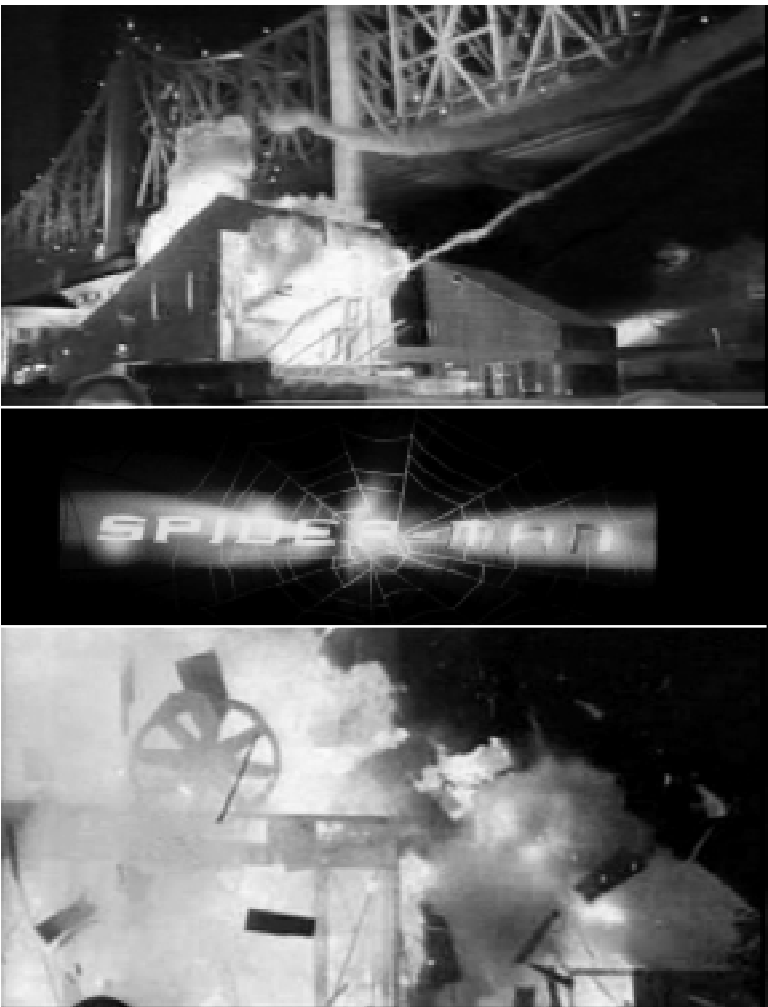


Next scheduled issue:
Saturday, June 1

The Main Street **WIRE**TM

Roosevelt Island’s Community Newspaper

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



KA-BOOM The Island Tramway station gets some harsh treatment in *Spider-Man*, the record-smashing movie released two weekends ago. The Tram figures prominently in the flick’s climactic scenes, as it’s suspended from the Queensboro Bridge by a single strand of the cartoon character’s web.

Going on 20 Years, the Farmer’s Market Continues a Regular Saturday Schedule

by Nancy Cruikshank

Every Friday, at about the time Roosevelt Islanders have turned off their television sets, turned out the lights, and are dozing off, 200 miles away in Watsontown, Pennsylvania, a large truck is pulling out of the driveway of a darkened farmhouse, leaving behind the quiet Amish countryside on the banks of the Susquehanna River. The truck heads east on I-80, driving through the night to Roosevelt Island.

The truck and its occupants are on their way to the Saturday morning Farmer’s Market on Roosevelt Island. For almost 20 years, they’ve brought the bounty of the Amish countryside to the Island and, judging by its longevity, residents appreciate the assortment of fruits and vegetables, cheeses, breads, eggs, pies, cakes, herbs, and tasty “free range” chickens.



Israel Wengerd has been coming to Roosevelt Island as part of the Wengerd family’s market for almost two decades.



Miller and RIOC in Talks on Tram Ads

by Dick Lutz

City Council Speaker Gifford Miller and representatives of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) will meet next week on the question of advertising on the Tramway’s cabins and stations.

