

Next issue  
Sat., Nov. 8

# The Main Street WIRE™

Roosevelt Island’s Independent Community Newspaper

News updates by e-mail (Send “Add Me” to nyc10044@rcn.com)



**Open House** RIOC President Herbert E. Berman chatted Wednesday with about a dozen Eastwood residents at an Open House.

## Berman, in First of Three Open House Events, Greets Eastwood Residents

RIOC President Herbert E. Berman welcomed about a dozen residents of Eastwood to an open house Wednesday afternoon (October 22), and conducted a wide-ranging discussion that touched on Island governance, budget, housing mix, transportation (and the Tram, specifically), the Island’s mercantile climate, and Island history.

Resident questions ranged from naïve to enlightened. Berman was cordial in responding to them all.

RIOC has two more open house events scheduled for Tuesday morning (Manhattan Park and Westview residents) and Wednesday afternoon (Island House and Rivercross), and Public Information Officer John Melia says an evening event will also soon be scheduled.

In the course of the afternoon,

Berman listened to ideas and discoursed on a multiplicity of Roosevelt Island subjects:

- Asked if he is working on some kind of a “forward plan” for the Island, Berman said, “At this juncture, I have to deal with the budget problems. We have to stabilize that.” He explained that the current year’s RIOC budget had been written with expectation of two large development payments. But the “Octagon Apartments [project] still hasn’t gotten mortgage approval; they’re not ready to proceed, and as a result, at best, provided they get mortgage approval, [payments] won’t start until the next fiscal year. Southtown 3 – the real estate market has softened ... as a consequence the proposed developers are not that anxious to immediately proceed, which delays their obligation to pay [RIOC]... As a result,

we have this budget problem. It is not because the Island is failing or prospects here have degenerated. [It’s] solely external factors.”

- About the Octagon project: “I think the Octagon project is a brilliant project.” But then he seemed doubtful about its future, saying, “The bottom line to me, at this juncture, is whether the project continues or not, and if it does continue, will it be faithful to the original concept.” A resident objected to separated parking for the project, and Berman said, “I can’t relive the debate. But conceptually, utilizing the landmark, the concept of a ‘green’ building... I assume if they get their financing, it it will go forward.”

- Berman said RIOC has engaged the services of the Trust for Public Land to look at possible uses of Southpoint. Asked about a long-dead proposal for twin-tower hotels there, he said, “Southpoint is going to be used for recreational purposes. There might be disagreements as to what is the ‘end’ of Southpoint, but [the park] is going to continue as it is.”

- He said that, despite its overall beauty, “the Island is monochromatic. There is very little differentiation in color. We’re investing some money in decorating for Halloween, and we’re going to some of the design schools and asking them to do some designs as to how we can color up the Island, to give some color to the Island so it is not this mass of gray and red.” He

News Analysis by Steve Marcus and Dick Lutz

Roosevelt Island is in the red. Current Island management is trying to cure that condition, but it is hampered by a personnel budget subject to political patronage, development deals that yield income well below market rates, and high-cost outsourcing contracts. The uphill task must be accom-

plished, if it is to be done, in a near-hostile economy. While the general economic downturn doesn’t always seem to affect RIOC operations directly, a number of RIOC’s commercial tenants are chronically behind in rent. And insurance costs have risen dramatically in response to the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

Analysis of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation’s financial statements over the past several years shows that without two one-time payments amounting to \$5.9

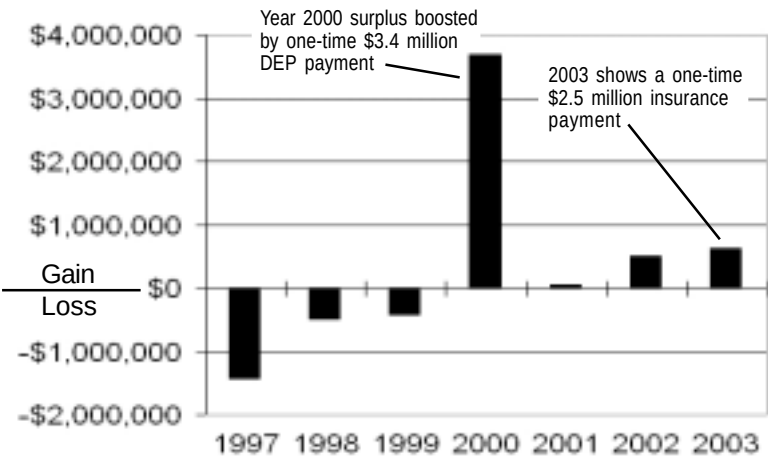
Southtown building that will now be delayed. Those funds are not likely to show up until next fiscal year – or perhaps never. Expense assumptions have also turned out to be flawed; insurance premiums increased more than anticipated.

The shortfall in recurring revenue, as against recurring expenses, appears to be chronic.

Factors that put RIOC operations in deficit include:

- An increase, over seven years, of nearly 80% in administrative personnel costs.

Surplus/Deficit Year by Year



million, Island operations would have lost money in most of the last seven years. The Corporation has consistently used *non-recurring* revenue – one-time income – to make up for losses on *recurring* activities.

In the last fiscal year, RIOC reported a surplus of \$600,000, but without a one-time insurance settlement from a 1999 Octagon fire, the financial statements would have revealed a loss of \$1.8 million.

For the current fiscal year, the RIOC Board approved a budget that showed a surplus of over \$2 million. Today, there’s an altogether different projection – a *deficit* of \$1.4 million. Income assumptions built into the original budget proved to be unrealistic – relying on development payments for the Octagon Apartments and the third

- Low recurring revenue from real estate deals.

- High costs in consultant work on development.

- Increases in insurance premiums and energy costs.

- A disappointing decline in Tram ridership.

Taken together, these factors could produce budget projections which would eat up RIOC’s \$8 million cash reserve fund in just five years. They force difficult choices that could impact Island families in both quality of life and the specific costs of living on Roosevelt Island.

### Development

Of the areas of RIOC’s past fiscal management, development deals stand out for their failure to contribute substantial recurring income to the Island’s budget. Southtown See **RIOC**, page 6

## Trellis Odors Suit Ends

by Dick Lutz

A legal action against Trellis, claiming “unpleasant odors” troubling some residents of Island House, has been dismissed in State Supreme Court.

Bruce Clausus, an attorney who lives in Island House, had filed the suit on behalf of Srdjan Mrkic, another resident of the building, but was looking toward assembling a group for a class action. Clausus told *The WIRE* this week that he discontinued the action because he and his client are satisfied that sufficient progress is under way on improving the restaurant’s ventilation system. He called the outcome a “victory.”

Owner Kumarss “Kaie” Razaghi, whose restaurant is on the ground floor of Island House, had no com-

ment. His attorney, Rivercross resident Jim Armenakis, said, “I think this could have been done without need for a lawsuit, by sensible people sitting down and deciding what each could do to avoid the lawsuit.”

Clausus said he took the matter into the courts only when he came to feel he would not get timely satisfaction in direct discussions with Trellis.

The actions that have satisfied See **Trellis**, page 8

## Briefly...

- Rep. Carolyn Maloney reminds her constituents that they can end most unwanted commercial phone calls by registering for the nationwide **Do-Not-Call List**. Call **1-888-382-1222** from the phone you want to restrict, or register one or more numbers on the Internet at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). (This won’t end solicitations from charities or calls from commercial vendors with whom you have a prior relationship.)

