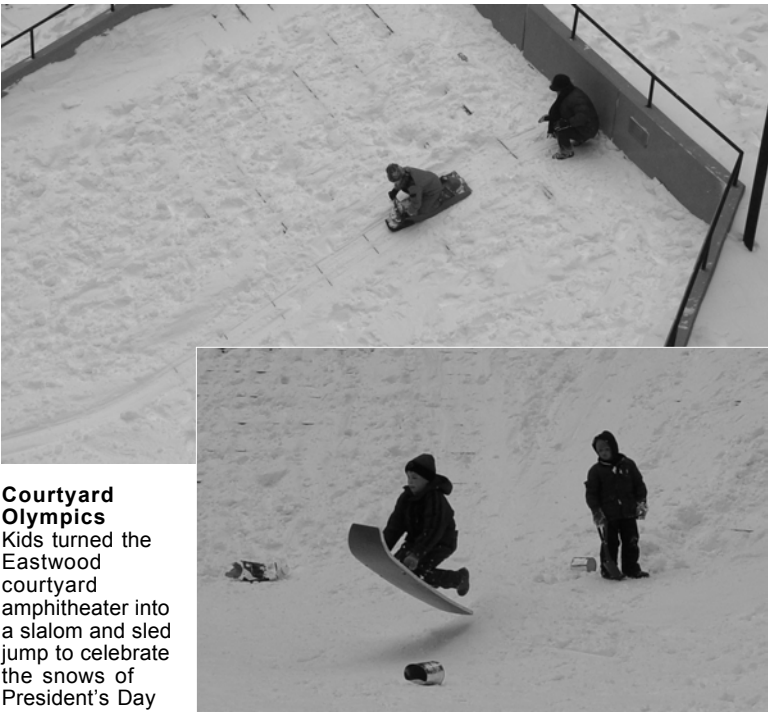


Next scheduled issue:
Saturday, March 8

The Main Street **WIRE**TM

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

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



Courtyard Olympics
Kids turned the Eastwood courtyard amphitheater into a slalom and sled jump to celebrate the snows of President's Day

Meeting Sunday **Responding to Ryan Probe, Maple Tree Group Mounts New Drive for an Elected RIOC Board**

The Maple Tree Group (MTG) will kick off a renewed effort for an elected Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) with a meeting tomorrow (Sunday) at 4:30 in the Westview community room at 625 Main Street.

MTG, led by Rivercross resident David Bauer, was formed in 1997 during the RIOC presidency of Dr. Jerome Blue, who was succeeded in June of 1999 by Robert H. Ryan. With Ryan placed on 60-day admin-

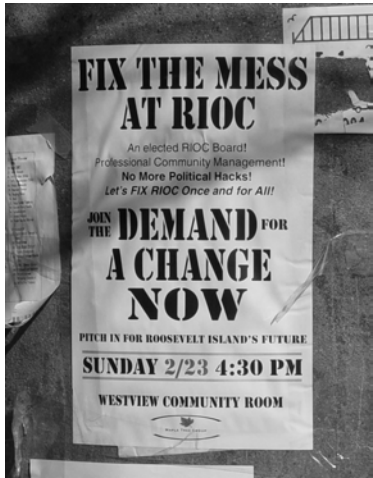
istrative leave pending an inquiry by the State Inspector General, Bauer and MTG see an opportunity to generate new momentum toward the group's goal of a locally-elected RIOC Board of Directors empowered to hire a professional community manager to oversee RIOC operations.

"The Ryan situation focuses new light on the need to put the Island under the control of its residents," Bauer told *The WIRE* Wednesday. "Residents here have a right, acknowledged and won by every other community in this country, to have local control." Bauer recalled resident advisory votes supporting legislation for an elected RIOC Board in 1998 (92%) and 2000 (80%). "Residents have provided overwhelming support to the Island-wide effort. This is a real opportunity to make a badly-needed change."

"Our community has gone through a period of bunker mentality by the State administrators. It has resulted in bad deals, patchwork gifts of our valuable land, and abusive attitudes by public servants. Roosevelt Island has become a place to park inept and unimaginative people utterly without the gifts required to operate a showcase community." Bauer pointed out that many United Nations employees see American de-

mocracy first-hand when in the United States but find it is missing on Roosevelt Island, which is run by gubernatorial appointees rather than elected officials.