RIOC issued a request for proposals last month, seeking a private-sector agency to market the asset as a way of covering some part of the Tram’s operating deficit, which RIOC says will be \$1.3 million this fiscal year.

In the recent past, Miller has insisted that any plan for Tramway advertising – which was banned when the City last issued a franchise for the Tram’s operation over City streets – be tied directly to a benefit for residents, such as MetroCard transfers.

RIOC Board member Leo Kayser, a strong proponent of selling the advertising space, pointed out to *The WIRE* on Thursday that the franchise agreement has lapsed anyway, and the Tram has been operating without formal City permission for some time. Kayser says the MetroCard would only exacerbate the Tram’s deficit, and he wants it dealt with separately from the question of advertising.

At the same time, Kayser said he seeks only to give Miller an opportunity to express his views on the

advertising idea, and to work out any differences. Similar sentiments were expressed by resident Board member David Kraut and, through his press representative, by RIOC President Robert Ryan.

But Kayser added, “the economics of the MetroCard would exacerbate our operating loss. It doesn’t address the economics of this situation. I’m not sure he (Miller) un-

derstands that. We want to lay out the numbers for him.” Kayser added, “We’re trying to save the Tram.” Ryan’s representative said, “This is the only form of mass transit (in the City) that does not have advertising. Given the deficit, we have to find some way to generate revenue.”

A representative of Speaker
See **Tram Ads**, page 2

Merchants to Ask Aid

Island merchants are looking for help. The Chamber of Commerce has called a meeting for Thursday afternoon, asking the Small Business Administration and representatives of City and State government to offer ideas on how to help the Island’s small businesses to survive until Southtown comes on line.

Chamber President Julie Palermo said, in a letter of invitation, that the merchants’ “financial status has steadily deteriorated and, with the economic downturn of the past few years and the tragedy of September 11, has reached a critical stage... They need grants, low-cost loans, and any other stimulus available... to [create] a more vibrant and stable environment on Roosevelt Island.”

Palermo told *The WIRE* that State Senator Olga Mendez is expected to participate, and invitations have been issued to City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, Assemblymember Pete Grannis, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields, RIOC President Robert Ryan, and New York National Bank President Serafin Mariel.



Joelle Joseph, Nicole Herlihy, and Nana Paturet are the *Alphas*.

Girls Who Bully

MST Presenting Original Musical Play, *Alphagirls*

Spider-Man, move over.

The Main Street Theatre is premiering a new children’s musical this weekend. It’s *Alphagirls*, with music and lyrics by Bob McDowell and book by Bill McMahon. Through Monday, there are evening performances at 7:30, and also Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00.

The story tackles the recent hot-button topic of bullying by girls. A trio of “nerd girls,” tired of being victims, decide to become superheroes and take on their arch irritants, the Beta Dolls, who sit at the top tier of their school’s social pyramid, set the rules of cool, and enforce a pecking order among their peers.

The Alphagirls discover that being heroic doesn’t require super powers – but can be about sticking together and standing up for one another. Through a series of challenges, from intramural sports to the science fair, they find they can meet the world on their own terms.

Bob McDowell is a veteran of many Main Street Theatre shows, and has a musical adaptation of a traditional Civil-War play premiering this month in Abbeville, South Carolina. Bill McMahon is a prize-winning playwright with a number of works to his credit, including one full-length play as a current finalist for the O’Neill Conference.

Alphagirls is directed by Nancy Howe of the Main Street Theatre.

Tickets for regular seating are \$10, with mat seating available at \$5 for children ten and under. Reservations and information: **371-4449**.



Published by **The Main Street WIRE**
©2002 Unisource2000™ Inc.
531 Main St. #413, NYC10044

News (212) **826-9055**
Urgent news **1-917-617-0449**
Advertising (212) **751-8214**
Circulation (212) **935-7534**
Fax (212) **755-2540**
e-mail Editor@MainStreetWIRE.com
in association with **Website NYC10044**
www.nyc10044.com

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Tram Ads from page 1

Miller’s office, Jessica Lappin, described a RIOC ad in *The New York Times* offering the Tram as advertising medium as “just outrageous.” She said, “This is a totally unlawful measure. I would strongly advise the members of the RIOC Board not to take this step. It is not in the community’s best interests or the Board’s best interests personally.”

