

Next scheduled issue:
Saturday, May 18

The Main Street **WIRE**TM

Roosevelt Island’s Community Newspaper

News updates on **Website NYC10044** www.nyc10044.com



Susheel Kurien

Tribute to Fallen of 9/11 Is Dedicated in Plaza

by Anusha Shrivastava and Dick Lutz

The Roosevelt Island Residents Association held a ceremony Sunday, April 21, to unveil a plaque and dedicate a memorial tree to victims of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

The tree and plaque are in the grove west of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Designed by Island resident Tony Vita, the plaque depicts the Manhattan skyline as seen from the Island, with the Tram prominent, crossing the East River, and ethereal shadows of the Twin Towers in the distance. (Photo coverage appears on pages 6 and 7 and in color on Website NYC10044 at www.nyc10044.com.)

The cherry tree, planted a month after the tragedy, is surrounded by flowers, most planted by members of the Residents Association a few days before the dedication. A single wood bench faces the tree and plaque. Vicki Feinmel, the member of the Residents Association Common Council who organized the memorial and the event, said, “Everyone wanted to do something meaningful and have something permanent on the Island to honor the people we lost from the Island.”

“When Vicki mentioned a plaque, I was hoping it would be right here,” said Patty Fallone, widow of Anthony Fallone, who died at the Trade Center. “We had been here all summer and our children spent a lot of time here. Vicki suggested a more quiet place and I thought the last thing we were was quiet and private. This place means a lot to us because we went to church here. The plaque commemorates Tony at a place where I remember him.”

Nearly 400 residents attended the ceremony, along with 50 firefighters, members of the clergy, and elected officials, who presented brief remarks.

Many of the speakers, including Residents Association President Matthew Katz, affirmed that New Yorkers are resilient and, though they have been through a tough time, they will not only survive, but flourish and

See Tribute, page 9

This Space For Sale, Says RIOC

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With a \$4,000 placement in *The New York Times* business section on Monday, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) began attempts to sell advertising on the Tram cabins and stations. By Wednesday, “about a dozen” inquiries had been received, RIOC said. The plan to sell advertising is opposed by City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, who wants it tied to specific benefits for residents, like MetroCard transfers to and from the Tramway. The Tram operates on a franchise from the City, but RIOC Board member Patrick Stewart says the Tram has been operating without a City franchise for three years or more, suggesting the City Council may have only limited leverage.

A Boy Falls to His Death, Leaving a Grieving Family and Sad Questions

by Anusha Shrivastava

Why?

This is the question plaguing Chanda and Subinay Nandy. Why did their 13-year old son, Atanu, have to run to the 10th floor balcony on that cold, rainy night, eventually falling to his death?

Why?

This is the question Helen Thomas, the concierge, asks herself repeatedly. Why did the young boy not heed her warning from last summer that he should not sit on the railing?

Why?

This is the question bothering Dr. Katherine Teets Grimm. Why did her teen patient, like other 13- and 14-year old kids, think he could take a risk, throwing caution to the winds?

Why?

“The boy who could answer all these questions is not here any more,” said Subinay Nandy, a middle-aged United Nations official who lost his son in the April 20 accident.

Atanu Nandy, an eighth-grade student at the U.N. International School, fell to his death that Saturday night at 10:45. A resident of 30 River Road, “Shuvo,” as he was called by his family and close friends, fell off the balcony from his apartment, 10H.

It had been a Saturday like most others. The family spent most of the day together, taking turns playing with Avik, the four-month old baby, and taking care of chores like laundry and grocery-shopping. “Shuvo played downstairs with his friends in the evening,” recalled his mother, Chanda Nandy. “He was watching TV in the living room after having his dinner. His cousin and his aunt had just returned after watching a movie and they were eating at the dining table.” Chanda was in her bedroom with the baby and her husband.

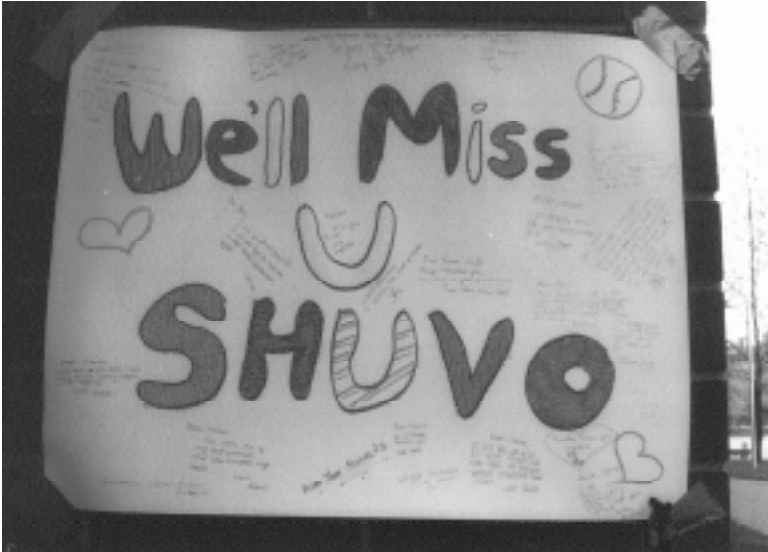
Her voice dropped to a whisper. “I,” she began. Then she broke down, crying as she recounted the events of that evening. “I am not sure what happened next. Someone screamed.” She began to cry again.

“When he was going to the balcony, my aunt asked him why he was going out,” said Rajeev Nandy, 28, Atanu’s cousin, who has lived with the family for the past three years. “He said he’d come right back.” He shook his head, tears welling up in his eyes.

The family finds it difficult to reconstruct what happened. They say it happened too fast for them. They say they do not understand.

“I was in the elevator, running the vacuum cleaner,” said Nelson Ortiz, the doorkeeper who was on duty in the lobby of 30 River Road that night. “I heard screaming and came out to the lobby. I saw Subinay Nandy and the cousin come out of the stairwell. They must have run down ten floors. I saw the boy on the floor outside and called 911.”

Many neighbors heard the screaming and came out to their balconies. “It was dark and I heard an aggravated cry,” said a resident of 40 River Road who did not want



Anusha Shrivastava

Classmates and friends of Atanu Nandy posted this remembrance.

to be identified. “I think it was a woman screaming.” She ran to her 12th-floor terrace, but could not see anything. “I then went to my balcony and saw a child lying on the ground. Many people were standing around him and everyone was crying.”