## Seniors’ Answer Woman – In Multiple Languages

by Mary Camper-Titsingh

“I had no idea what I wanted to do after I left college,” says Liza Konnert. Since July 1, she’s been the Case Assistant at the Roosevelt Island Senior Center. An NYU graduate, she came to Roosevelt Island after two years of service in the Peace Corps in El Salvador. “But I’ve had a blessed life. I just wanted to give back a little by helping others.”

Her job as Case Assistant at the Island’s Senior Center offers excellent scope for that. There she provides not only information about the range of governmental programs that offer benefits and entitlements to eligible senior citizens, but she also assists seniors in applying for them at City, State, and Federal agencies.

Konnert can help seniors (over age 60) learn about an alphabet soup of programs: Social Security Retirement Benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicare and Medicaid, Elderly Pharmaceutical Prescriptions (EPIC), Senior MetroCard discounts, Senior Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), or the Homeowners Exemption Program (SCHE), City School Tax Relief or School Tax Credits, and Real Property Tax Credits.

She’s also the one to see for more information on the broad array of See **Konnert**, page 10



The Editorial Page

Shifting the Burden...

During RIOC President Herb Berman’s Open House Wednesday, Senior Association President Dolores Green arrived at RIOC offices with a proposal to use Public Purpose Funds to pay for the seniors’ shopping bus.

The need to use the Island’s Public Purpose Fund for the shopping trips arose when questions came up about Red Bus insurance for off-Island trips. RIOC is *still* working on those questions over two months after they first came up during the August 14 Blackout. The worry is that if Red Buses aren’t explicitly insured for off-Island travel, an insurance carrier could litigate to avoid payouts in case of an accident, or cancel the insurance. The temporary solution has been to charter commercial buses for the trips.

The long-term solution, of course, is for RIOC to get the necessary insurance.

Instead, the Seniors have been asked to dip into monies that are supposed to be for seed funding of new projects – *seed funding* that assumes those receiving the funds will find other sources after a first-year bootstrap appropriation. Indeed, RIOC refused funding for election machines for the last RIRA election because it was a repeat request.

RIOC has always provided funding for the shopping trips, out of the RIOC budget. There is a RIOC budget crunch at the moment, of course, and a great temptation to find solutions – so why not dip into the Public Purpose Fund for anything that might qualify? *That’s short-sighted.*

The Seniors need the shopping bus. But the Island’s Public Purpose Funds should not be drained to provide the service.

...To Residents

And in RIOC’s push to close a budget gap that arises because it was counting on one-time-only income to pay for continuing expenses, it appears ready to tap residents, as well, with an increase in Motorgate fees – even though RIOC will see only about 60% of any increase in its budget.

Yet, as our lead news analysis article reports, a key reason why the budget gap exists is past failure at RIOC to strike good development and rental deals – and administrative payroll bloat that is surely attributable, in part, to loading the staff with protected political allies.

RIOC, we think, has the responsibility to get its fiscal house in order without using Public Purpose Funds to pay for ongoing services that have traditionally been part of its basic budget responsibility, and without increasing fees residents pay.

DL

The Public Safety Blotter  
for October 1-19  
will be available early next week on  
Website NYC10044  
with this issue of The WIRE.  
Point your browser to http://nyc10044.com

The WIRE  
Published by The Main Street WIRE  
©2003 Unisource2000™ Inc.  
531 Main St. #413, NYC10044

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

Managing Editor – Dick Lutz  
Reporters – Mary Camper-Titsingh,  
Linda Humphrey, Anusha Shrivastava  
Chief Proofreader – Kay Thompson  
Proofreaders – Linda Heimer, Frances Salten  
Photographer – Vicki Feinmel  
Typist – Nadya Borisova  
Advertising Sales – Ellen Levy  
Circulation Managers – Sherie Helstien, Teri Sheridan, Joyce Speziale  
Circulation Assistant – Dexter Benjamin

Legal Counsel – Lewis Perkiss  
Website NYC10044 facilities – Frank Farance  
Webmaster – Cathy Lemp

Founding Publisher – Jack Resnick  
Editor Emeritus – Jim Bowser

Judi Arond, Bubu Arya, David Bauer, Steve Bessenof, Mary Camper-Titsingh, Melanie Castine, Lynn Chambers, Mark Chipman, Valerie Church, Vivianne Codderrrens, Nassima Codderrrens, Thibault Codderrrens, Malcolm Cohen, Susan Cohen, Valery & Harold Davis, Morty Dinerstein, Rebecca Dougherty, Julian Edelman, Juanita Elliott, Teresa Hasing, Roberta Hershey, Elaine Kane, Ken Kaplan, Peter Kaplan, Mickey Karpeles-Bauer, Matthew Katz, Seth Kaufman, Mike Kolba, Eneagua Lewis, Brigitte Loewy, Armando Manalo, Robert Manalo, Clarissa McCraley, Claudia Narine, Clinton Narine, Sandra Narine, Jenny Olivera-Del Mastro, Joan Pape, Harry Patel, Sheila Patel, Gladys Rasheed, Shallini Saha, Ron Schuppert, Bernie Schwartz, Raye Schwartz, Beryl Seaforth, Haley Shinozaki, Michael Shinozaki, George Spelvin, Joseph Strong, Lynn Strong-Shinozaki, Alan Ulick, Maggie Warner, Nancy Watson, Nina Winteringham, Charlie Wolf



Letters

To the Editor:

What a wonderful idea – open houses in the middle of the workday for residents of buildings that were originally designed for moderate and middle income people!

Yes, it is so easy for the average working stiff to take a day off or take off in the middle of the day. How convenient. While it might be easy for politicians, patronage hacks, or rich people, it is not for teachers, police, bus drivers, and other civil servants, nor I suspect for most of us.

So thanks, but no thanks. If Berman really wants to meet us he should stop parking the car in front of his office (I am sure he declares the free space on his income tax as legally he is supposed to) and park it in Motorgate (paying, of course). Better yet, take the Tram or subway. Shop in Gristede’s (ha ha). Visit the hospitals. Walk around after 6:00 and introduce himself. Attend a tenants’ meeting or RIRA Common Council meeting.

There are many ways he can meet us and hear our concerns – that is, if he wants more than PR opportunities.

Ronald Meltzer

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

I am very glad that you would like to meet with Island residents.

However, your offer sounds somehow hypocritical, since you are scheduling these meetings in the morning or early afternoon. I would like to remind you that some of these buildings have been started as housing for middle income families, which means we are *working* families. Most of us work 9-5 or longer hours. Unless you schedule your meetings in the evening, you will not accomplish your goal (assuming you really want to meet with residents, and not *pretend* that you wanted to meet with residents).

I am told that such evening meetings have happened in the past, so I see no administrative or logistical problems in scheduling them (we can skip the “refreshments”).

I look forward to meeting you.  
Thank you.

Ada Predescu

To the Editor:

I have lived on Roosevelt Island for nine years and at first I thought the no-dog rule was wrong. Nine years of feces-free grass and sidewalks have changed my mind.

But I have seen several people walking dogs lately near the new apartment buildings, and I am wondering if the rules have been lifted for residents of Southtown. These were clearly pets, not working dogs. If the rule has been changed for the new residents, it is not fair to the long-time residents of the Island who have been prohibited dogs for decades. Make no mistake – I think the no-dogs rule is a good one for the community, but what applies to everyone else should apply to new arrivals as well. Either the rule should apply to the new apartment buildings or it should be lifted for all residents.