"Residents here deserve something [in management] that matches the vision of the giants who produced the original frame-



This MTG poster appeared on Main Street kiosks this week.

Charges Against Ryan, If They Come, Appear to Center on 9/11 Bonus Pay; Antonek Resigns From RIOC VP Post

Newsday reported last week that RIOC President Robert H. Ryan was suspended for granting bonuses to 15 members of the RIOC staff, including himself, for volunteer work performed after the attack on the World Trade Center towers September 11, 2001.

Ryan confirmed he gave bonus vacation days, which could be traded in for cash, but said he had not been informed of the specifics of the State Inspector General's investigation into his activities at RIOC. He told *The New York Ob-*

server, "If that's what this is about, I'm prepared to fight it to the end." According to one source, the bonus time was given at the rate of one day for every hour worked.

Meanwhile, Robert Antonek, Vice President under Ryan and his predecessor, Dr. Jerome Blue, has tendered his resignation from the RIOC staff.

Asked this week about the specifics of Ryan's 60-day paid leave of absence, RIOC Board member David Kraut told *The WIRE* he still doesn't "know if there actually

were any '9/11 bonuses' nor if such bonuses might have been illegal." He said, "That's what the Inspector General's investigation will determine. I voted for the suspension only as a 'due diligence' measure. Allegations were made; they need to be looked into." Kraut said that his vote for suspension was based solely on "the 9/11 stuff, which was all that was presented to me."

Ryan could not be reached for comment before deadline. As of Thursday, he was in the 16th day of the 60-day paid leave.

Housing **Seeking to Add Certainty to an Uncertain Future, Westview Rallies Its Residents**

"Our Homes Are in Jeopardy" was the headline on a recent issue of the newsletter produced from time to time by the Westview Task Force. It warned, "Westview is up for private sale! The landlord is keeping this very quiet for obvious reasons!"

Drawing on information about Mitchell-Lama conversions in Manhattan, the newsletter went on to say, "If sold privately, your rent will double!"

The newsletter reflects the uncertainty and worries of residents facing possible conversions of Mitchell-Lama buildings, in which the owners or new buyers would replace State-backed mortgages with private mortgages, freeing them from no-profit constraints under which the State Department of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) must approve both

budgets and rent hikes for buildings in the State's Mitchell-Lama program.

For builders and owners, the attraction of the Mitchell-Lama program was the pay-off at the end – an escape from the program of State-backed mortgages. A quarter-century ago, it helped solve a housing crisis for low-income New Yorkers. But over the past few years, the buildings have aged past the controlled-rent period, and present-day residents have faced rent increases – sometimes double – as owners have switched to private mortgages in a process called "privatization."

In Manhattan, tenants have already had to move when buildings were taken out of the Mitchell-Lama program, and the waiting period for such removals has also passed for Rivercross, Westview, Island

House, and Eastwood. But Roosevelt Island is a bit different, and there are other factors at work here that serve, at least temporarily, as extra barriers.

Opher Pail, a 13-year resident of Westview, finds himself at the head of the crusade against privatization in Westview. "The way Westview goes is the way the Island will go – whether it is to be tenant-owned or outside-owned." Pail (pronounced "pa-EEL"), who has been involved with the Westview Task Force for three years, is still unhappy about a rent-determination hearing two Februaries ago, when some of the experts he brought before DHCR were not allowed to make statements. And he is concerned, this year, that no rent-determination hearing has yet been scheduled.

Pail says he feels sure that "we face a sale this year" and says he believes the owner has been in conversations with DHCR about taking the building private.

For Pail, the goal is not just to prevent a private sale to an outside buyer, but to make certain that the ultimate buyers are, at least in major part, the building's tenants. "We must continue to get more tenants involved, and make sure that the only conversion is a conver-

sion to tenant ownership."

But Elliot Ashrey, the DHCR official who heard testimony in the 2001 rent-determination session, told *The WIRE* this week, "There is no



Opher Pail

indication that we have on that [of activities that could lead to a sale]. Maybe eventually they'll do that, but I haven't heard anything. I know they [the owner's representatives] are working on a budget. There are sometimes budgetary concerns that cause them to ask for

an extension."

Ashrey went on to point out, "The ground lease is a big stumbling block for any of the Roosevelt Island buildings that we're involved with." The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) controls ground leases for buildings here, and there is general agreement that any buyer – or an existing owner – trying to negotiate a new, private mortgage, would have to have assurances of a stable lease for at least 30 years, since no private lender would put money into a building that could face a financial crisis in the form of a substantial increase in ground rent, or worse, a termination of the lease.