On the 11th floor of the same building, Lynne-Strong Shinozaki and her husband Michael were practicing yoga when they heard a loud sound. “It was a sound like a gunshot. We wondered what had disturbed the peace so we ran out,” said Lynne. “We saw a child’s body on the pavement. We thought he had been shot and went downstairs to see if we could help in any way.”

Atanu Nandy was taken to Mt. Sinai Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Four days later, on Wednesday, April 23, family and friends gathered at the Morisco Funeral Home in Astoria to pay their respects and show support.

Chanda and Subinay were allowed to go in first. They walked

slowly, holding each other, weeping. “O Ma, aamar baba,” said Chanda, in Bengali. “Ki sundor, aamar Shuvo.” (My son, how beautiful, my Shuvo.) She held her hands out, trying to touch her dead son who lay with a slight smile on his face, eyes shut tight.

There was a bruise on his face and a bruise on his fingers. He looked as if he were in deep slumber. “Wake up,” Chanda said, sobbing loudly. “Wake up for me. Wake up or take my life.” Crying, she said to her husband in Bengali, “His hair is ruffled. I will fix it.” She reached out, pushing the dark hair off Atanu’s forehead gently. Her husband leaned over the body and kissed it, crying all the while.

The couple were forced to compose themselves momentarily as the room filled up with United Nations officials, Atanu’s teachers and classmates, and a handful of residents from Roosevelt Island. Subinay wept in the arms of his colleagues, saying to many of them: “You used to say ours was a happy

See Questions, page 9

Keyspan Gets Permit for Construction to 2:00 a.m.

Roosevelt Island sits in the middle of “Asthma Alley,” an area of serious “nonattainment” of clean-air standards. Tony Gigantiello, the president of the Coalition Helping to Organize a Kleaner Environment (CHOKE), touched on the Island’s situation Tuesday night at a meeting of the Roosevelt Island Committee of Community Board 8.

CHOKE is keeping an eye on the expansion of the Keyspan plant directly across the east channel from Roosevelt Island. There, a 250 megawatt expansion is under way, and the builders have been given permission to work until 2:00 a.m. several nights a week under a City permit that will be renewed on a week-to-week basis.

Gigantiello said, if Roosevelt Island residents are disturbed by noise from the late-night construction, CHOKE will “get after them,” possibly working for noise abatement or for modification of the late-night permits.

But overall, Gigantiello said, CHOKE’s “goal is to get a decrease in the net emissions [of pollutants] in the whole city. When they put new power plants in, we want them to decrease the emissions somehow. We want them to repower these plants so they will produce more power with less emissions.”

Gigantiello said that Keyspan’s jet-engine-powered peaking units just south of the Roosevelt Island Bridge are serious polluters, though they are used only to meet peak demands. By contrast, several New York Power Authority (NYPA) peaking units just south of the Queensboro Bridge are “very clean,” but appeared to be running virtually all the time through the past winter, adding up to 50 tons of NOX (nitrous oxides) to the air. The NYPA units are scheduled to be removed in 2003, but only if power becomes available from one of two possible Queens sites – one an expansion, the other new construction.

See Pollution, page 9

RIOC’s \$750,000 Fumble

Last issue, *The WIRE* reported on the RIOC Board’s unfortunate failure, *yet again*, to handle the Youth Center’s need for increased space. In brief, the facts are that both the Youth Program, which serves well over a thousand Island youngsters, and the Lilies Christian School, which serves a population of 35, have a claim on the several thousand square feet of the Blackwell minischool.

The Youth Center needs the space to expand its services to Island kids. Lilies Christian School holds it by virtue of several years of month-to-month tenancy.

It’s ideal space for the Youth Center because it adjoins the Center’s current location.

The Youth Program, which was promised the space by RIOC years ago, met its commitment to RIOC and to this community to raise several hundred thousand dollars to renovate the space for its purposes, only to be stalled, month after month – *for some nine months* – by a RIOC Board unwilling to move on an alternate site for the Lilies School. Last month, the RIOC Board “resolved” the conflicting claim for the space by doing nothing – meaning that it failed to give the Youth Program the assurances that would solidify its claim on some three quarters of a million dollars so diligently raised.

That money will be lost unless RIOC and its Board gets with it.

Both the Youth Program and Lilies School are valuable for Roosevelt Island. But, as RIOC Board member David Kraut observed in the April meeting, the RIOC Board gave the Youth Program a Keystone Kops runaround, and delayed so long as to put committed funds at risk.

And it’s clear, as another Board member observed, it will be much easier to find alternative space for the 35 Lilies students than to find space for the Youth Program where it would have square footage equivalent to its present space plus the Blackwell minischool space.

RIOC’s Board has fumbled the ball badly, being just a little too cavalier with its commitment to give the Blackwell space to the Youth Program, and a little too cavalier with fragile funding commitments.

RIOC still has time to mend this situation, by giving the Youth Center a firm commitment, with an outside date of the end of the 2002-03 school year, for the space. That will allow the Youth Program to reconfirm its funding and make the plans it should have been allowed to put in motion some nine months ago.

RIOC can quickly find space for the small Lilies school population, a relatively easy task.

Without such action, the RIOC Board is effectively tossing away years of fundraising work and funding commitments that need some reasonable reassurances to remain solid. And now we learn that the RIOC Board is taking the month of May off; it’s cancelled its May meeting, leaving the fragile funding unnecessarily in jeopardy for yet another month.

The RIOC Board should get its act together on this, now, before it’s too late.

DL



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To the Editor:

I wouldn’t know whether Pastor Olu Obed, of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (which runs Lilies International School), is, indeed, a “minister with dubious accreditation.” I only know that this is what citizen Al Lewis claimed during a recent RIOC meeting, to state his support for the school’s eviction from its present quarters at the Blackwell minischool.

I, for one, have never checked out the Reverend’s resume, but I do believe that actions speak louder than words.

I believe that The Redeemed is a congregation of low-profile, industrious people, working hard *not* in order to grandstand or consolidate a local power base, but to develop a mission according to their Christian beliefs.

They are single-handedly renovating a church that stood abandoned for years until they came along. They have provided a spiritual center for a vital part of this community. They are offering the children of this Island a religious alternative to the type of education that is available down the block.