The number of tenants in Southtown is still low, and the number with dogs lower still. If the few new residents with dogs made an honest mistake and were not told of the no-dog rule, then I would suggest a one-time exemption for their current pet. Separating pets from owners because of a mistake is a meaner thing than I would want to do. However, the rule should be strictly enforced for all new residents.

Chuck Reaves

**Editor’s Note:** The no-dogs provision is in leases – not in law – and is apparently not in the rental agreements for the new buildings in Southtown. As far as we’ve been able to determine, it was incorporated into leases for apartments in the original Northtown buildings under the guidance of UDC, the Urban Development Corporation. After several changes of management at RIOC, however, the provision has apparently been dropped from requirements for new buildings.

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

If you really and indeed want to meet your residents, then you should make an effort and schedule those open-house meetings in the evenings, so that working residents can attend.

I remembered that Doryne Isley did organize some floor meetings with tenants in Island House, and those meetings were in the evening, so everybody who wanted to attend was able to.

You probably realize that I’m not going to take time off from work to attend your open house events, and many other working residents will feel the same.

Thank you.

Mircea Nicolescu

**Editor’s Note:** According to RIOC Public Information Officer John Melia, RIOC will schedule one or more evening President’s Open House events in the near future.

Letters deadline for Nov. 8 issue: Nov. 4

After deadline, letters are considered on a space-available basis.

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

Congratulations on a wonderful idea [open house events at RIOC for residents]. Unfortunately, we will be out of town for our scheduled Open House, so therefore I would like to extend my good wishes to the new president and hope he will continue to interact with this wonderful community. Being a resident for the past 26 years, I can tell him he is in for a treat, if he will just keep an open mind and an open heart.

Briefly, I have few concerns – not major, but they do affect the quality of life on this Island.

- The overtime parking on the street. Some days you cannot even double park to unload groceries.
  - Inadequate street-lighting in the vicinity of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd; it is very dark. Maybe you can change the bulbs?
  - The general shabbiness of the garage area.
  - Simple plan for consistent window-washing along the Eastwood side and the Motorgate area.
  - Monitor the bird-feeding in front of Good Shepherd, and fix the broken pavement and tiles in that
- See **Letters**, page 8

# COMING UP

## — This Weekend —

**Open Studios 2003** with an exhibition by Island sculptor **Marika Bordes** and 37 other artists, **Fri.-Sun., Oct. 24-26**, 11:00-5:00 daily, Wills Building, 43-01 21st Street, Long Island City.

**Mixed Media Exhibition, *What Is Taboo?***, Sat.-Sun., 11:00-5:00, through tomorrow (Oct. 26), Gallery RIVAA. Free. Gallery also open Wednesdays and Fridays, 6:00-9:00.

**Main Street Theatre Cabaret Night, Fri., Oct. 24** and **Sat., Oct. 25**, 8:00 p.m. \$16. Reservations required. Call **1-212-371-4449**.

**Halloween Parade and Extravaganza, Sat., Oct. 25**, 12 noon. Parade assembles at Blackwell House to march up Main Street. **Festivities** begin at 12:30 at PS/IS 217. Magic show at 2:00. (See ad, page 7.) Free.

**Tennis Challenge** for Tennis Against Breast Cancer, **Sun., Oct. 26**, 1:00-5:00, Roosevelt Island Racquet Club, 281 Main Street (under the Queensboro Bridge). Players, \$100; spectators, \$50. Information: **1-212-752-1780**, [www.tennisabc.org](http://www.tennisabc.org), or e-mail [rankine@tennisabc.org](mailto:rankine@tennisabc.org).

**Halloween Funhouse and Masquerade Party, Sun., Oct. 26**, 3:00 p.m., Manhattan Park Theater Club, 8 River Road. Presented by PS/IS 217 PTA, Manhattan Park Management, with help from RISA and Island merchants. (See ad, page 7.) Children, \$3; adults, \$5. Information: **1-212-759-8660** or **1-212-980-0294**, ext. 2159.

**The Beauty of Flight**, presented by the Mother Earth Committee, through November 22, Rivercross Window Gallery, featuring works of Roosevelt Island artists Marika Bordes and Tony Vita.



## — The Coming Week —

**City Council Speaker Gifford Miller's Constituent Service Staff, Mon., Oct. 27**, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, Senior Center; staff available to help residents with problems with City agencies, transportation, etc. Open to the public. For additional information, call **1-212-535-5554**.

**Toastmasters Meeting, Mon., Oct. 27**, 8:00 p.m. For information, **1-212-935-1254** or **1-212-751-9577**.

**RIOC President's Open House** for residents of Westview and Manhattan Park, **Tue., Oct. 28**, 9:00 a.m. to noon, RIOC offices, 591 Main Street. To attend, call RIOC at **1-212-832-4540** or e-mail [jfrm@rioc.com](mailto:jfrm@rioc.com).

**Take Care New York** event present by the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation and Coler-Goldwater Hospital – Blood pressure screenings and nutrition information, **Wed., Oct. 29**, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, lower level.

**RIOC President's Open House** for residents of Island House and Rivercross, **Wed., Oct. 29**, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., RIOC offices, 591 Main Street. To attend, call RIOC at **1-212-832-4540** or e-mail [jfrm@rioc.com](mailto:jfrm@rioc.com).

## — Future Events —

**Election Day, Tue., Nov. 4**, polling at PS/IS 217 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**RIRA Common Council meeting, Wed., Nov. 5**, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Open to the public; public comments invited near start of meeting.

**The Main Street WIRE** – Next issue in two weeks, on **Sat., Nov 8**. (Get e-mail bulletins in the meantime; to subscribe, send an “Add Me” to [nyc10044@rcn.com](mailto:nyc10044@rcn.com).) **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Oct. 31; decision on fliers for *The Bag*, Mon., Nov. 3; fliers due Thur., Nov. 6. Future issues – November 22 (Thanksgiving issue); December 13 (holiday issue), then every two weeks, starting January 10, through June 12, 2004. **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 event here**, e-mail information to [ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com](mailto:ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com), or leave it, addressed to *The WIRE*, at the desk at 531 Main Street; provide a telephone number for follow-up questions.

**John Chapman's Harvest** and other poems by Jordan Zinovich, and other poems from his forthcoming book, *The Company I Keep*, read by the poet and by actors Georgie Gray, Stephanie Monseu, and Eric Dean Scott; **Sun., Nov. 9**, 4:00 p.m., Gallery RIVAA.

**Toastmasters Meeting, Mon., Nov. 10**, 8:00 p.m. For information, **1-212-935-1254** or **1-212-751-9577**.

**Icla da Silva Foundation Reception, Wed., Nov. 12**, 5:30 p.m., Consulate General of Venezuela, 7 East 51st Street (Madison/Fifth); a bone-marrow donor and recipient will meet for the first time. Limited capacity; reservation required; call **1-212-593-1807** or e-mail [Airam@icla.org](mailto:Airam@icla.org).

**RIOC Board Meeting, Thur., Nov. 13**, 5:30 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Open forum follows the formal meeting.

**Main Street Theatre Comedy Night, Sat., Nov. 15**. \$16 admission benefits MST&DA scholarship fund. Reservations necessary; call **1-212-361-4449**.

**Book Discussion** – *Passing* by Nella Larsen, **Thur., Nov 20**, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Book available at the Library.