Late Thursday, Chris Policano, Miller’s press secretary, said, “Given the fact that we passed an authorizing resolution back in May, 2001, with a prohibition on advertising on the stations and Tram cars, we think that what they have done in terms of trying to get advertising is a cause of consternation and a violation of the law.”

“There’s been a concern about a lack of transfers on the Tram,” he added. “The Speaker is going to want to know what they’re going to do to address this problem. He wants to know what their plans are vis-a-vis advertising, and how any resulting income is going to be used to benefit Roosevelt Island residents.”

Limited Options

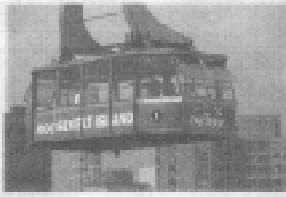
Just how determined the RIOC Board is in its plan to sell advertising on the Tram, and just how determined Miller is to require some specific benefit for residents, and how those positions might play off against each other, is hard to predict. If Miller’s only option for enforcing his insistence on a quid pro quo for residents is a lawsuit to require its removal, or action to deny an operating franchise and then act to stop Tramway operation without one, he may face politically unacceptable choices in dealing with RIOC. On the other hand, he may have other options for putting pressure on RIOC.

Asked about the potential for the RIOC Board’s seeking a tax subsidy for the Tramway of the kind received by all other forms of mass transit in the State, Kraut told *The WIRE* in a Thursday e-mail, “We’re not going to get a tax-funded subsidy from the Pataki administration. There’s no “either-or” (subsidy or advertising) here. Like most people concerned with the Tram’s future, I am hoping that a growth in residents with a vested interest in getting to the near East Side will raise sufficient revenues.” Revenue from Southtown users of the Tramway – medical personnel with jobs on the East Side – is expected to starting coming on line in Fall, 2003.

Kraut indicated he’s weary of the ongoing argument over the cost of the MetroCard. “The very next thing I need to know,” he wrote, “is exactly how much it would cost to add the Tram to the MetroCard system. I’m bored with the rhetorical excess. Someone tell me *exactly* how much money we need to make this happen and let’s get busy raising those bucks from whatever sources might be available. Talking isn’t doing.”

REACH NEW HEIGHTS IN ADVERTISING!

The Roosevelt Island Tramway and Stations
NYC's Truly Unique Advertising Opportunity



For further information on placing your ad on the
Roosevelt Island Tramway and Stations
Contact Rudy Rajabally, Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
(212) 803-4540, ext. 347

RIOC's ad seeking advertising on the Tramway first ran last month in *The New York Times*, and has been repeated as recently as Monday of this week.

To the Editor:

As a Board member of the Roosevelt Island Youth Program, I am grateful for the opportunity to make some points that may not be fully appreciated by the community. I believe that the Youth Program and its executive director, Charles DeFino, do not always get the credit they deserve for the fine service they render our children.

The Youth Program is most usually associated with the great athletic programs that it runs – four baseball leagues for ages 6 to 16, basketball leagues in the winter and summer, and a fall touch-football program. Last year, the Youth Program stepped forward to run the Island’s soccer program when it was in danger of shutting down.

The Youth Program also runs a number of after-school programs ranging from academic, including homework help, tutoring and SAT preparation, to recreational. The Youth Program summer camp serves hundreds of children at a price that families in our community can afford.

I’ve known Mr. DeFino for many years, and I find him to be extremely committed, hardworking, generous and resourceful. He has always been willing to lend a helping hand in so many other ways – the Youth Program co-sponsors Roosevelt Island Day and has almost entirely funded the IS 217

school proms for a number of years. Several years ago, thanks to Mr. DeFino’s hard work, the Youth Program was able to win a Beacon Program grant, which has provided a great number of programs for our children that the Youth Program would not otherwise be able to fund.