They also extend a needed service to an important sector of our diverse population: the members of the diplomatic corps. Lilies helps transition foreign children who might feel lost in our clueless public classrooms and their tough schoolyards. They do it for a very moderate monthly fee; a price that virtually any of our residents could afford.

Granted, Lilies students and their parents are in a minority. But in this pluralistic society of ours, minorities’ rights are supposed to be carefully protected.

It seems, though, that Elsie Obed, the school’s female and foreign administrator, has run into a wall of American-style, street-guerrilla macho politicking, from some sort of Old Boys’ Network set on promoting the status quo. The space her school occupies is wanted for other purposes. Big, important, publicly-funded purposes. So the little school has to go. Now. Whatever it takes.

This might be, as RIOC Board Member John Mannix indicated, “a schoolyard fight,” but pray tell us, who’s the bully?

It would be truly sad to see this brave lady’s school evicted; I only hope that she has (or can take a crash course in) the kind of good ol’ American politicking that she’ll need to counter the eviction campaign effectively. Or that RIOC will find it in its collective heart to do right by this woman and her commendable effort to provide Island kids with a Christian education.

Meanwhile, Elsie Obed could take comfort in biblical precedent. Remember, Sister, how Daniel emerged unharmed from the proverbial Lion’s Den. Or how, in the end, David managed to overcome Goliath, armed with just a slingshot and his faith.

Perhaps the Youth Center should take that \$750,000 in promised City funds, renovate Blackwell House, and expand there. That might be a true “win-win” situation, no?

Patricia Duarte

Letters deadline for May 18 issue: May 13

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

Letters

To The Editor:

I read the letter in your last issue concerning vandalism at Motorgate. Unfortunately that writer was incorrect; the number of cars broken into was at least eight, including mine. I did not discover the crime until returning from a trip. This is the second time my car has been vandalized in less than a year while parked in Motorgate.

I have had enough and will be leaving Roosevelt Island after living here for over three years. Fortunately, I have options and can leave – unfortunately, many people on the Island cannot. Does that make Roosevelt Island a prison of sorts, where the “inmates” don’t have much of a say as to their quality of life? I’m no Pollyanna, having been born and raised in Manhattan, and having attended New York City public schools through college. I understand what growing up and living in an urban environment is all about. But the naïve image of Roosevelt Island (see *The RIRA Column*, April 20) as an idyllic sanctuary contrasts starkly with the harsh reality.

Life Roosevelt Island-style means avoiding walking along the river for fear of being mugged. It means worrying whether your car will be safe in Motorgate. It means being harassed by Public Safety Officers over silly rules that have nothing to do with ensuring safety but more with establishing the power structure. And it means living by myriad bureaucratic edicts mandated by RIOC “management,” which seem to be preoccupied with the need to show “who’s the boss.”

Worse yet, there seems to be a congruence between the Public Safety, RIOC, Motorgate and certain people on the Island who don’t have to obey the rules and embrace mediocrity. Have you noticed that some cars seem to be able to park along the sidewalks any time for any length of time without being ticketed? How some people are never hassled by Public Safety no matter what they do or how much they are disturbing the peace? How the elevators at Motorgate always seem to be out of order? How the stairwells reek of urine? How the buildings and grounds are so poorly maintained? And what will happen when this so-called infrastructure is stressed by thousands of additional residents when Southtown is completed?

If this is your idea of a haven in the midst of NYC, you can have it. But I, for one, refuse to be ruled by the lowest common denominator.

Name Withheld

Editor’s note: Writers of *Name Withheld* letters are required to make their identity known to *The WIRE*. Such letters are accepted for publication only when the writer provides a good reason for withholding his or her name.

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.

To the Editor:

On Sunday, April 21, at the chapel plaza, a moving ceremony honored our neighbors and the members of our fire rescue team who perished September 11. The event, organized and directed by Vicki Feinmel, drew large number of residents and dignitaries, and included meaningful music by Juanita Fleming and Debbie Drucker.

We owe Vicki a large thanks for her efforts.

Judith Arond

To the Editor:

Your editorial (*Main Street as Box Canyon*, April 20) deploring the wall that is Southtown’s first building, a rising behemoth perpendicular to Main Street, is right to take to task the RIOC Board, its resident and nonresident members, its president and its Capital Planning and Development Committee.

Even we who supported Bob Chira’s vision and the effort of Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development are shocked by actualization of the present grotesque design.

Vicki Feinmel’s letter gets it just right when she says that, with many architectural options, how is it that we will no longer be able to see the bridge or the Tram while walking south on Main Street. It’s one thing to blame, correctly, the indifference of the Governor and the courts, the mismanagement of RIOC, and the developers. But what of the role of the architects who sold their services to participate in the design of this architectural travesty?

The sign on the blockage at the end of Main Street, *Welcome to Southtown*, mocks us one and all, citizens of Roosevelt Island. Listed thereon are: Design Architect/Planner – Gruzen Samton Architects; Architect of Record – Schuman Lichtenstein, Claman Efron Architects.

Even when governance fails, professionalism could have saved the day. What a contrast with the original planning of Roosevelt Island, when the State engaged leading architects of the day to develop the design of Main Street and its buildings. The residents of Roosevelt Island should band together to deliver to the architects of Southtown an architectural booby prize of shame.

Lorraine Lasker

To the Editor:

Last night the RIRA Common Council voted to again provide breakfast for volunteers on Roosevelt Island Day and voted against contributing to RIOC’s Summer Sounds music program. In other words, RIRA chose to use its dwindling treasury to support its own programs, and the votes were overwhelming.

However, and inconceivably, RIOC Board member and former RIRA President Patrick Stewart voted against offering breakfast to Roosevelt Islanders. Regarding Summer Sounds, Stewart himself made the motion and then voted to use money residents have contributed to RIRA to help pay RIOC’s bills for the concerts.

Go figure.

With these votes I hope that Patrick doesn’t come looking for his bagel and coffee on Roosevelt Island Day.