An extension of the ground lease for any of the Island's Mitchell-Lama buildings would therefore require a renegotiation with RIOC management, presumably under guidelines set by the RIOC Board of Directors. That leads to a concern that, at least in theory, a budget-conscious RIOC might seek a shot of income by making a deal with the owner, extending the ground lease and paving the way for a private mortgage.

Tim Johns, an Island House resident and member of the Island House Ownership Committee (IHOC), who has made himself the Island's ranking expert on Mitchell-Lama, going co-op, and buyouts, points out that a one-year notice is required when an owner wants to take a Mitchell-Lama building out of the system. He says it is accom-

See **Westview**, page 2

Briefly...

Management at **Manhattan Park** has agreed to restore door-drop delivery of *The Main Street WIRE*, reversing a ban that interrupted direct delivery of two issues.

Black History Month will be celebrated 10:00-5:00 today at the Senior Center, with activities for kids in the morning, Caribbean food at noon, and a program of stories, dance, and song at 1:00. An all-day flea market is part of the festivities. See *ComingUp*, page 3, and an ad on page 4.

The Editorial Page

Embrace Change

Change is inevitable. Expect change and embrace it, and you’ve met half the challenge of life.

The companion challenges are to prepare the way for change you want, to influence the direction of change when opportunities arise, and then to adapt to it successfully.

Tomorrow, Sunday, there’s a first-hand opportunity to do just that.

In our community, at the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, the air is thick with change. Though he is on a paid 60-day leave while the State Inspector General conducts an investigation, Robert H. Ryan has effectively been removed from the

post of President – very likely permanently, given the attitude inherent in the way the RIOC Board of Directors imposed change. Ryan’s second-in-command has resigned. Patrick Siconolfi, who is standing in as Acting President, has an apparent firm grip on the reins, but

it’s unclear how long he might hold them before the Governor appoints a successor in the recent line of flawed and failed top guns that couldn’t quite shoot – let alone shoot straight.

More change is coming.

So how can residents prepare the way for the right kind of change? How can we influence its direction?

The Maple Tree Group – MTG – has been working on that specific problem for nearly six years. MTG, working through legislators Olga Mendez and Pete Grannis, was responsible for the most significant change ever in the management of Roosevelt Island. Responding to residents’ 92% vote in 1998 favoring a locally-elected RIOC Board empowered to hire professional community management (thereby ending the string of political crony appointments), MTG sought legislation to reform RIOC. The result was only a small step – a new law giving appointed residents a majority of the seats on the RIOC Board – far short of the goal of a democratically-elected Board.

The current mess shows the serious failing of a system in which the RIOC presidency becomes a reward for past political service – a tool of patronage and political cronyism. It shows the failing of a system in which the top person at RIOC is motivated to ignore resident guidance and has a sharper focus on his own political future than on what’s right for this community.

Tomorrow, Sunday, MTG is taking a fresh run at the goal of an elected RIOC Board. The meeting’s at 4:30 in the Westview community room.

The time is right to embrace the current changes, prepare the way for better changes, and steer those changes. The time is right for residents to assert their democratic rights, and the Maple Tree Group has a plan.

See you tomorrow at 4:30 at 625 Main Street, in the community room.

Let’s embrace and steer this change and the changes to come.

DL

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Letters

To the Editor:

Your article on Carolyn Maloney’s meeting about Public Safety (WIRE, February 8, 2003) painted a different picture with my “conflict-of-interest” comment than the one I intended by my statement. The conflict, as I see it, results from RIOC’s mandate to generate a public image for Roosevelt Island that is “crime free” and, thereby, conducive to development, vs the community’s need for appropriate policing based on actual “incidents” that occur here. Rather than the Democrat/Republican rift that you alluded to in your article, I believe RIOC’s need for silence over community crime is in direct conflict with the community’s need for forthright disclosure and policing.

This conflict is apparent in the “in-house” manner with which “Incident Reports” are handled for the residential buildings. The quantity of these reports belies a significant quality-of-life problem, and yet, because Public Safety and Housing Management are the end recipients for these reports, the “real” police, the ones we pay taxes to protect us, are kept in the dark about the true statistics of offensive behavior occurring here on the Island.

If the “Incident Reports” were forwarded to the 114th Precinct Commander, the police would have a much different view of safety in our community.