**Toastmasters Meeting, Mon., Nov. 24**, 8:00 p.m. For information, **1-212-935-1254** or **1-212-751-9577**.

**RIRA Common Council meeting, Wed., Dec. 3**, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Open to the public; public comments invited near start of meeting.

**Book Discussion** – *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt, **Thur., Dec. 18**, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Books available at the Library.

**Book Discussion** – *Pale Fire* by Vladimir Nabokov, **Thur., Jan. 15**, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Book available at the Library.

**Book Discussion** – *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* by J.W. Johnson, **Thur., Feb. 19**, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Books available at the Library.

**Book Discussion** – *The Queen of Harlem* by B.K. Jackson, **Thur., Mar. 18**, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Books available at the Library.

**Book Discussion** – *The Pick Up* by Nadine Gordimer, **Thur., Apr. 15**, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Books available at the Library.

There is no charge to list Island events here. E-mail information to [ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com](mailto:ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com) or leave copy at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. Please provide telephone numbers for possible follow-up.

Autumn has made its presence felt with crisp days and chilly nights. A clear harbinger of the season's change is the parade of ghosts and goblins today on Main Street. Yes, friends, Halloween comes early here on the Island of Lost Souls with a ghastly parade culminating in a schoolyard of games and events at PS/IS 217. Thanks to the Youth Center, the housing management companies, RIOC, and the other sponsors for giving me the opportunity to dust off my cape, affix my fangs with Dentu-Creme and call to the “children of the night” in my version of a Transylvanian accent. The horrible happenings continue on Sunday with the PTA's Halloween Funhouse and Masquerade Party at the Manhattan Park Theater Club, featuring contests, good eats, and D.J. Mike. Come on down...if you dare.

I've noticed that our Main Street storefronts look emptier in recent months. Our bakery has been locked and shuttered for six months now, despite offers made to rent the space and to provide needed commercial services. RIOC had hired a company, Grubb & Ellis, to act as sales agents to attract appropriate commercial developments, but the arrangement ended apparently without any success. A new company, Collier, has been engaged to continue that effort, but again, I've seen no sign of new business with the exception of the Child School that was offered space at far below competitive rates.

I'll relate the experience of a neighbor who asked to remain anonymous. He had called RIOC years ago requesting information regarding the rental of office space and, for some reason, was referred to a payroll clerk, who quoted prices far above those for comparable space in Manhattan. When this snafu was sorted out, and a rep from Collier finally returned this gentleman's call three weeks ago, the price was even higher and obviously designed to discourage any interest. Promises of additional information were not forthcoming, and I understand that my neighbor is now working with a broker to obtain Manhattan office space at half the RIOC asking price.

What's going on here? Why can't merchants and residents get straight answers about commercial rentals that are going begging? I keep hearing stories about people getting the runaround and legitimate offers not even getting the courtesy of a return phone call. Two companies have now been commissioned to fill our vacant storefronts, but without noticeable results. Island merchants should be supported, but as long as our shopping opportunities remain inadequate and overpriced, residents will shop elsewhere. RIOC and their sales representatives must bring needed and competitive merchants to Roosevelt Island to serve the present community and future residents as well.

High marks to RIOC President Herb Berman for promising to hold Open Houses so early in his tenure here and for making good on his promise. When I asked why there were no get-togethers scheduled for the evening hours when working people might attend, I was told these would be included in a second round of Open House events. This is your chance to meet the people who run your community, to share your experience here with our non-resident managers and administrators, and to bring problems to their attention. This is a win-win exercise, so please do take advantage of it.

The Roosevelt Island Safety Kommittee (RISK) met recently to

codify its candidates for a newly reconstituted RIOC Public Safety advisory committee. The intention is to include representatives from RIRA and from each of the housing entities, under the control of committee chair and RIOC Board member, Patrick Stewart. There is a pervasive need to set guidelines

## The RIRA Column

and parameters for this RIOC department that in 2002 cost us over \$2.6 million to run, and to make sure that its mission is carried out according to the needs of the residents. To that end, RISK submitted copies to RIOC of a Public Safety Mission Statement written by former director, Peter Norwood,



**Matthew Katz**, President Roosevelt Island Residents Assn. e-mail: [matthewkatz@rcn.com](mailto:matthewkatz@rcn.com)

with the expectation that we would work together to build a more viable and responsive department with the Norwood statement as a foundation.

Part of the problem is an apparent disconnect between the Public Safety Department reports on Roosevelt Island crime and the actual statistics. In Director James Fry's report to the RIOC Board of Directors on October 7, for example, there was no mention of two major crimes that occurred during the previous month, a shooting and an incident of grand larceny, that I learned of directly from Deputy Inspector David Barrere, commander

of the 114th Precinct. It seems that crimes directly investigated by the NYPD don't make it into Public Safety's statistics and vice versa. As we are politically part of Manhattan, the Queens 114th Precinct “collars” are actually processed by the Manhattan 19th Precinct for disposal by the Manhattan DA. Is it any wonder that Roosevelt Island crime gets lost in this jurisdictional shell game?

A RIOC Board member, Mark Ponton, has requested that Mr. Fry now report Island crime by type, location and frequency. At the last RIOC Board meeting, Fry made it clear that this was not his idea and, clearly, he was not pleased with this Board intrusion into his business. I hope this new process will help to spotlight areas and types of crime that need special attention. Perhaps this more statistically accountable method will close up the gaps between the NYPD, Public Safety, and community perceptions of Island crime.

To that end, RISK's Byron Gaspard is asking that, after you report crime to 911, 311, or Public Safety, you mail a report to us so that we may collect an archive of crime statistics to compare with the official record. You can make your report to: **RISK, 540 Main Street, Mail Box 148, New York, NY 10044**. Please help us get a handle on the burgeoning drug presence here and on the institution we subsidize to combat it.

I've learned that school buses have been substituted for the Red Buses that have chauffeured our seniors on weekly shopping trips off-Island for umpty-ump years while RIOC determines the status of its bus insurance. I'm grateful that RIOC has found an interim solution for a long-standing Island service, but I'm concerned as to how they will deal with next summer's scheduled Tram maintenance or emergency transportation outages. Any solution that doesn't incorporate our Red Buses is likely to be too little, too late, and even more expensive than buying commercially available property insurance. I hope RIOC finds an equitable and financially viable solution and finds it quickly.