Sherie Helstien

April Public Safety Blotter now available on Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com

Judi Arond, David Bauer, Judy Berdy, Steve Bessenof, Virginia Boykin, Mary Camper-Titsingh, Melanie Castine, Lynn Chambers, Mark Chambers, Malcolm Cohen, Susan Cohen, Pearl Cooper, Shirley Cruz, Harold Davis, Joan Davis, Valerie Davis, Robin Day, Jenny Olivera DelMastro, Morty Dinerstein, Rebecca Dougherty, Juanita Elliott, Zoraida Fonseca, Teresa Hasing, Roberta Hershey, Lauren Hindman, Ken Kaplan, Peter Kaplan, Mickey Karpeles-Bauer, Matthew Katz, Seth Kaufman, Mike Kolba, Boyana Kovacevic, Dan Kovacevic, Bridget Lowy, Mercedes Lugo, Hazel Lynch, Roger Makombo, Armando Manolo, Pamela Manolo, Robert Manolo, Beatrice Marcus, Clarissa McCraley, Dorene McQueen, Terry Moses, Claudia Narine, Clinton Narine, Sandra Narine, Kathie Niederhoffer, Nancy Olivera, Joan Pape, Gabrielle Parnes, Gladys Rasheed, Irene Rivera, Ron Schuppert, Bernie Schwartz, Beryl Seaforth, Marilyn Sherman, Haley Shinozaki, Michael Shinozaki, Joseph Strong, Lynn Strong-Shinozaki, Pearl Thomas, David Tsireskin, Elena Vrinceanu, Rece Walford, Michael Walker, Maggie Warner, Liza Williams, Robin Williams, Nina Winteringham, Rose Woods

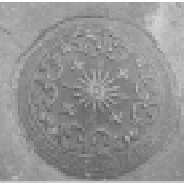
Attention, Class: Our Subject Today Is... Huh? Manhole and Coal Chute Covers?

It's billed by the Historical Society as "the quirky and vastly popular lecture on manhole and coal-chute covers." The program, slated for 7:30 p.m.



Tuesday, May 21, completes a series of presentations by a trio of women at Historical Society meetings. This one will

— you should excuse the expression — cover (sorry) decorative cast-iron artwork found on manhole and coal-chute covers from the early 1800's to the present, in New York City. The lecturer is Diana Stuart (who apparently is actually known for this sort of thing), and the place is the Island House Community Room.



I've lived on Roosevelt Island for thirteen years now, and I learned something new last week thanks to my friend Don at the Post Office. I had expected some tickets to be sent to me from Manhattan and had given a "Roosevelt Island, NY 10044" address, as is my wont. The ducats took six days to reach me, which was one day too late. I took my complaint to the gang at the Post Office. Don explained that, nine out of ten times, the letter would be entered correctly in their automated system, based on the correct zip code. On occasion, however, the machine operator would read "Roosevelt, NY," enter the wrong zip, and that is what happened to my tickets. His advice: use "New York, NY 10044", as we are part of the Manhattan postal area. I will change my wicked ways and I offer my cautionary tale to you.

Something extraordinary happened at the last RIOC Board of Directors meeting on April 18 that I wish to bring to your attention. As reported in the April 20 issue of *The WIRE*, Board Chair, DHCR Deputy Commissioner Mary Beth Labate, said that the Board was in general agreement that Southpoint should be reserved as a park and that she couldn't have made that statement two years ago. She went on to say that the SSJ/Marriott site deposit to build a two-tower hotel/condo/conference center complex had been returned. This is wonderful news. If I understand her intent, this means that the Board will seek financing to develop not three acres or five acres, but the entire Southpoint area, as the park envisioned in the General Development Plan for the Island. Parks do get built in New York State, even in times of fiscal austerity. Now that we are all on the same page, I hope this dream may become reality soon.

I must take exception to RIHMC General Manager Doryne Isley's letter in the last *WIRE*. She stated that the report of the RIOC Public Safety Advisory Committee, composed of the housing managers, selected members of RIRA, and the RIOC Board, and chaired by RIOC Board member, Dr. Joan Dawson, was released prematurely. She said it was intended for internal review only by the RIOC Board and advisory committee members. I have a copy of that report. It is entitled, "RIOC Public Safety Advisory Committee Report."

Nowhere on the title page or cover sheet are the words "interim report" or "internal use only" or "for Board or committee use only." I can only assume that it was intended as the final report of the survey of public perceptions of Public Safety service, taken last June (almost a year ago) until a hailstorm of criticism as to its deficiencies arose. In fact, the report makes assumptions that have no correlation to the raw data obtained through the survey.

I had hoped to question Dr. Dawson at the conclusion of the last RIOC Board meeting, one of those rare occasions when the community may confront Board members. However, she again declined to stay after adjournment to talk to us. In her Public Safety report, she made no mention of the long-awaited written report, interim or otherwise, made no promises of a final report, and only commented that her committee would be looking at Public Safety in the context of the present and when Southtown is tenanted.

I know that RIRA First Vice President Byron Gaspard and Vice President for Island Services Ron Schuppert, both members of the RIOC Public Safety Advisory Committee, were shocked that this report was released without their input or approval. A year is more than sufficient time to assess a simple survey, determine realistic conclusions from its data and release that report to a public that becomes more restive regarding its policing every day. I hope Doryne is correct when she promises release of a final report

shortly.

On the subject of policing, you may recall my notes on the 114th-Precinct community meeting, reported in my April 6 column. Since then Captain David P. Barrere has replaced Deputy Inspector John O'Brien as precinct commander and we wish both men well. Byron Gaspard attended the most recent community meeting and invited Captain Barrere to address the Common Council. While my request for signs around the Island giving the drug-hotline telephone number has not yet been implemented, you may have noticed the signs, in English and Spanish, with the illegal-gun hotline number. Byron has made available another useful phone number, this one to report quality of life issues, such as noise, teen drinking, or unlawful assembly and inadequate service from Public Safety: **1-888-677-LIFE**. Are you interested in setting up a block-watchers group on Roosevelt Island? Call **1-718-626-9327** for information. Do you have a teen at home between the ages of fourteen and twenty who is interested in learning more about policing or pursuing a career as a cop? Call Officer Cooper or Officer Costello at **1-718-626-9337** and ask about the Explorers program.

I've learned that Keyspan, owner and operator of the Ravenswood power-generating plant, has received a permit to conduct night construction on the site until 2:00 a.m. The permit must be renewed weekly and covers all five weekday evenings. April Dubison, Keyspan Community Development Director, estimated that the permit would be in effect through August. She assured me that Keyspan would be monitoring the noise level, especially during the warmer months when windows are likely to be open. However, I think we Island residents, especially those Eastwood tenants with an east channel view, are in a better position to determine what is excessive noise and what is not. Should you find yourself inconvenienced by late-night noise, please take the time to do three things: call the hotline number listed above, **1-888-677-LIFE**, and call Ms. Dubison at **1-718-403-6960**. Finally, leave a note with the particulars at the 531 Main Street door station (that's Rivercross) for RIRA Vice President of Planning Larry Parnes, so that we can maintain a record of how many Roosevelt Islanders have been bothered.