RIOC President Robert Ryan and Public Safety Chief James Fry have perfected a dog-and-pony-show purporting to demonstrate the safety of the Island, which they roll out regularly to government officials, the Police Department, the press, and potential Island developers, while Islanders familiar with the pretense jump up and down protesting.

Until RIOC is no longer sanctioned with the task of Island Development, or until the budget for Public Safety no longer falls under RIOC’s control, this conflict of interest will continue to play havoc with the community’s policing need.

Joyce Mincheff

To the Editor:

I’m constantly reading about this bum’s rush we’re being subjected to on the approval of the Octagon Park project. Can someone tell me why we’re even considering starting another apartment project when we are nowhere near finished with Southtown?

I’m also perplexed about the ability to provide transportation for all these people during the rush-hour periods. With the change of the subway to the F train, it’s impossible for anyone to get on the trains in the morning, and the Tram certainly can’t fit a whole lot more commuters than it does now. Is anyone considering the impact all these new apartments will have on our ability to get on and off the Island?

Regina Rose Malone

To the Editor:

Like most working people, I often rush for almost everything. On February 9, I stopped at Gristede’s for milk and dessert after parking my car, as I often do. I picked up a gallon of 2% low-fat milk and a box of raspberry rugelah in the bakery section.

When my husband and I got home, we found milk all over the bag (somehow the cover was half opened). In addition, the rugelah wasn’t fresh (dated January 31), and the price on the box was \$3.99, but I was charged \$4.29.

I called the store and asked for the manager. Someone picked up the phone and told me to bring it back. When I started to question the quality control at the store, he put me on hold and never came back.

From this experience, I would like to bring to everyone’s attention – you can rush for some things, but never for food – and check the receipt. Do not get overcharged for food already expired.

Wen Xian

To Manhattan Park Management:

My mother is a 25-year resident of Roosevelt Island and, through her, I am often the lucky recipient of copies of The WIRE. You no doubt are receiving many messages urging you to continue to allow distribution to each apartment door of The WIRE. I write to add to that chorus.

You may have heard the quote, “The only valid response to bad speech is more, and better speech.” If you did not like what a WIRE letter-writer wrote about your rental policies, you had both the opportunity and, yes, the responsibility, to write back, to correct that letter, as you saw it.

I will close by asking you to imagine the possibility that there may come a day when you may wish there to be a thriving, well-written, well-distributed newspaper on Roosevelt Island – one willing to print your letters, for example. We live in dangerous times. We need every available source of information, as free as possible.

Long live The WIRE!

Paul Sheridan

Editor’s note: This is one of many calls, letters and e-mails supporting continued door-drop distribution of The WIRE in Manhattan Park. We lack the space to print them all. The matter has now been resolved favorably, and we thank the many Islanders and others who joined the chorus of support.

Westview from page 1

panied by a need for the owner to submit a good deal of documentation and, along the way, many opportunities for tenant litigation.

While concern about litigation might make an owner want to strike a deal with tenants who want to become owners, there are actually barriers in law that make that difficult. Asked why Westview tenants don’t join in a consortium to buy their building, Pail said, “It’s premature. It’s too early legally to take that step.” The problem is the Martin Act, a law that forbids “collusion” – even negotiation – between an owner and tenants, until after a “red herring” – a plan – is submitted to the State Attorney General.

Meanwhile, of course, the owner can explore prospects of a sale with outside buyers, and that’s what Pail and other Task Force members fear – a buy-out that puts Westview under a privately-financed mortgage, and out from under the rent-rate controls DHCR exercises under Mitchell-Lama.

Pail says he was very pleasantly surprised with the results, still coming in, of a building-wide survey put together by Felix Santella, another resident and Task Force member, last November. Two-thirds of the tenants have now responded and, of those, 83% have expressed an interest in ownership. In raw numbers, that’s more than half the building. At a Task Force meeting Wednesday night, members agreed to seek responses from tenants who haven’t yet registered their views.

The survey also covered resident complaints. A quarter complained of defective air conditioning. A third said they had defective windows or doors. A third complained of defective faucets. A quarter reported bad water – with color or flavor.

“We are organizing now,” Pail says. Using the survey results, he says the Task Force wants “to force ourselves into the picture before any ground-lease extension happens.” The plan is to use terms of the existing lease to demand services tenants say haven’t been provided.