Given this proven track record of invaluable service to hundreds and hundreds of families over the years, I am angered by RIOC’s failure to approve the Youth Program’s request for site control for the adjoining space currently occupied by the Lilies School. This is a space that was promised by RIOC to the Youth Program through written agreement ten years ago. Mr. DeFino’s vision for a new Youth Center facility is impressive – including equipping this space with a local broadcast studio, a video-editing facility, computers, a youth-run business, and facilities for community use.

The Youth Program currently serves hundreds of children in a 5,000-square-foot space. The Lilies School serves less than 30 children in 10,000 square feet of space!

Mr. DeFino raised three-quarters of a million dollars in City and State funds for this project. At a time when the city is in dire financial trouble, this is no small feat. Regardless of the merits of the Lilies School, surely common sense

overwhelmingly supports assisting the Youth Program to capitalize on this opportunity to build a new Youth Center facility before the funding is permanently lost.

I wish to thank RIOC Board members Kraut, Stewart, and Mannix for their support. I urge residents to write to the other RIOC Board members and to speak out at the next RIOC meeting, so that site control is granted to the Youth Program and that this unique chance to get something really special for our kids is not squandered.

Jimmie Won

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.

Next Letters deadline: May 28

I’d like to tell you a story. It touches on Roosevelt Island only peripherally, but you may find it interesting. It involves the Annual Homecoming Sunday at my *alma mater*, Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn.

Next year is the 40th anniversary of my graduation (how is this possible?) and I’ve remained close to the school through the alumni association and through old school chums. Erasmus was once a powerhouse of academic excellence, and has now been divided into three schools: Science & Math, Humanities, and Performing Arts. It boasts a superlative physical plant with distinctive gothic architecture, a spacious campus, and a working swimming pool. Its history goes back to 1789 and the Dutch Reformed Boys Academy that still sits on the quad and is now a Museum of Education. Its alumni are legendary, including athletes Sid Luckman and Billy Cunningham, chess whiz Bobby Fisher, and Barbra Streisand. It now services a community composed primarily of Caribbean immigrants, many from Haiti. Where once there were graduating classes of two thousand, with top scholars heading to Harvard, Princeton, and MIT, the Science & Math High School will send one hundred graduates to meet futures of varying promise this June.

I met two of the best at Homecoming. Two young people, a young Haitian woman and a young Asian man, at the top of their class, are vying for an Alumni Association academic scholarship. They shared their plans and dreams with the audience and, clearly, they were sharp, focused, and serious about their futures. I got to speak to them in the newly-renovated library, high atop the Erasmus campus, in the company of the Science & Math assistant principal.

I noticed that there were no computers in the library, and asked the administrator where the students did their computer work. She astonished me by saying there were no computers for student use in the entire high school. She said they hoped to rectify this glaring inadequacy in the near future. I asked the young scholars if they had computers at home; they did not. I asked the young man, who hoped to be a pre-med in college, and the young woman, who has applications in to top colleges, if they had the training to submit work by computer, as is required in most schools of higher learning nowadays. They shrugged their shoulders.

Here’s where Roosevelt Island comes into the story. I’m thinking of our PS/IS 217 and their two computer labs, filled with Macs and PC’s, not to mention the

science labs, library and other rooms offering computer support. And I’m thinking of last year’s dedication of one of those computer rooms made possible by City Council Speaker Gifford Miller. I asked the assistant principal at Erasmus if school officials had sought support from their elected officials. Her answer: “Oh, I don’t want to get involved in politics.”

What does it take to get what kids need? Judging from the Roosevelt Island School, I suspect it is the combination of committed teachers and administrators, caring parents in a concerned PTA and elected representatives who get things done. Erasmus once sent as many winners of the Intel (formerly Westinghouse) Science Talent Search to Washington, D.C., as the Bronx High School of Science, and now they are failing kids trying to make it in the 21st Century. I know our Alumni Association will try to make a difference, but I wonder if those lovely Haitian and Asian kids I met, a valedictorian and a salutatorian, will be able to do college work, given the skills they lack. I could just cry.