Were you at the 9-11-01 Plaque Dedication on April 21? Several hundred Islanders and guests, including family members and representatives of our fallen friends and neighbors, braved chilly winds to attend the ceremony and the reception that followed. Congressmember Carolyn Maloney, Assemblymember Pete Grannis, and City Council Speaker Gifford Miller spoke movingly of what 9/11 meant to them and of their warm feelings for Roosevelt Island. Dozens of firefighters were present and there was music provided by piper Kenny Sullivan and vocalists Juanita Fleming and Deborah Drucker. A talented graphic artist, Islander Tony Vita, designed the plaque, and you must visit the northwest corner of Church Plaza to see it. There is an oasis of calm surrounding the plaque, with flowers and the cherry tree, donated by Greenwatch, Inc., enclosed by a little wooden fence and the RIOC-donated bench facing in the direction of the Twin Towers.

My profound thanks to RIRA Fund Raising Committee Chair Vicki Feinmel and the team of dedicated volunteers, including Gwen Almo-Duvar, Joan Christianson, Byron Gaspard, Dolores Green, Ruth Kolins, Cookie Lugo, Steve Marcus, Patricia Ricketts, Margie Smith, and Fay Vass. I've never been prouder of this community or of the Common Council members who made this day possible.

The RIRA Column



Matthew Katz
RIRA President
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COMING UP

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

All month, Rivercross window exhibit by the Roosevelt Island Tree Board.

Sat., May 4 and every Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-12 noon, **Informal Doubles Play** at the tennis courts, sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Tennis Association. (Tennis permit required; forms at Public Safety.)

Thur., May 9, CANCELLED, 9:30 a.m., **RIOC Board of Directors Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Sat., May 11, 10:00-12:00, **Spring Tree Walk**, sponsored by the Tree Board, Lighthouse Park; led by Bob Bealin, State Forester. Free transportation from Main Street near the General Store.

Mon., May 13, 8:00 p.m., **Toastmasters**. Information: **759-0396**.

Tue., May 14, 6:30 p.m., **Rockin' and Lullin'**, a children's concert featuring sing-along, play-along music and movement for children 5-12, Library. Free.

Wed., May 15, 6:00 p.m., **PTA Spaghetti Dinner**, PS/IS 217. All school families invited.

Thur., May 16, 6:30 p.m., **Shoji Hagiwara in Concert** on the shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute), Library.

Sat., May 18, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., May 10; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., May 13, with materials due Thur., May 16. **Future issues** generally every two weeks as follows: June 1, 15, and 29 (Fourth of July issue), July 27 (reduced summer schedule), Aug. 24, Sept. 7 and 21, Oct. 5 and 19, Nov. 2 (pre-election issue), 9 (post-election), and 23 Thanksgiving issue), 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.

Sun., May 19, 1:00 p.m., **Senior Day** and **25th Anniversary of the Roosevelt Island Senior Center**, at the Senior Center, 546 Main Street.

Tue., May 21, 6:30 p.m., **Book Discussion**, *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier, Library. Advance registration required.

Tue., May 21, 7:30 p.m., **Manhole and Coal-Chute Covers**, presentation of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society with historian Diana Stuart, on decorative cast-iron artwork on manhole and coal-chute covers in the City; Island House Community Room, 555 Main Street. Free.

Wed., May 22, 6:00 p.m., **PTA Election** for PTA executive board and parent members of the school leadership team for 2002-03 school year.

Mon., May 27, 8:00 p.m., **Toastmasters**. Information: **759-0396, 755-7285**.

Wed., June 5, 8:00 p.m., **Residents Association Common Council Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Thur., June 6, 6:00 p.m., **PS 217 School Band Annual Spring Concert**.

Mon., June 10, 8:00 p.m., **Toastmasters**. Information: **759-0396, 755-7285**.

Thur., June 13, 5:30 p.m., **RIOC Board of Directors Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Public session normally resumes at about 6:30, and is followed by an open forum for residents' comments and questions.

Tue., June 18, 6:30 p.m., **Book Discussion**, *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden, Library. Advance registration required.

Fri., June 21, 7:00 p.m., **10th Anniversary Celebration** of the **Ilda da Silva Foundation**, Plaza Hotel; cocktail reception and gala dinner. For information, call **593-1807**.

Thur., July 11, 9:30 a.m., **RIOC Board of Directors Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Public session normally resumes at about 10:30 a.m.

Sat., July 20, time to be announced, visit to Roosevelt Island by the **Fireboat Harvey**, at the oil dock east of the Tramway station, to commemorate the 98th anniversary of the sinking of the General Slocum, which caught fire and sank near Roosevelt Island with great loss of life.

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.

Senior Center

Monday
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screen**
12:30, **"Oldies" Movies**
12:45, **Arts & Crafts** (RIDA)
7:00, **Dance** (new)

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)
1:30, **Tai Chi class** (new)

Thursday
10:00, **Tai Chi**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**
7:00, **Dance Class**

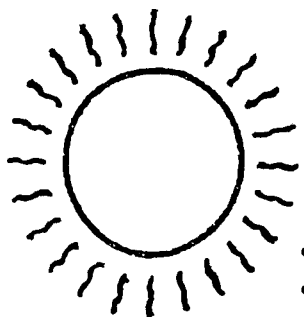
Friday
9:00, **Citizenship**
10:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beginner)
10:15, **Yoga Stretch**

11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (intermediate)
7:30, **Lotto**
Saturday
7:30, **Bingo** (RISA)

Special Events

Tues., May 7, 11:00, Stop & Shop
Mon., May 13, 10:30, Blood pressure check and health lecture
Mon., May 13, 11-12:30, MetroCard Bus
Wed., May 15, Atlantic City trip
Wed., May 15, 12:30, Access-A-Ride discussion
Sun., May 19, 1:00, Senior Day Celebration
Wed., May 22, 10:00, Stay Well Lecture, *Healthy Living at Any Age*

