thomas Herlihy added 8. In the second game from that day, the Spurs, coached by Tony Shedrick, defeated the Mavericks, coached by Harold Burrows, 56-34. Fabian Williams was the high scorer for the Spurs with 19 points, while Mirza Avdovic had 14 points, and Byron Gaspard added 13. For the Mavericks, Alpha Bah had 18 points, Tyrell Anderson had 7, and Jonathan Singh had 6.

Leading Scorers (average points per game through four games):
(1) Joel Arroyo (Lakers) 24; (2) Fabian Williams (Spurs) 19.3; (3) Steven Morgan (Kings) 19; (4) Dan Moraru (Kings) 17.3; (5) Lamar Burrows (Mavericks) 15.5; (6) Alpha Bah (Mavericks) 13; (7) Derrick Moore (Lakers) 11; (8) Mirza Avdovic (Spurs) 10;

15-17 Division: On Friday evening, February 1, the Bucks defeated the Celtics 67-36. The high scorer for the Bucks was Devin Epps with 26 points, while Tymel Williams added 13 points, Randy Cline had 9, and Eugene Woody had 8. For the Celtics, Chris DeLaRosa led the team with 12 points, while Antoine Smith added 8, and Ferlin Baez added 7. In the other game that night, the Magic defeated the Raptors 55-48. Prince Cherry led the Magic with 18 points, while Chris Rosado added 10, Dwight Wells and Scott Davis added 9 each, and Robert Voyd had 8. The scoring for the Raptors was balanced, with Sean Carter leading the team with 10 points, Anthony Simmons and Devaughn Wells each adding 9 points, and Omar Moore scoring 8.

Leading Scorers (four-game averages):
(1) Devin Epps (Bucks) 24.3; (2) Kyle Coleman (Celtics) 17; (3) Prince Cherry (Magic) 13; (4) Devaughn Wells (Raptors) 11.8; (5) Chris Rosado (Magic) 9.8; (6) Victor Lopez (Raptors) 9.5; (7) Scott Davis (Magic) 9.3; (8) Chris DeLaRosa (Celtics) 9.3; (9) Randy Cline (Bucks) 9

BASEBALL The Youth Program will begin registration on February 11 for its spring Little League program. Forms will be mailed to last year’s participants and will be available at the Youth Center at 506 Main Street and at the Beacon Program at PS/IS 217. Registration will close on February 28.

RIRA Column from page 3

raised the questions and made the attempt to improve this well-meaning but flawed guide. This past year we’ve produced more programs of direct benefit to “life on Main Street” than any time in recent memory. We threw a party last March that raised money for the RIRA treasury. We produced two summer dances on the River, served breakfast on Roosevelt Island Day, raised over \$9,000 for the families of September 11, served Thanksgiving Dinner to the guys at the Special Operations Command at the firehouse, and convinced 63 of you to part with a pint of blood. The money we raised has benefited the Main Street Theatre, the Church pipe-organ fund, and the PTA. This spring you will find a beautiful tree and plaque behind the Chapel of the Good Shepherd commemorating the fallen of September 11.

These were all RIRA events, and yet, when I look back at the hard work and workers who made these events happen, I’m grieved at the number of Council Members who haven’t participated in any of them. It always seems as though the same six or eight Members, supplemented by the same Good Samaritans from the community, accomplish everything. For many on the Council, volunteering to run for office was the last time they volunteered for a RIRA event. I’m sorry I wasn’t able to inspire a greater sense of personal responsibility in my colleagues. And I’m sorry they haven’t discovered that the most fulfilling part of community activity is not debating thorny questions once a month, but getting your hands dirty. I’ve had a ball tending bar, schlepping garbage cans, watching that glass jar fill with greenbacks out on Chapel Plaza, and convincing needle-shy potential blood donors that it only hurts for a second.

But part of the blame is yours. Some folks will always participate in whatever good things RIRA comes up with; they’re self-starters. Some need to be inspired by you, the electorate. If you fail to vote or merely vote for people who never volunteer their time, simply because they live down the hall, or theirs is the only name you recognize or because they’ve always represented your building, you can’t expect much. It’s your responsibility to make sure they do what you elected them to do; to carry out the programs and mandates of the Common Council and to represent your building and your views. In other words, to be leaders.

This Common Council will meet only seven more times before the next RIRA election. Be prepared to be informed voters. Ask your Council reps what they’ve *personally* accomplished in the last two years. What were their successes, what were their failures, and what did they learn from their failures? What committees have they worked on (not paid lip service to, *worked* on), and what are their goals for the next Council? If you’re not happy with the answers you get, vote for someone else or run yourself. Some of our neighbors will always treat Roosevelt Island like a borough of New York; a place to live where services appear as if by magic. Many of us know how fragile this magic Island truly is, and how quickly the services and ambience that brought us here can disappear. A place this special is worth fighting for and certainly worth working to sustain.

Well, I told you I was grumpy. On a final note, my friends George and Marge Rubin are leaving Roosevelt Island for new digs in southern New Jersey. Marge is a talented photographer whose work graces our apartment. George has been Circulation Co-Manager of *The Main Street WIRE* with my wife, Sherie, and they have been co-bosses in my bi-weekly role of paperboy. George’s incredible story of endurance and survival during World War II will be found in the pages of this issue. I will miss my summer pool buddy, my companion on vintage-wine shopping expeditions, my reading-material recommender *par excellence*, and two of the finest people I know. Marge and George, Godspeed and I miss you already.

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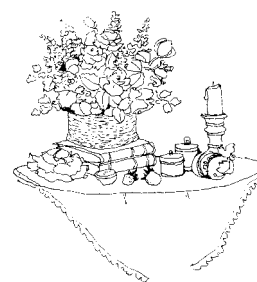
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