On a happier note, when the events of the day had finished, I took the opportunity to visit the old churchyard of the Dutch Reformed Church across Flatbush Avenue from Erasmus, something I had never made the time to do 40 years earlier. The church is now Church of Christ, with services conducted in two African dialects plus Haitian Creole. I wandered about a churchyard of several acres containing headstones of great antiquity. There were eroded memorials, in Dutch and English, from the 1780’s and 90’s, chronicling the great names of Brooklyn history: Lefferts and Ditmars and Van Cortland. As I knelt to read one small stone, a large, beautifully-plumed rooster walked up to me and asked for a handout. Honest. You can’t make this stuff up. I explained that I had nothing to offer, as I hadn’t anticipated meeting such a fine gentlebird of his noble bearing and species. There was no umbrage taken and he allowed me to stroke his iridescent feathers.

As I walked to the subway on Church Avenue, the only white face in a sea of umber and café-au-lait, I took with me the sadness of what New York’s once-unparalleled school system has become and the hope that, somehow, it might be restored along with the damage from September 11. It has taken thirty years to dismantle New York’s promise of superior education. Who’s to say which disaster has been the greater to this City’s future?

The RIRA Column



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

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.

Fri.-Mon., May 17-20, performances of *Alphagirls*, a new children’s musical, at the Main Street Theatre. Evenings at 7:30; also Saturday and Sunday at 2:00. Adults or chair seating, \$10; children under ten, \$5 (mat seating). Reservations and information: **371-4449**.

Sat., May 18 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.)

Sat., May 18, 12:00-2:00, **Roosevelt Island Day Nursery’s Kiddie Olympics** for children 2 and up, Manhattan Park Theater Club Plaza. Pony rides, magic, animal balloons, games, food, and a raffle. Prices, including food: Kids, \$8 (includes one pony ride); adults \$6 (no ride).

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 its executive board and parent members of the school leadership team for 2002-03 school year.

Mon., May 27, noon, **Memorial Day Tennis Tournament and Picnic**, Roosevelt Island Tennis Association, at the Octagon courts. Free for members; \$5 for non-members; membership available at courts.

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

Sat., June 1, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., May 24; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., May 27; materials due Thur., May 30. **Future issues** every two weeks as follows: June 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.

Wed., June 5, 8:00 a.m., **School Leadership Team Meeting**, PS 217.

Wed., June 5, 6:00 p.m., **PTA Executive Board Meeting**, PS 217.

Wed., June 5, 8:00 p.m., **RIRA Common Council Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. (Last meeting until September.)

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

Thur., June 6, 7:00 p.m., **Naming New York – Manhattan Places and How They Got Their Names**, with author Sanna Feirstein, Library.

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

Thur., June 13, 5:30 p.m., **RIOC Board 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.

Sat., June 15, all day, **Roosevelt Island Day**. Volunteer to help with clean-up and flower planting – call Kandle Fraser at **838-4747**. Arts and crafts, puppet show, clowns, rides, musical entertainment, teen pool party.

Senior Center

Monday 10:30, Blood Pressure Screen 12:30, “ Oldies ” Movies 7:00, Dance (new)	7:00, Dance Class
Tuesday 10:00, Jazzercise 1:30, Games (RISA)	Friday 9:00, Citizenship 10:00, English as 2nd Lan- guage (beginner)
Wednesday 9:15, Stay Well Exercise 10:00, English as 2nd Lan- guage (beginner) 11:00, English as 2nd Lan- guage (intermediate) 1:30, Tai Chi class (new)	10:15, Yoga Stretch 11:00, English as 2nd Lan- guage (intermediate) 7:30, Lotto
Thursday 10:00, Tai Chi 10:30, Creative Arts 12:30, Movie	Saturday 7:30, Bingo (RISA)
Special Events Sun., May 19 , 1:00, Senior Day Wed., May 22 , 10:00, Stay Well Lecture, <i>Healthy Living at Any Age</i>	

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

SPORTSWIRE

by Seth Kaufman

BASEBALL Standings after five weeks of the Youth Program’s Little League season are:

Minors		Majors	
Navy	4-1	Green	6-2
Royal	2-1-2	Navy	4-2
Red	1-3-1	Royal	4-2
Green	1-3-1	Red	0-8