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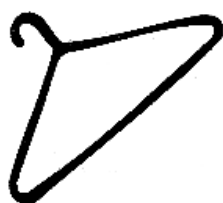
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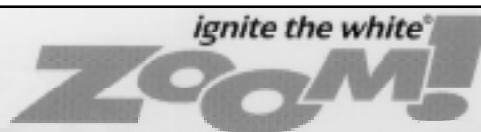
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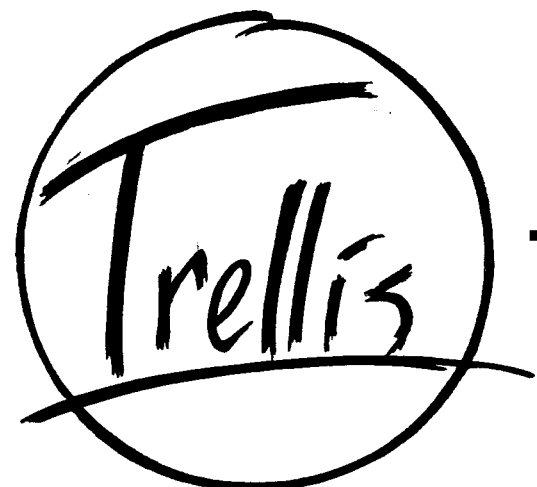
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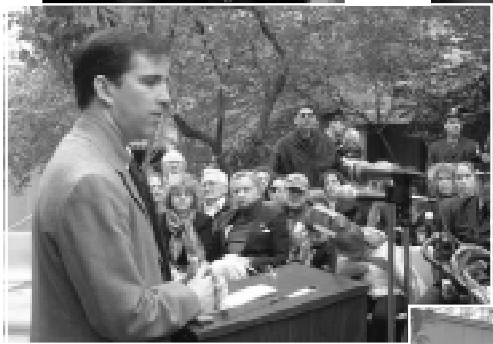
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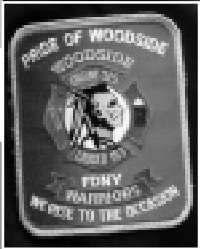
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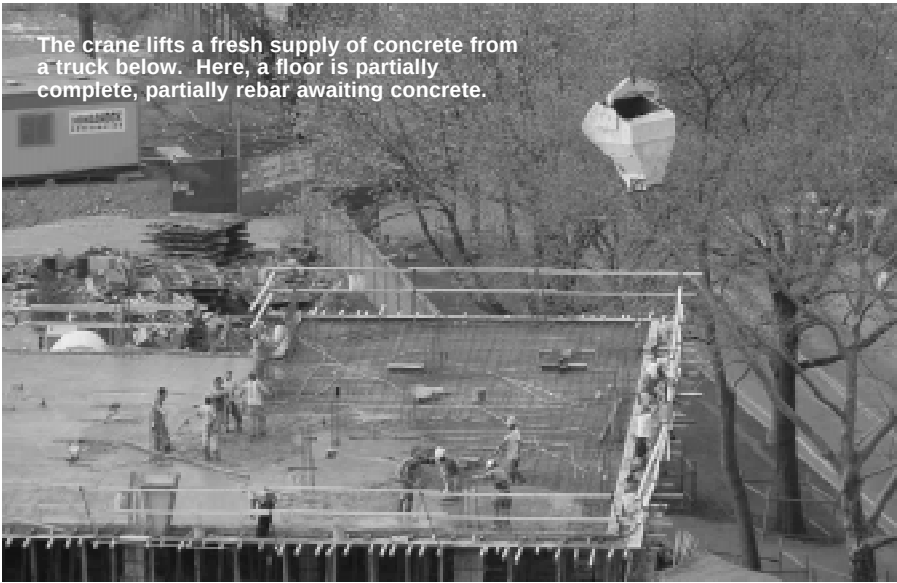


4/21/02 – The Dedication for 9/11/01



Photos: Susheel Kurien

Floor By Floor, Southtown’s Building #1 Rises



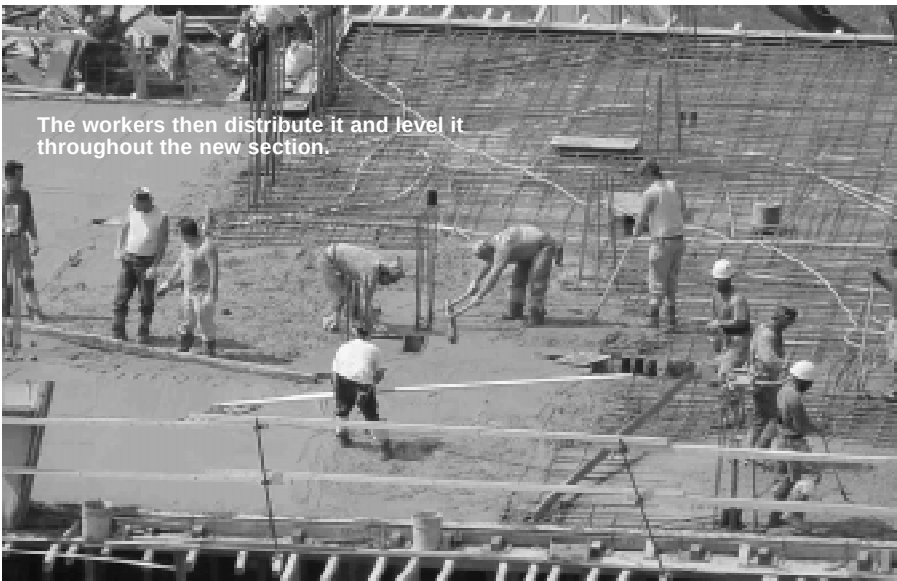
The crane lifts a fresh supply of concrete from a truck below. Here, a floor is partially complete, partially rebar awaiting concrete.



Workers receive it and start maneuvering it into position. The crane operator, who cannot see this action, is guided by radio and hand signals.



Concrete is poured into the rebar.



The workers then distribute it and level it throughout the new section.



The first building of the new Southtown complex rose past the 11th floor this week, overseen by a crane towering well above 19 stories.

Eastwood and Rivercross residents with south-facing windows have been able to observe a repetitive process over the past few weeks as the floors have risen at the rate of about two a week.