More important, perhaps, Pail wants to find a way to work out the terms of a tenant-ownership deal with the owner, somehow complying with the requirements of the Martin Act even while making existing residents the leading candidate for ownership, whether under Mitchell-Lama or with a private mortgage.

From the owner’s perspective, the simplest and most direct route out of Mitchell-Lama carries no end of complication. But if RIOC granted a ground-lease extension, the way would be open to go after private mortgage money, and the path to privatization of the building – and higher rents – would be clear.

“The time is now,” Pail says, and he’d like the tenant-ownership movement to extend beyond Westview. “We need to find a way to move collectively, from Mitchell-Lama to ownership, for the whole Island – now, fast – not in five years. The time is now.”

Letters deadline for March 8 issue: Mar. 3

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

MTG from page 1

job, and that’s the point of Sunday’s meeting.”

Bauer said Senator Olga Mendez and Assemblymember Pete Grannis have been asked to attend the meeting. Mendez and Grannis were sponsors, in their respective legislative houses, of the new law under which a majority of RIOC Board members are supposed to be residents appointed by the Governor. Signed by Governor Pataki in September, the law was a compromise that watered down the original MTG plan for a Board composed of elected residents.

The meeting is open to all residents.



The United States, the United Nations, and Iraq – What Now?

Roosevelt Islanders will have the opportunity to look at current world developments through the eyes of a veteran of the foreign policy field next Sunday (March 2) at 4:00 p.m., when Graham Cannon is the speaker at the *Roosevelt Islanders Reminisce* series at Gallery RIVAA.

Cannon now serves as Director of Marketing and Communications at the Anti-Defamation League, but served in the early '90's on the staff of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee as a Middle-East specialist, then as a senior advisor to Madeleine Albright and William Richardson when they were U.S. Ambassadors to the United Nations.

His background also includes periods in media – publishing, film, and television. He was a senior vice president at BNN/CameraPlanet, where he was involved with production of the first-ever high-definition television documentary from a war zone, *Peter Arnett's Afghan Journey*. Before that, he was Director of Strategy and Communications at Time, Inc., New Media, and President of Medium4, which became publicly-traded on his watch.

Cannon is a graduate of the University of Manchester (England), with honors in ancient history and archeology.

Between **WIREs**, e-mail bulletins...
Get on the list at www.nyc10044.com

There is a Chinese curse that I quote from time to time: *May you live in interesting times*. It suggests that interesting times are seldom tranquil, and often a trial to endure. Life in New York, especially on Roosevelt Island, is certainly interesting nowadays.

Sherie and I participated in the anti-war rally last Saturday. On a bitter cold afternoon, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers converged on the Upper East Side to send a message: Mr. President, this war on Iraq is the wrong war against the wrong enemy at the wrong time. Millions of people in hundreds of cities around the world engaged in similar exercises. Was the U.S. administration listening? I doubt it. President Bush was quoted in Tuesday's *New York Times* saying that the world-wide protest would do nothing to change his mind. This President did not win the popular vote that put him in office, and even a national consensus, much less the significant minority who made it their business to show up on streets all over America, is unlikely to sway this insular world leader.

Listening to anti-war songs from Pete Seeger and Joan Baez took me back thirty years to the Vietnam era protests of my youth. I'm both proud of the response by my fellow New Yorkers, young and old, and disappointed that government still can't distinguish between a legitimate threat to national security and politics played on a global scale. I'm a Vietnam-era veteran, but I never assumed that my oath of allegiance to the U.S. Army and the Constitution exempted me from exercising my personal ethics or the right to think. I know I would hate to have a child in the military just now.

Closer to home, once more we have a RIOC president leaving his position while under a cloud. You may recall Jerome Blue's departure in the spring of 1999 with the acrimony of most of this community trailing after him as well as a human rights suit, brought by a former RIOC employee. Ironically, he left to become New York State Commissioner of Human Rights. And now, according to *New York Newsday*, Robert Ryan has been escorted from his office by Public Safety, suspended with pay, and put on administrative leave. The New York State Inspector General is investigating corruption allegations, we are told.

Chief Financial Officer Patrick Siconolfi will be acting president while the investigation is carried out. Siconolfi has impressed many of us as a personable, intelligent, and honorable public servant with an excellent handle on RIOC's financials and the arcana of government accounting practices. He is a man who keeps his word, unfortunately a characteristic rare enough to be noteworthy. I have many questions for Pat when we meet this week regarding his tenure as president and his expectations for RIOC and Roosevelt Island.