Minors: In games played May 11, the Navy team defeated the Red team 5-2 to remain in sole possession of first place. Javon Perry, Christopher Ruiz, and Alexander Pinks each had two hits for Navy, including a homerun for Alexander. For the Red team, Sabrina Davis and Andrew Feely had the RBIs and Parker Ellis had a single and scored a run. In the other game that day, the Royal team came from behind in the last inning to tie the Green team 6-6. In the bottom of the 6th, down 6-3, Diana Folla doubled, Alexandra Fallone singled, and Ian Kleinfeld tripled. Then, with two outs, Seth Vacirca singled in the tying run. Seth also hit a homerun in the game. Shawn Lee led Green with an outstanding hitting game.

Majors: In May 11 action, the Green team moved into first place by coming from behind to defeat the Royal team 9-3. The game was extremely close until the 6th inning, when Green broke the game open. Saul Nadel started the rally that completed the comeback, and Sid Menon and Eddie Flores added big hits for Green. For Royal, Jenna Stueber went 3-3 and Kelsey Santella crushed a double. In the other game of the day, the Navy team moved into a second-place tie with the Royal team by defeating the Red team 15-8. Steven Morabito of Navy pitched a complete game for the victory, while Sanger Devine, Darrin Roy and Jimmy Elias led the Navy attack.

Seniors: The Senior B team, playing in the East River Baseball Association, split a doubleheader with the Yorkville teams on May 11, defeating Yorkville 1 10-9 in the first game, before dropping the second to Yorkville 2, 10-6. In the victory over Yorkville 1, Aaron Cohen pitched the first three innings and Sasha Agosta finished the game and picked up the victory as the Youth Program team broke a 9-9 tie in the bottom of the 7th inning on a game-winning hit by Matthew Brodsky. Jonathan Singh was the hitting star for the Senior B team, with 5 RBIs in the doubleheader. Meanwhile, the Senior A team improved its record to 8-1 and remained in first place in the East River Baseball Association, defeating the CYO Hurricanes in both ends of a doubleheader, 18-1 and 17-3. José Marte pitched a complete game for the victory in the first game, while Alex Girardi picked up the win in relief of Scott Davis in the second game. Deshawn Pearson, with 2 home runs, and Lamar Burrows were the hitting stars for the Senior A team.

Fran Dym

Fran Dym, a longtime resident of Roosevelt Island and an Island activist, died over the weekend of May 4. She was 67 and lived in Rivercross. She had also lived in Eastwood. The cause is believed to have been a heart attack.

She is survived by her sister, Lee Weinbach, her daughter and son, Janet and John Goldstein, and her former husband, Hank Goldstein.

Fran founded the Committee for Maintenance and Privatization Fair Play, whose activities included a suit against the Rivercross board that sought to raise surcharges to the 50 percent cap in effect in all other Mitchell-Lama housing units in the State and City. Although the suit was lost, Fran continued her involvement with middle-class housing issues.

She worked for many years with firms specializing in public relations for the electronics industry, eventually opening her own office, Dym Communications. She was instrumental in placing the designs of one client, the Danish firm Bang & Olufsen, in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art. After Fran retired and closed her office, she set up an EBay business that specialized in antique glass. A tireless bargain hunter, she visited the Island thrift shop almost daily, frequently selling her finds on EBay.

She was also a knowledgable patron of the visual and performing arts, particularly music. One of her favorite groups was the Guarneri Quartet. Most of all, she was an ardent booster of the Peoples Symphony Concerts and had subscribed to their series at Washington Irving High School for many years, usually bringing friends to performances. “I owe her so much,” Jeffrey Allen, a business colleague and close friend, said. “She increased the enjoyment of my life by introducing me to the world of classical music and art.” (Contributions in Fran’s memory may be made to the Peoples Symphony Concerts at 201 West 54th Street, 10019.)