In the second photo (left), workers are preparing concrete forms for addition of a floor/ceiling. The third photo shows forms for columns, each one containing a structure of rebar (reinforcement bar), brought from ground level to working level by the crane.

The sequence of photos at the right shows the completion of a floor.



Finally, a rotating machine is used to smooth it out.



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Tribute from page 1

prevail. Tahira Khan, a Westview resident who lost her son, Taimour, said, "We have wounded hearts but we have the willingness and strength to go on."

City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, who represents Roosevelt Island, said, "People who live outside the City often think of New York as an enormous, anonymous behemoth, with so many people that there's no real sense of community. That's untrue, and nowhere is it more untrue than here on Roosevelt Island."

Patty Fallone's remarks also centered on the importance of community. She recalled the feelings she first expressed September 21 in a Good Shepherd memorial service for her husband. "I couldn't fall if I wanted to. This community was holding me up with such incredible strength. And that still holds true today."

"We were so happy when we returned here ten years ago to my childhood home to raise our four children. We could not have picked a better environment for them to grow up in: More diversity, more love, more opportunity. We never in a million years realized how much we would need that – and how much I thank God that we are here in this community – that we can all gather together... This is what Roosevelt Island is all about." Fallone thanked the Residents Association for being "incredibly supportive."

Many in the audience sobbed quietly, listening to colleagues, friends, and family members of those lost. Noting a line of firefighters standing in a straight line to one side and reminded of the role they played on 9/11, Representative Carolyn Maloney said, "It takes a very special person to see everyone fleeing and then go in to save lives."

Maloney said she is sponsoring legislation, which has already passed the House, to create a memorial. She said she intends to push for placing that memorial on Roosevelt Island, the home base of the Fire Department's Special Operations unit, which lost so many firefighters on September 11. "The only way terrorists could defeat us," she said, "would be if they could destroy our way of life. It is events like this one today that not only heal, but reaffirm our community way of life – our American values of caring for and loving each other, and fighting for freedom and rights for people all over the world. I thank Roosevelt Island for organizing, for remembering, and for helping us heal."

Matthew McDougall, a firefighter with Ladder 163, where Scott Larsen, a former employee of Roosevelt Island Housing Management, also served as a firefighter, said, "The family of firefighters has grown since 9/11, and I would like to thank the Roosevelt

Island family for including us."

"We were relieved when Scott came to Roosevelt Island in response to a fire because he would try not to break the windows," said Doryne Isley of Housing Management. "He would ask that they be opened. He understood how we felt about broken windows." With Housing Management staff arrayed behind her, she spoke for them: "Scott was so excited to become a firefighter, and we were excited for him. We stand here to serve you, and we are proud to be amongst you today."

Several firefighters based at the FDNY Special Operations Command on the Island, were lost on September 11, including Chief Raymond Downey. His son, Chuck, also a firefighter, addressed the crowd, reminding them that his father had spent his last morning on the Island. "The Island was his unofficial second home," he said. He added that talking about 9/11 reopens many wounds but it also helps to show how many people care. He ended his speech by quoting a thought from his brother, "I didn't need 9/11 to know my father was a hero. My father was a hero before 9/11."

Rivercross resident Cathy Kross, who lost her brother, Kevin Smith – a veteran of 24 years as a firefighter – in the Twin Towers attack, recalled his devotion to his job in search and rescue. "Civic duty is Kevin's legacy." She quoted Kevin's wife, "The one thing that helps me get through this is that I know he did all that he could do. If someone needs us, we have a civic responsibility. You work for your community, and your community will work for you."

Sister Regina Palamara introduced Island religious leaders, who joined in a prayer, but not before observing that many words have a new meaning after 9/11. "Terror, grief, emptiness, heroism, sacrifice... We can't even listen to a song the same way we did a year ago."

State Assemblymember Pete Grannis called the Twin Towers attack an act of cowardice, and contrasted it with the bravery of the firefighters and police who "serve us day in and day out, who were back on the job September 12, the day after this tragedy." He added, "What these cowards did not understand when they attacked us was that this will bring us together in ways that we couldn't have imagined. People are remembering their fellow Americans, how much we owe one another on a daily basis, and we are reminded that we have the most extraordinary people" in uniformed service. Grannis called the April 21 event "a very important day of remembrance."

Artist William West presented a painting with a fire truck and images of firefighters to the new head of Special Operations Com-

Pollution from page 1

Gigantiello is critical of the New York State Public Service Commission, saying its procedures for siting new power plants fail to consider the overall pollution situation in the area. He said that has added to the "Asthma Alley" effect here.

Gigantiello added that, in addition to using better siting procedures for power plants and repowering old plants with more efficient equipment, New York could reduce overall pollution levels by replacing diesel-powered buses with propane-powered vehicles.

CHOKe's activities are supported by the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA), which is affiliated with the group.

At Wednesday night's RIRA Common Council meeting, Rivercross delegate Ron Schuppert recounted the story of a power-generating expert who visited Roosevelt Island recently, toured the steam-generating plant that serves the Island's hospitals, and commented afterward on how "dirty" the steam plant is. Schuppert pointed out that the plant, just east of the Tram station, is also just across the roadway from the new baseball/soccer field built recently as part of the Southtown project. Schuppert said the visiting expert said he "wouldn't eat a sandwich" near the plant.

mand, Chief John Norman. "This is a time in our history that we should never forget," West said. "Black or white, Jew or Christian, did not matter on 9/11. Everyone helped. This is what makes America great. This is what makes us real Americans at heart."

Feinmel acknowledged the aid of several residents in arrangements for the memorial and for the event, including Margie Smith and Fay Vass.

Questions from page 1

family. Now my family is shattered." They consoled him, saying he must be strong for his family and live for the baby. Chanda fainted. She was revived by a friend, who repeatedly patted her cheeks.

The priest, Nipendra Nadha, said a prayer in Sanskrit and then quoted lines from the Bhagavadgita, a book of Hindu philosophy. "Nothing is an accident," said Nadha. "Everything is a part of God's plan." He urged everyone to pray for Atanu and for the Nandys.

People sobbed, trying to console one another. Chanda cried especially hard as she met and hugged Atanu's friends from school. "When I first came to school, Shuvo took care of me and showed me around," said Sumiran Das, 13, sobbing uncontrollably. "He was a very positive boy, a very helpful person," said Kenneth Wrye, director of the UN International School. He assured the teenagers who had gathered at the funeral home that their presence would be appreciated by the grief-stricken family.