Your RIRA Housing Committee played a major role in last spring's attempt to lobby our State politicians in favor of legislation beneficial to Mitchell-Lama housing. That effort is over but the committee intends to continue finding ways of being useful. One idea that has

See **RIRA**, page 10

## Senior Center

### Monday

10:30, **Blood Pressure Screen**  
12:30, **“Oldies” Movies**  
1:00, **Tai Chi**  
7:00, **Dance Class** (Beginners)

### Tuesday

10:00, **Computers**  
10-11, **Latchhook Class**  
10-11, **Dance & Relax**  
1:00, **Bingo**  
6:00, **Yoga Class**  
7:30, **Games** (RISA)

### Wednesday

9:15, **Stay Well**  
10:00, **Spanish Class**  
12:30, **Sculpting**  
7:00, **Pokeno** (RISA)

### Thursday

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

### Friday

**Pool Tournament** (time flexible)  
9:30, **Yoga Stretch**  
7:00, **Games** (RISA)

### Saturday

7:30, **Bingo** (RISA)

### Special Events

**Mon., Oct. 27**, Jessica Lappin of City Council Speaker Gifford Miller's office – a talk with the Seniors, 10:30  
**Thur., Oct. 30**, Flu shots, 10-1 – by appointment  
**Fri., Oct. 31**, RISA Birthdays and entertainment, 12:30  
**Fri., Oct. 31**, RISA Halloween Party, 7:00  
**Nov. 1-8**, *Fitness for the Future* – nutrition and physical fitness, 12:00  
**Sun., Nov. 2**, Aqueduct Racetrack trip  
**Mon., Nov. 3**, Lecture – *Flu Prevention and the Common Cold*, 10:00  
**Tue., Nov. 4**, Election day – closed  
**Tue., Nov. 11**, RISA General Meeting, 7:00  
**Thur., Nov. 20**, birthdays, 12:30  
**Thur., Nov. 27**, closed for Thanksgiving; formal dinner to be announced

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

# Roosevelt Island Day Nursery



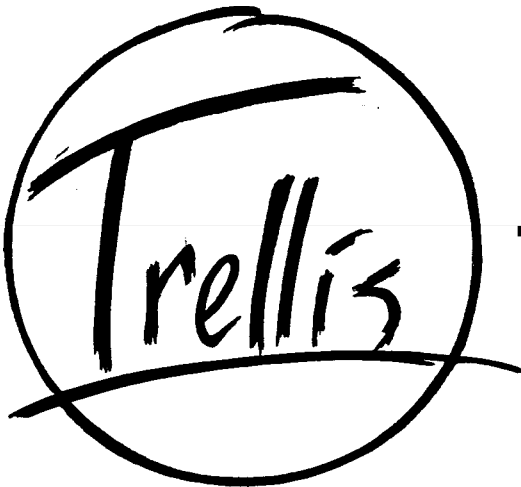
Children talk and read  
and count and pattern  
and chart and cook and  
plant and paint and draw  
and sing and move and  
explore the world of learning.

Morning and full day programs for  
children ages 2.5 through 5 years

Register by October 30 to qualify for the  
PreK subsidy for full-day programs  
for 4 year olds.

Small classes and highly qualified teachers.  
All Head Teachers are certified in  
Early Childhood Education by New York State.

There are still a few places for this year  
for more information, call 212-593-0750



# Treat Yourself

You've had a hard day. Tired.  
Maybe even a little cranky. Can't  
face the stove. Nothing in the  
fridge appeals, anyway. Just want  
to relax in front of the tube in your  
jammies. Take the break you've  
earned. *Treat yourself.* Call Trellis  
for a delivery. Don't forget dessert  
and something different to drink.  
We'll make life easier. Otherwise...  
*See you at Trellis...*

1-212-752-1517

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

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

# BRACES AREN'T FOREVER, SMILES ARE!

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

**Dr. Gerald Sweder and staff**  
Serving Island residents for over 20 years

200 West 57th Street  
1-212-757-2285

# Maintenance Jobs Available

A newly-opened school on the Island has **immediate openings for custodians/cleaners** who would be responsible for the general cleanliness of four school buildings, possess knowledge of HVAC system, light carpentry, plumbing, and electrical skills. **Salary commensurate with experience.** Full-time Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Please fax resume to 1-212-223-5031.

# Give your apartment a lift HOME SHOPPING SERVICE

Consultations Available – Use What You Have

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



**Ellen Levy**

Interior Decorator  
531 Main Street  
**751-8214**  
No job too small

Expert Tailor  
on Premises

571 Main St.  
**1-212-758-1778**



FAST,  
EFFICIENT,  
RELIABLE,  
COURTEOUS

# Roosevelt Island Cleaners

New State of the Art  
Dry Cleaning Machine  
To Serve You Better  
Your Neighborhood Cleaners  
**We Deliver**

Free deliveries on orders \$15-up

CELEBRATE

# CUNYMONTH

NOVEMBER  
2003

CUNY ON  
CABLE

## 1 Open Campuses

For the first time, all 20 CUNY colleges will host a November-long series of special events open to the public.

- Attend open houses
- Participate in college fairs
- Take campus tours
- Meet faculty and students
- Attend interesting lectures
- Enjoy concerts, theater and exhibits

### Ask about:

Financial Aid  
Career Choices  
New Honors College  
Weekend Programs  
English as a Second Language  
Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Programs  
Adult and Continuing Education

### TV Hosts:

Valerie Vazquez, Queens College Alumna  
Zyphus Lebrun, City College Alumnus  
Vianora Vinca, Hunter College Student



## 2 Every Day in November

**Celebrate CUNY Every Day In  
November on CUNY-TV Cable  
Channel 75**

- Find Your College on Cable
- Watch for the premiere of "Study with the Best" (Season 3)
- Learn about how to succeed in college

## 3 Click or Call

Get all the facts *fast!* Call CUNY's hotline or log on to our website for the schedule of campus events:

**1-800-CUNY-YES  
WWW.CUNY.EDU**



# The City University of New York

## Open House from page 1

added, “We’re trying to get people interested in the Island – people who will be unencumbered by a predetermined vision. It has to flow in with what the people want and the professionals want.”

- He outlined a program of liaison with the community: “We’re meeting regularly with the Residents Association, with the Roosevelt Island Safety Committee (RISK), and the Board of Directors is more and more people living on the Island... And rightfully so – I think the input of the people on the Island is important.”

- The Tram, Berman said, “is great. It is inexorably identified as part of Roosevelt Island now.” Of the original decision to construct the Tramway, he said, “I thought it was brilliant.” He added, “It is readily admissible that we have a significant loss (\$2 million a year) in the Tram, yet it has to be an acceptable burden because the Tram is just inexorably... It [would be] like taking the Empire State Building out of New York City. You just can’t do it.” When a resident said, “Without the Tram, the character of the Island would change negatively,” Berman responded, “Oh, I think you’re absolutely right.”

- On the Island as a filmmaking location: “I reduced the fee schedule, and since that time we’ve had a lot of interest in filming on the Island. It



generates a lot of revenue for the Island [and] every time the Island is shown in a movie, it popularizes the Island, increases its value. It’s also good for the City and State.” Occasionally, he said, filming may present a problem, as when one film crew was supposed to be off the Island bridge at rush hour, but wasn’t.

- On development: “Look, the revenue issue is a serious issue. If the Island is to continue to be able to deal with itself, to make repairs, etc., then you’ve got to generate money. One of the ways you do that is by getting the development to contribute to the well-being of the Island financially and, without that, we’re not going to be able to support ourselves. So there’s going to be development. The idea is to make sure the development is as unobtrusive as possible.”

- On the mercantile climate: “I’ll take anyone to lunch at Lutèce if they can get Dunkin’ Donuts or Krispy Kreme [to come here]... If I can only get a named store like Dunkin’ Donuts... I want some coffee shop or something that is known. It’ll be a signal to the rest of the commercial world that we’re here and we want to attract good businesses.” He implied that RIOC is talking with the proprietor of the Dunkin’ Donuts at the south campus of Coler-Goldwater Hospital.

- On existing merchants: “When I came here, I was shocked to see how many of the commercial tenants were not paying rent... I’m taking a very hard stance now with the stores that have stopped paying rent, that I just can’t tolerate that because it’s not fair to those that are paying.” Regarding the bakery space in Eastwood, which has been shuttered for several months, he said, “I’d love to get another bakery to come in there.”