What are we to make of this disgraceful turn of events? I am less concerned with the personal failings of Blue and Ryan than with the failure of the State's imposition of an appointed system of government which, clearly, doesn't work. When Roosevelt Island was created, it was appropriate that the State of New York provide a cocoon to sustain this commu-

nity while it found its bearings and built a population. And it was fitting that at some point New York would cut the umbilical cord and end the decades of budgetary subsidies that sustained this Island community. In 1996 Governor Pataki reduced the subsidy to zero.

The other side of that coin, however, should have been the creation of local, elected government similar to any other small town in America. Yes, we vote for

local, Manhattan officials, but these worthies have no control over RIOC's budget or the day-to-day operation of our community. The RIOC Board of Directors continues with a majority of off-Island carpet-baggers, despite passage of a law six months ago requiring that the Board include a majority of Island residents. But even this half measure, which carries the weight of

law, has been ignored by those who oversaw its passage.

It's time to get back to basics. When Governor Pataki signed the so-called Open Spaces bill, sponsored by Senator Mendez and Assemblymember Grannis, into law last September, all the parties conceded that this was a stopgap measure. It was designed to bring residents into the administration of the Island until such time as our legislators could agree on a bill that would truly enfranchise us by bringing elected representation to this community.

The ugly scandal now unfolding in RIOC reinforces the desperate need to pass a bill that will create a RIOC Board *composed of residents and elected by the residents* and the hiring of a *trained, experienced, professional community manager* as RIOC president. New York State must finish what it started by allowing us Roosevelt Islanders to decide what developments get built, what parkland remains pristine, when Mitchell-Lama building owners may buy out of their mortgages, how Public Safety conducts its patrols, where the red buses should stop, and what the Tram's hours should be. Who knows better than we do?

In addition to my duties as RIRA president, I've been working with the Maple Tree Group (MTG) for over five years to compose and

pass legislation, acceptable to Albany, which will enfranchise this community. With this latest disgrace at RIOC, the need has now reached emergency proportions. MTG has called a meeting for tomorrow, Sunday, February 23, to discuss the history of the self-government movement, the nature of the bill(s) that have been presented up to now and what you, the stakeholders of Roosevelt Island, can do to bring democracy and justice to our Island. The meeting will begin at 4:30 P.M. in the Westview Lower Community Room at 625 Main Street.

There is another quote I like: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful and committed citizens can change the world. It's the only thing that ever has." This has sustained a very small group to persevere for years at long odds to change this Island's governmental *status quo*. But now, MTG needs your help to convince our State leaders that a change is needed and needed *now*. Whether or not you are familiar with the issues, come to Sunday's meeting to learn and to lend a hand. How Roosevelt Island is governed now will determine what kind of Roosevelt Island we shall live on in the future. And right now, the future looks... *interesting*.

The RIRA Column



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

Editor's note: The President of RIOC has a standing invitation to provide a companion *RIOC President's Column* for publication in *The WIRE*.



Like crazed robotic dancers, these machines frenzied about Main Street this week, clearing snow.

COMING UP

– This Weekend –

Black History Month Celebration with Flea Market, today (Sat., Feb. 22), Senior Center, 546 Main Street. 10:00-12:00, Events for children; 12:00, Caribbean food by Chef Ricky; 1:00, Program of stories, music, and dance. Flea market throughout the day.

Open Maple Tree Group Meeting on Island Self-Governance, Sun., Feb. 23, 4:30 p.m., Westview community room, 625 Main Street.

– The Coming Week –

Toastmasters public speaking group. Visitors welcome. Information: 1-212-759-0396. **Mon., Feb. 24**, 8:00 p.m.

Forum on Rent Regulation, Tue., Feb. 25, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street.

Roosevelt Island Committee of Community Board 8 meeting, Island House Community Room, **Tues., Feb. 25**, 7:30 p.m. Topics on the agenda include air quality and public safety.

Story Songs for children 5-12 with Bob (Bobaloo) Basey, **Thur., Feb. 27**, 6:30 p.m., Library.

Roy Eaton Plays The Peaceful Piano – A Musical Meditation for World Peace, Fri., Feb. 28, 7:00 p.m., Faust-Harrison Pianos, 205 West 58th Street. Free.