Fran was never hesitant to express her opinions openly and she impressed some as being abrasive. But she did her homework and often consulted with City and State housing advocates and politicians. “She was very concerned about the future of affordable housing as related to Mitchell-Lama and about Rivercross and Roosevelt Island issues in general,” Tony Morenzi, district office manager for State Assemblymember Pete Grannis, said. “We had conversations about a range of issues. She had strong beliefs and she made sure you knew. But she was always willing to listen to a different perspective on an issue, if she felt you had a real understanding of it. And you could never move her from her belief that there was a need for affordable housing in New York City. You miss people like her, who raise these issues and have the information to back it up. People like Fran are needed.”

Without fanfare, Fran also took care of friends in Rivercross who were seriously ill or unable to deal with sudden life problems. She visited two friends in hospitals regularly over long periods of time this past year, even when she was exhausted herself.

“She was irritating, annoying, and argumentative, but she was lovable and the world will be poorer for her not being here,” Gilda Hannah, a longtime friend, said. “I was honored to be her friend. More than that, I was honored to be appreciated by her. This was an exceptional person, larger than life, as people of this ilk often are.”

Fran approached life with a zest that was not dimmed by the life-threatening illnesses and other crushing setbacks that she had faced. Once the beneficiary of expense-account meals at the best Manhattan restaurants, she talked excitedly about new restaurants she and friends discovered in Queens. She loved shopping at Costco and eating blintzes at the Trellis.

She also loved animals. She wished she had a dog, she told me. A small yappy one, of course, I said teasingly. Of course, she said. Fran was always eager to visit with and take care of my two cats when I was away. She did not have much use for the pathologically shy Thornton. But she adored Valentina, a one-eyed, stiff-legged young tortoiseshell stray with a rusty purr and bones that had somehow broken and mended in the subway where she had been found.

In one of our last conversations, Fran gave me a stern lecture about the proper care of Valentina. She needed, Fran said, to run off her excess energy. But the indomitable Valentina, who returned Fran’s adoration, has never met an open elevator or apartment door, repairman, or deafening thunderstorm that she didn’t love. It was too risky, I told Fran. “No, it isn’t,” she scolded me. “Do what I do. Wait until 1:30 or 2 in the morning, when everyone’s asleep, and run with her in the hallway.”

You will be missed, Fran.



Jennifer Dunning

Classified

50¢/word • 751-8214
Deadline for June 1 issue: May 27

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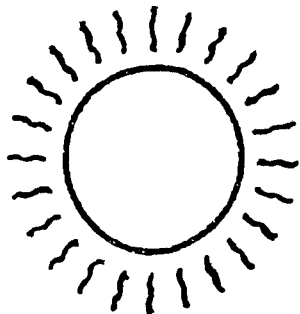
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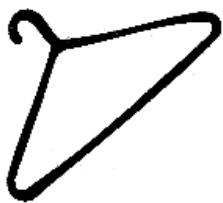
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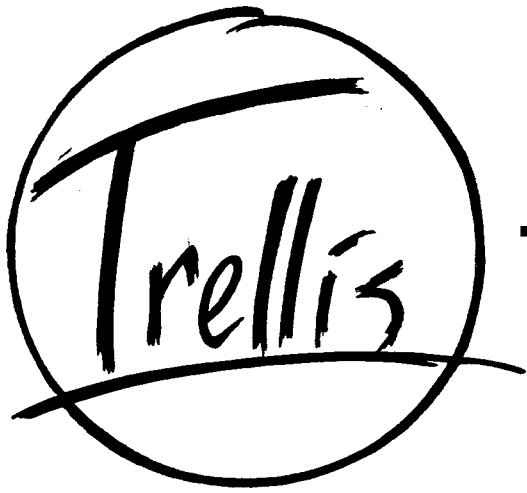
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That's where we can use your help. All these good things don't come without a cost. Tuition fees and ticket sales do not begin to cover the costs of providing the teaching and mounting the impressive productions and giving out scholarships. We depend on the generosity of our community and our friends to make up the difference.

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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 **Icla 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 in the East River, near Roosevelt Island, with great loss of life.

Tue., July 23, 6:30 p.m., **Book Discussion**, *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean, Library. Advance registration required.

Thur., Sept. 12, 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.

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

Thur., Nov. 14, 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.

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