- He said the former Lilies School space on the ground floor at the south end of Eastwood “is configured in such a way that on the ground floor, probably the only thing that could go in there would be one or more restaurants.”

- Berman, whose daughter is a film producer, responded warmly to a suggestion from resident John Rochford that RIOC produce a DVD for movie-location scouts, showing them possible shooting situations on Roosevelt Island. Rochford, a retired producer, said the DVD might generate additional interest in the Island.

- On attracting tourists, “I envision Southpoint as an ideal location on a summer evening for a beautiful concert.” He said he’s contacting the Brooklyn Philharmonic and that Sari Dickson is to be in touch with the Queens Philharmonic, with a view toward staging concerts next at Southpoint next summer. “But,” he said, “we’ve got to see if we can raise the money.” In specific terms, he later added, “I have visions of the Renwick Ruin stabilized, beautified, and improved, and ultimately made into a performance space.”

- On MetroCard for the Tramway: “We’re in very, very significant negotiations with the MTA on a regular basis. It’s a major cost initiative for them.

- On shopping buses for seniors, in light of concerns about insurance coverage, Berman said the substitute school buses used for two recent trips were “wrong,” and said that RIOC is encouraging the Roosevelt Island Seniors Association to apply for Public Purpose Funds to pay for the shopping bus. (During the session, RISA President Dolores Green arrived with the completed proposal.) Berman said the matter of bus service to Manhattan when the Tram is down remains under consideration. He said the insurance implications must be investigated further. “You have insurance, but the insurance that was written was predicated on on-Island operations.” In the event of an accident, he said, an insurance carrier might say, “‘You lied to us about how you were using the buses.’” That introduces doubt, he said, while “the whole idea of insurance is to remove the doubt.”

The last hour of the open house turned into something of a social session, Berman and his guests trading stories about military service and the old days in New York. Berman, who is about to turn 70, first entered New York government in 1975. He was able to reminisce about past mayors and City Councils, and a variety of City projects.

## RIOC from page 1

provides a stark example.

RIOC officials once hailed an expected cash infusion from construction of the first two buildings of Southtown. Instead, to date they’ve produced a \$3.3 million cash drain while promising future income of only about \$125,000 per building per year. Based on return on investment, and by comparison with Manhattan Park, that looks like a deal motivated more by politics than real estate economics.

The two developments are not directly comparable; they’re of different size. Manhattan Park pays a total of about \$4.5 million a year, but adjusted for space equivalency, Manhattan Park yields \$1,998,000 a year for the same space going for just \$250,000 in Southtown, where proximity of the subway and Tram suggest the land is more valuable.

**If Southtown were paying the same rate as Manhattan Park, it would eliminate RIOC’s operating deficit with an income boost of some \$1.7 million a year.** But that ship sailed when the Southtown deal was made.

The rental figures for The Child School, now occupying all but one of the Island’s original minschools, may be another example of an income opportunity lost. Today, RIOC quotes rental rates of \$35 a square foot when inquiries are made about rental space. But for The Child School, RIOC locked itself into a rate of only about \$4 a square foot.

There are two factors that might suggest lower rates are justified for The Child School. It renovated the space, rescuing it from years of idle decay. And it’s an institution that provides a needed service – an educational home for children with special needs. But at least one other school was discouraged from pursuing the same space. From all reports, no effort was made to market the space at higher rates.

Whatever the mitigating factors might be, The Child School rents on Roosevelt Island at a generous 89% discount from rates being quoted to other interested parties. **If The Child School were paying RIOC’s current asking price, \$1.5 million a year in additional income would eliminate the Island’s entire operating deficit.**

In the case of the impending Octagon project, for which financing is now delayed, RIOC has not been willing to disclose the revenues expected from the project. RIOC Board member David Kraut said, at a recent meeting of the Board, “If it returns \$7 million... it’s a no-brainer.” But in comparison with what Manhattan Park pays in ground rent, the Octagon project should generate at least \$2.2 million per year, or a one-time payment of \$36 million, substantially more than the RIOC Board appears ready to accept. (One mitigating factor – the project will carry out a costly restoration of the Octagon tower.)

**If the Octagon project were paying the same rate that Manhattan Park pays, it would eliminate RIOC’s entire deficit by providing \$2.2 million per year.**

In the case of both Southtown and The Child School, past RIOC administrations seem to have made deals destined to contribute to an income shortfall now and in the future. What contribution the Octagon project might make to the Island’s income stream remains to be seen.

### Payroll

Compensation for RIOC administrative staff rose from \$1,095,350 in 1997 to \$1,940,648 in 2003 – a 77% increase that outstrips inflation. By way of explanation, RIOC’s Public

Information Officer, John Melia, noted that the head-count and salaries have not changed in the last three years. He cited increased costs for personnel-related insurance and retirement plans, but RIOC’s added outlays greatly exceed similar costs in both government and non-government organizations.

At the October meeting of the RIOC Board, one member, Leo Kayser, was outspoken about the need to reduce RIOC’s payroll costs. But there’s a persistent suspicion that a number of high-paid members of the RIOC administrative staff are politically untouchable and cannot be terminated, even if underemployed and underperforming.

### Insurance

Today, RIOC is paying about \$1.5 million in insurance premiums – doubled since 9/11/01 – a significant expense in an \$11 million annual budget. More than half the expense is in liability insurance – an unnecessary cost if RIOC’s liability exposures were covered by the State, which covers the same risks for many other State agencies. Fully realizing the possible saving would depend on making a change in Tramway contracts so that RIOC would become the operator of record, with the current operator

for the Island.

Blue’s successor, former Pataki campaign manager Robert H. Ryan, repeated the claim of fiscal independence from any need for State funds. It’s clear, in retrospect, that the claim was sustained through use of \$5.9 million in one-time income – consisting of a \$3.4 million payment from the City Department of Environmental Protection for seawall damages done during work on City Water Tunnel #3, and a \$2.5 million insurance payment for a 1999 Octagon fire. In the same period, there was a \$4.4 payment from Manhattan Park, which may or may not repeat (RIOC refuses to disclose the nature of the MP payment).

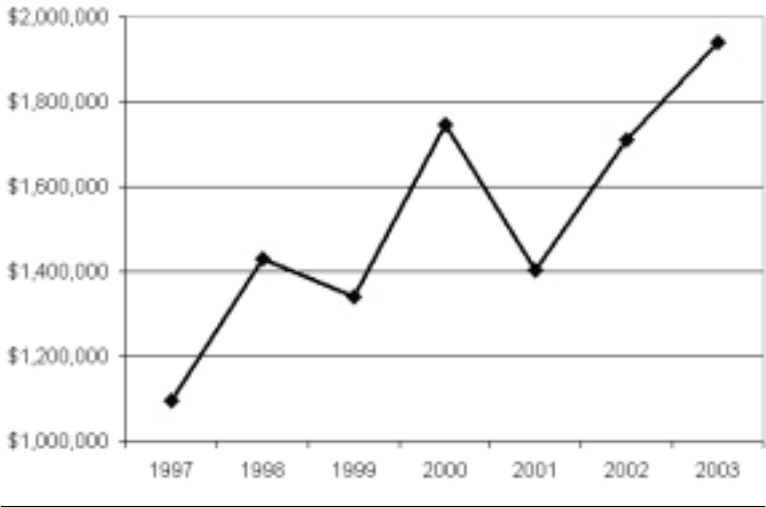
Today, it’s clear that without the \$5.9 in “windfall” income, Ryan would have run an average annual deficit of about \$250,000 for the last four years of RIOC operations.