Eaton

– Future Events –

Our Lives – Roosevelt Islanders Reminisce, Graham Cannon, Gallery RIVAA, **Sun., Mar. 2**, 4:00 p.m.

RIRA Common Council meeting, **Thur., Mar. 6**, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. *Note change from Wednesday to Thursday for this meeting only.* Open to the public; public comments invited near start of meeting.

Music Hour at The Library, featuring Andy Guthrie, keyboards/vocals/guitar, with percussion and upright bass, **Fri., Mar. 7**, 7:00 p.m. Free.

The Main Street WIRE – next scheduled issue, **Sat., Mar. 8. Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Feb 28; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Mar. 3; bag materials due Thur., Mar. 6. **Future issues:** Mar. 22; Apr. 12, 26; May 17, 31; June 14, 28; July 26; August 23; September 6, 20; October 11, 25; November 8, 22 (Thanksgiving issue); December 13 (holiday issue). **Phone/fax** for news, 1-212-826-9055/755-2540; phone/fax for display and classified advertising placement and information, 1-212-751-8214/755-2540. To list your organization's Island events here, e-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com, or leave it, addressed to *The WIRE*, at the desk at 531 Main Street; provide a telephone number for follow-up.

Toastmasters public speaking group. Visitors welcome. Information: 1-212-759-0396. **Mon., Mar. 10**, 8:00 p.m.

RIOC Board Meeting, **Thur., Mar. 13**, morning.

PTA Book Fair, **Sat., Mar. 15**, details to be announced.

Book Discussion – A House for Mr. Biswas, by V.S. Naipaul, Library. **Thur., Mar. 20**, 6:30 p.m. Pre-registration no longer required; book available at the Library.



Cannon

There is no charge to list Island events here. E-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com or leave copy at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. Provide a telephone number for possible follow-up.

Senior Center

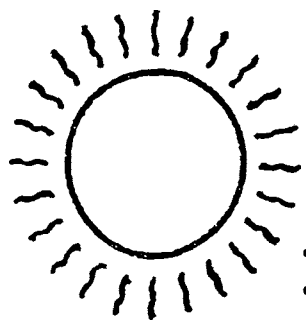
Monday
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screen**
12:30, **"Oldies" Movies**
1:00, **Tai Chi**
7:00, **Dance Class** (Beginners)
Tuesday
9:00-11:00, **Free Tax Filing Help**
2:00, **Computer Class**
6:30, **Yoga Class**
7:30, **Games** (RISA)
Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well**
7:00, **Pokeno** (RISA)
Thursday
10:00, **Tai Chi**

10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**
7:00, **Dance Class** (Advanced)
Friday
9:30, **Yoga Stretch** (new time)
1:00, **Bridge Class**
7:00, **Games** (RISA)
Saturday
7:30, **Bingo** (RISA)

Special Events

Sat., Feb. 22, 9:00 (all day), **Black History Month Celebration**
Fri., Feb. 28, 12:30, **Birthday Party**

Home-delivered meals available: 1-212-744-5022, ext. 1203



MOUNT TOM DAY CAMP

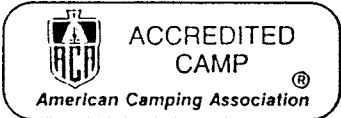
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Black History Month

"The Souls of Black Folk: Centennial Reflections"

Saturday, February 22, 2003

Senior Center
546 Main Street

EVENTS

10 – 12noon	T-shirt Painting (pre-school to 12)	Mimi & June
10:30 – 12:30	Face Painting	Isabelle
12:00 – 5:00	Caribbean Food	Chef Ricky

PROGRAM

Starting at 1:00PM

Storyteller (for all ages)	Thelma Thomas
Music	Barbara Francis
Hip-Hop & Brazilian Dance	Youth Center
Music (choir)	Juanita Fleming

A Flea Market will take place all day long



SPONSORS:

RIHMC Rivercross Senior Center Youth Program

Community Board 8

**Roosevelt Island Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 7:30 PM**

Island House Community Room

Agenda:

1. **Public Safety** – *Manhattan DA's Office will be represented*
2. **Air Quality** – *Representatives of Keyspan and CHOKE invited*