"They were devastated," said Dr. Grimm, speaking of Chanda and Subinay Nandy. "They were doting parents and, even though they had a new baby, they certainly did not neglect Atanu. He came to me in April for his check-up. He was fine. He always came with his parents." She paused. "I simply cannot get over the fact that he used to sit on the railing of his balcony. What a stupid accident. Teenagers are such risk-takers. They think they are immortal."

Atanu's body was cremated as per Hindu rites. The Nandys left for Dhaka on Tuesday night.

Before they left, they terminated their lease at River Road. Movers will take their belongings to an apartment off-island.

The questions will remain unanswered.



Arbor Day

For the ninth year, Roosevelt Island has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. At Roosevelt Island Tree Board's observance, these second-graders from PS 217 joined in planting a tree. The Tree Board is holding a Tree Walk May 11 at Lighthouse Park (see *ComingUp* on page 3).



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by Seth Kaufman

SPORTSWIRE

BASEBALL The standings after the first three weeks in the Youth Program’s Little League season are:

Minors		Majors	
Navy	3-0-0	Royal	3-0-0
Red	1-1-1	Navy	2-1-0
Royal	1-1-1	Green	2-2-0
Green	0-3-0	Red	0-4-0

Minors: In April 27 games, the Navy team overcame a 4-run, first-inning deficit to defeat the Royal team 11-4. Ian Kleinfeld had 2 hits for Royal, while Justos Burgos led Navy with 2 hits of his own. In the other game of the day, the Red team jumped out to a 4-1 lead over the Green team, and held on for a 4-3 victory.

Majors: In action April 27, the Royal team moved into sole possession of first place by defeating the Red team 7-6 in a tight game that was not decided until the last inning, when Mark Anderson won the game with an RBI single. Abel Tadesse of the Red team, making his first Major League pitching appearance, struck out 11 batters in 5 innings. Justin Gonzalez started for Royal, but Neal Stueber picked up the win in relief, striking out 2 out of the 3 batters he faced. Richard De La Cruz and Joshua Hart led the hitting attack for Royal. In the other game that day, the Green team defeated the Navy team to pull within a game and a half of first place. The Green team was led by the excellent pitching performance of Eddie Cruz, who pitched a complete game, striking out 14 batters. Thomas Herlihy, on base four times, and Anass Dorani, who went 3-4, sparked the offense for Green. Elvis Santana had a two-run triple for the Navy team highlight of the day.

Seniors: The Senior B team, playing in the East River Baseball Association, won their first game of the year on April 21, defeating the CYO Tornados by a score of 7-6. Rahim Drame pitched a complete game to pick up his first Senior League win and David Malary knocked in the winning run in the last inning with a triple. In action April 27, the Senior A team improved its record to 6-1 and remained in first place by defeating the Senior B team in a doubleheader, 6-3 and 12-3. In the first game, Scott Davis picked up his first win of the season, while Paul Brown recorded his first save, striking out four batters in two innings of relief. Aaron Cohen pitched well for the Senior B team in his first Senior League start. In the second game of the doubleheader, Deshawn Pearson and José Marte pitched the Senior A team to victory.

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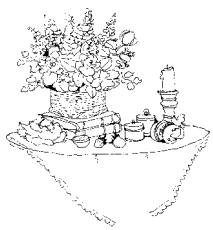
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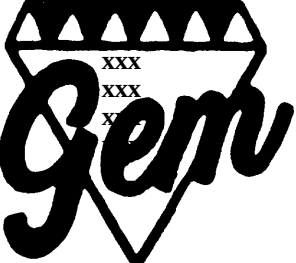
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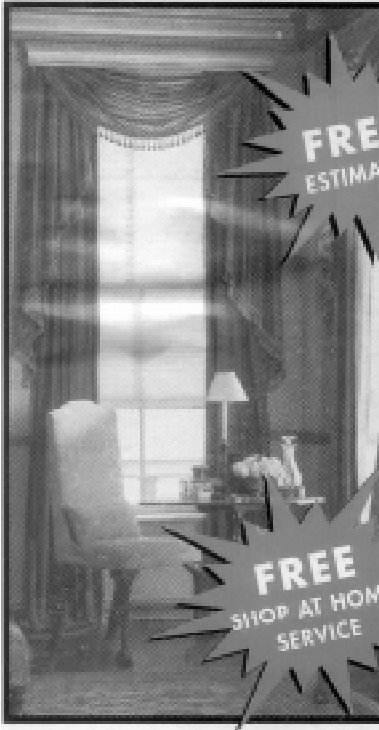
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Performance schedules: May 17-20 6 performances / 3 casts

CAST A

Friday, May 17 @ 7:30
Saturday May 18 @ 7:30

Allie Michele
Samantha Stone
Elana Leopold
MJ Geier
Sasha Diamond
Lily Nishihira
Elke Dikoume
Noora Poulamaa
Ellie Cannon
Sara Becker
Hallie Geier
Maya Kurien
Jeremiah Negron
Nora Helal
Irina Salama
Melissa Crespo
Natalja Trojanovic
Alexie Franco
Stefan Iliescu
Seth Yacirca
Tyler Cannon

CAST B

Sunday, May 19 @ 2:00
Monday, May 20 @ 7:30

Nicole Herlihy
Nana Paturet
Joelle Joseph
Victoria Shumikhin
Naesima Coderrens
Grace Ahn
Crieellys De la Cruz
Tamara Cameo
Mariana Verae
Chaunice DeVine
Colleen Herlihy
Venece Rodriguez
Adam Glenn
Melissa Arteet
Munin Streitz
Shakira Fantauzzi
Kumi Takahaashi
Thomas Herlihy
Max Eingorn
Skanda Kadirgamar

CAST C

Saturday, May 18 @ 2:00
Sunday, May 19 @ 7:30

Katie Fallone
Annie Battlee
Sara Garcia
Ellie Philips
Genny Holmes
Ayumi Moore
Chanel Dickerson
Daniela Jovanovic
Jillian Howard
Lana Jovanovic
Arta Perezic
Nalani Glenn
Clement Fournier
Stephanie Negron
Andrea Roganovic
Ebonie Williams
Nia Felder
Jonathan Stein
Djordje Vuckovic
Ryan Chono

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