RIOC’s current budget woes suggest that the claim of budgetary self-sufficiency has held together only through use of revenue from sources that won’t repeat. As opportunities for new sources of that kind become more scarce, remaining self-sufficient will depend on careful management.

### The Future

Today, RIOC has about \$8 million in the bank, set aside for a rainy

### Administrative Compensation



being responsible for maintenance.

### Outsourcing

When Southtown was imminent, RIOC hired an outside firm – now AMEC – as its owner’s representative, charged with keeping an eye on things through the construction process. Since then, each new development or rehabilitation project started on the Island has been added to AMEC responsibilities. The cost, over three years, has been over \$2.4 million.

The bulk of the AMEC responsibilities are executed by one AMEC staffer, Scott Weiss, who is based on the Island. It’s possible that the RIOC staff could provide the same service in-house at a considerable saving, which would contribute significantly toward a reduction of RIOC’s deficit.

### Self-Sufficiency Myth

For years, Roosevelt Island’s excess expenses over revenues were covered by an appropriation line in the annual New York State budget. Indeed, the Island was treated well under Governor Mario Cuomo, a Democrat, when millions of dollars each year went into capital development, and hundreds of thousands went into an operational subsidy.

When Republican Governor George Pataki replaced Cuomo’s appointee as President of RIOC with Dr. Jerome Blue, a close associate of then-Senator Al D’Amato, a Pataki mentor, Blue soon declared Roosevelt Island fiscally “self-sufficient.” Few believed it to be true at the time, but it fit nicely with the State Administration’s decision to eliminate all State subsidy funding

day, or as a kind of future endowment for the Island. RIOC President Herb Berman has gone on record as being committed to conducting RIOC’s day-to-day operations without drawing on those funds.

To keep that pledge, RIOC is looking at increasing Motorgate fees – a cost to car-owning residents of about \$100,000, of which RIOC will see only \$60,000 because of a partnership arrangement with Manhattan Park on ownership of Motorgate. A Public Safety Officer will not be replaced, yielding a \$35,000-plus saving. Some reorganization of the RIOC staff is supposed to produce a half-million dollars in savings, and there’s hope that insurance costs can be cut by \$200,000 through renegotiation.

That’s the short-term plan.

But there is no long-term plan.

At present, RIOC’s budgetary planning horizons remain fiscal year to fiscal year. A RIOC Board member, Mark Ponton, has asked for plan-ahead budgets that could provide a glimpse of Roosevelt Island’s future that would contribute toward sounder financial management, and RIOC’s Chief Financial Officer, Pat Siconolfi, has promised to work on them. RIOC President Berman, who was the City Council’s point man on budgets for years, could make an important contribution to getting RIOC budgets under control.

Doing so could depend on putting a stop to real-estate deals that make little economic sense, and being able to hire and keep staff members based solely on ability.

# Halloween Extravaganza

## Saturday, October 25, 2003

**RAIN OR SHINE Come & Enjoy!**

**EVENTS:**

**PARADE BEGINS AT BLACKWELL HOUSE — 12:00 NOON**  
Join us as we march down Main Street with fun Halloween characters and receive trick or treat bags

**HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES 12:30 PM**  
*ACTIVITIES AT PS/IS 217 BEACON YARD MAGIC SHOW AT 2:00PM*  
Game booths, moon walk, high stricker, balloon typhoon, photo sticker machine, spin art, cotton candy, popcorn, music...

**AND MORE!!!**

**Sponsored by:**




Rivercross      Manhattan Park      475 Southtown  
Roosevelt Island Operating Corp.  
Roosevelt Island Senior Association

Manhattan Park Department of Community Relations is proud to present

## P.S. / I.S. 217 P.T.A. HALLOWEEN FUNHOUSE and MASQUERADE PARTY

**DATE:** SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2003  
**PLACE:** MANHATTAN PARK THEATER CLUB - 8, River Road  
**TIME:** 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
**ADMISSION:** CHILDREN \$ 3.00  
ADULTS \$ 5.00

**FUN FOR ALL AGES!!**

- F.D.N.Y. SPECIAL COMMAND CENTER WILL BE COOKING UP SAUSAGES & PEPPERS, " FIREHOUSE CHILI " , AND OTHER GOOD EATS.
- HAYRIDE !!
- PUMPKIN DECORATING
- COSTUME CONTEST
- GAMES & PRIZES
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- DJ. MIKE

**BREWED BY:** P.S.217 P.T.A. - MANHATTAN PARK MANAGEMENT - SPECIAL THANKS TO R.I.S.A. AND R.I. MERCHANTS - FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL MARILYN ENGSTLER, DIRECTOR OF CR : (212)759-8660 OR P.T.A.OFFICE AT (212) 980-0294 Ext.2159.  
**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE P.T.A.**

## Hooray! An awesome PIANO teacher just moved into your neighborhood!

I teach private music lessons in PIANO, SAXOPHONE, FLUTE, and CLARINET to all ages (and I'm excellent with kids!).

**LOTS OF EXPERIENCE AND REFERENCES**  
1-646-221-8867

## Roosevelt Island Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Our philosophy: *Our office offers adults and children a Quality Dental Service with gentleness, compassion, thoroughness, and respect for their time at a moderate dental cost. Services include Bonding, Veneers, ZOOM! In-Office Bleaching, Implants.*

Delta Dental in-network participant

Some of the Dental Plans we accept toward payment:  
Aetna, Prudential, USHealthCare, Guardian, First Fortis, etc.

**Se habla español!**

Daytime Hours: Mon., Fri. 9-6; Tue., Wed. 12-5; Thur. 3-7  
Evening Hours: Tue., Wed. 6-9

**Lawrence Itskowitch, DDS, PC**  
*Treating residents 24 years*  
501 Main Street • 1-212-752-8722

## CAT SITTER

We will feed and lovingly care for your cat while you are away. We will make sure your pet is safe and happy in his or her own home. Will also help with mail, plants, etc. Excellent references. Call us at 1-212-751-8214.

# 43 AVE DINER

## INDIAN CUISINE

**Lunch buffet Mon-Sat 11:30-4:00 \$6.99**  
**Open for Dinner 4:00 PM to 5:00 AM**  
**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

### SOME OF OUR SPECIALTIES

ALL CURRIES AND VEGETABLES DISHES SERVED WITH RICE OR NAAN

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Chicken Tikka Masala boneless | 7.99 |
| Goat or Lamb Curry            | 7.99 |
| Chicken or Vegetable Biryani  | 7.99 |

WE SPECIALIZE IN VEGETABLE DISHES 5.99  
Spinach, Black Lentils, Chick-Peas, etc.  
All cooked with Indian Spices to your Taste

**PUNJABI TANDOOR**

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Chicken Tikka | 7.99 |
| Seekh Kabab   | 4.99 |
| Tandoori Fish | 9.99 |

**FREE DELIVERY MOST NIGHTS**  
on orders \$15 and over  
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

13-15 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue – off 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
**1-718-784-7444**

Trellis from page 1

the plaintiffs in the case, at least for now, involve rehabilitation of the decades-old smoke-and-odor control system built into the ceiling above the food-preparation areas of Trellis. The system includes electrostatic precipitators, baffles, charcoal filters, and a fan, custom-designed to fit the tight available space amid plumbing connections.