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Sat. 11:00AM-2:00PM



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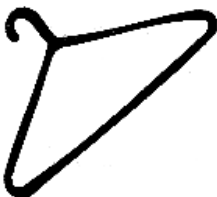
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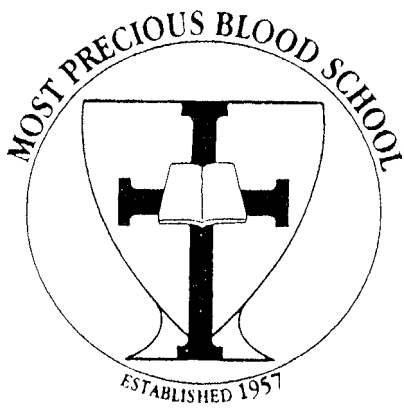
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ALL NEW REGISTRATIONS

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND – 9:00-11:00 AM

THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD – 9:00-11:00 AM, 5:30-7:30 PM



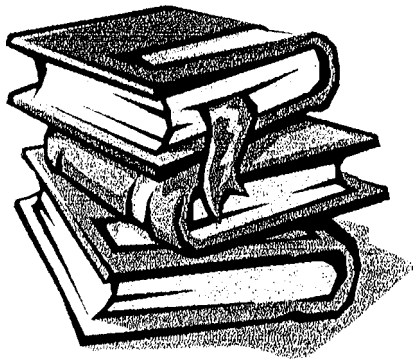
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SUNDAY, APRIL 6
10:00 AM-1:00 PM



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Deadline for March 8 issue: March 3

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SPORTSWIRE

by Seth Kaufman

Basketball The standings in the Youth Program’s Winter Basketball League are:

11-13 Division		14-16 Division	
Red	3-0	Orange	3-1
Green	2-1	Green	2-2
Orange	1-2	Red	2-2
Blue	0-3	Blue	1-3

11-13 Division: In action from February 15, Green defeated Orange in a very close game, 46-44. Green was led by Joshua Cushnie with 24 points, while Emilio Estevez also had a great game, scoring 20. Joshua Hart of Orange was the game’s leading scorer with 27 points, while Mark Anderson added 10, and David Dinkens added 7.

In the other game that day, Red defeated Blue 46-42 to remain undefeated. Austin Lee led Red with 27 points, while Darren Roy and Joshua Marshall added 6 each. Riki Bonano led Blue with 17 points, while LeQuan Francis added 10, and Adrian Gordon had 6.

14-16 Division: In action from the third week of the season, Orange defeated Blue 65-48. Sika Franco had 27 points to lead Orange, while Paul Brown added 18. Andrew Rousseau led three players in double figures for Blue with 22 points. DeShawn Pearson added 12 points and Lamar Burrows added 10.

In the other game that day, Green defeated Red 65-59. Anthony Simmons led Green with 26 points, while Steven Morgan added 14, and Dan Moraru added 12. Chris Chatman had a game-high 31 points to lead Red. Fabian Williams added 12 for Red, which dropped into a first-place tie with Orange and Green at 2-1.

In the fourth week of the season, on February 14, Blue defeated Red 81-65 for its first win, while Orange defeated Green 69-58. Orange moved into sole possession of first place with its victory over Green and Red’s loss to Blue. Lamar Burrows had a game-high 27 points, leading four Blue players in double figures. Andrew Rousseau had 21 points, Deshawn Pearson had 15, and John McNeil had 12 for Blue. Fode Bah led Red with 22 points, while Matthew Brodsky added 16, and Remy Armenakis had 10.

In the other game that evening, Sika Franco led first-place Orange with 24 points, while Shirome Dixon added 18, and Paul Brown had 17. Anthony Simmons led Green in scoring for the second week in a row with 22 points, while Dan Moraru had 12, and Steven Morgan added 10.

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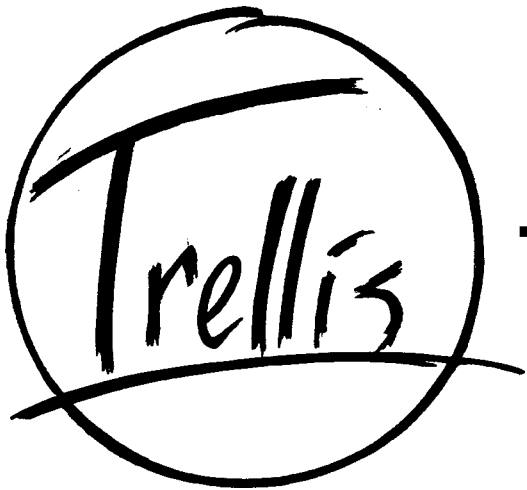
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