During the course of the lawsuit, a survey was done in Island House, by Roosevelt Island Housing Management, to determine which residents felt their “quiet enjoyment” of their apartments – a legal term – was disturbed by odors from Trellis. The possible size of the class became an issue in the legal maneuvering when occupants of only 17 apartments responded that they were annoyed or felt “damaged” by the odors.

In his brief, Armenakis pointed out that “it would be unreasonable for tenants to believe that they would not experience food odors being in such close proximity to a restaurant.” Calling Trellis “essential to the quality of life of the Roosevelt Island community,” he wrote, “Indeed, all New York City residents endure a certain amount of annoyance and discomfort... incident to living in this sprawling city.”

The named plaintiff in the suit, Srdjan Mrkic, was out of the country this week, but his wife, Dragana Mrkic, expressed a hope that “by springtime, we will be able to open our windows.” She said, “We don’t want [Trellis] to be closed or to get money out of him; we only want him to do what he is supposed to do.”

One aspect of the case illustrates the diverse interests that can come into play in

this planned community. While Island House is owned by a partnership and managed by Roosevelt Island Housing Management, that entity does not control the retail space on the ground floor. Instead, under arrangements going back to the creation of the Island as a residential project, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) leases the space to Trellis. When Razaghi took over the restaurant seven years ago, it came with the equipment left behind by the prior owner, including the ventilation system. Armenakis commented, “You have a very, very weird situation in which there were no delineated



**Case Dismissed** Island House resident Bruce Clausus, an Attorney (left), discontinued his action against Kaie Razaghi (center), who was represented by Rivercross resident Jim Armenakis (right).

lines of responsibility.” Armenakis told *The WIRE* he was introduced to Razaghi by “community leaders” who felt the restaurateur was being “bullied” by Clausus. Asked why he brought a legal action against Trellis, rather than Housing Management (or the owner of Island House) or RIOC (as the lessor of the space), Clausus said, “When there’s this apparent division of authority between RIOC and [Housing] Management and they can sit there and point at each other saying, ‘It’s his problem,’ and nothing happens, that sort of downward



spiral has got to stop. And I’ve decided that somebody has to do something.” Clausus further explained, “I had been in Federal court with Housing Management [on my refusal to provide my Social Security number as part of my housing documents]... It had been very expensive for everybody, so this round I thought I would give them the chance to do the right thing. Likewise, RIOC. RIOC has a lease with [Trellis], so the tenants, as third-party beneficiaries of that lease agreement, would be entitled to sue RIOC, as well... But my thought was to give these people the chance to do the right thing, and focus on the



Letters from page 2

area. These are all small items, I think, that could be implemented without undue costs. They would help start restoring our “model community” to its old self.

Naomi Gale Silverman

**To the Editor:** We can applaud RIOC for trimming expenses, but also for increasing the pressure for our getting the MetroCard – long a glaringly unfair discrimination. Thank you. While not a big proponent of the Octagon Project (overpopulation in a confined area has always proved to lower the standard of living, for sure we need our open spaces, and who wants to play tennis on a fumed-up, noisy garage top!), we recognize the urgency of getting in as fast as possible more revenue from real estate. To that end, and to swell Tram ridership, why not prevail upon the developers to rush to completion the next two Southtown buildings, so they can be occupied by Spring, 2004.

One other possible source of substantial yearly revenue could be Motorgate. No, not by raising parking rates but by not renewing the contract of the present operator, forming a non-profit (therefore, non-taxable) corporation to be managed and run by Islanders. Personnel could be kept to a minimum by first bringing in a consultant on what needs to be done there by way of thoroughly securing the place; for instance, the closing up of all but one access point, with the back stairs to be for egress only, the building now being “leaky” like a sieve. A manager could be hired from the resident pool we have here; the staff could be responsible Roosevelt Island youth working for college money, with automation doing the heavy lifting. And with additional tightened security there by way of TV surveillance cameras on each level augmented by a system of alarms, patrols would literally become unnecessary. Peace of mind for parkers with no bump-up in rates.

All Motorgate profits (somewhere surely between or in excess of \$1-2 million) would go toward our deficit.

To make this place viable, we need – we must – all work together, not apart. Our present severe financial difficulties should be the catalyst drawing RIOC and residents to a closeness – surely a first and certainly not too bad a thing! If you want it, Mr. Berman, you have just to reach out. We’re a nice bunch of people who would be more

**To Sari Dickson, RIOC:** I read in the Daily News on October 17th that the Prince of Monaco is donating a tree for each victim of the September 11 attacks, to be planted all over the City. Then I thought of a great location – the tot lot behind Blackwell House. The tot lot is a terrific place for young children to play except that it is too hot to the touch because of the direct sun on the black-rubber playground. The lot has only one shade tree, but it is on the wrong side: its shade is outside the play area. My children love it there, but we often don’t go or stay long due to the sun. I think planting a tree to memorialize WTC victims on Roosevelt Island is appropriate considering the loss of several of our residents and the fire fighters located here. A dual purpose of remembering our loved ones and protecting our children is perfect! Would you consider planting one of the trees on the south end of the tot lot? I hope so, and I hope that however or whenever Roosevelt Island gets a new tree you seriously consider planting it by the tot lot. Thank you.

Marguerite Camaio

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; anonymous letters are not considered for publication. **Preferred methods of submission:** E-mail to [Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com](mailto:Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com) (E-mail format preferred, or use any wordprocessing software) to put a file on a PC-standard 3.5” floppy disk left at 531 Main Street addressed to *The WIRE*. **Alternatives:** Typed, double-spaced copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to 1-212-755-2540 (call ahead to 1-212-826-9055). 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.** Recommend maximum length, 300 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

than delighted to lend a hand and have some say in this, the community where we live. It is only right and fitting that a bit of democracy creep in here, however much on little cat feet. Roosevelt Islanders, RIOC please take note, have always been fully capable of do-

**To the Editor:** This follows up on my previous letter to *The WIRE* about the non-functioning walking transfer between the Lexington line stop at 59th Street, and the F-train station at 63rd Street and Lexington Avenue. I am reporting the results of a long quest to remedy the problem and get a refund. In April, I discovered the walking transfer was not working. I was charged a second fare. I filled out the MTA’s form and sent in five cards as the problem occurred over four months. There can be a 5-6 week response lag-time. Getting nowhere, particularly regarding checking computers and turnstiles, with the usual customer service folks, I began making calls to the MTA management office.

Doug Sussman, MTA Director of Government and Community Relations (**1-212-878-7469**), directed me to Paul Korczak, Assistant Vice President for MetroCard Sales, Operations and Customer Service (**1-718-521-7064**). I explained the problem to Korczak who had his Chief Officer of Customer Service, Fred Benjamin, deal directly with this problem. Benjamin’s number is: **1-718-243-4703**. Full resolution of this problem took another month to six weeks, but Benjamin eventually agreed that I was due \$11. More importantly, Benjamin had the turnstiles and their computers checked. Finally, the transfer worked. I checked on different occasions at different turnstiles. I recommend that my fellow residents keep these phone numbers handy to use when there’s a transit glitch. Last week I finally received a replacement card and, much to my surprise, the amount was \$20!

My advice: When you don’t get satisfaction from the MTA customer service lines, don’t waste time. Start at the top. Stay at the top ’til you get satisfaction. Make them do the right thing. This effort had a specific benefit to me, but it’s also benefited those who were losing money and didn’t know it or who didn’t want to take the time to fight a government agency.

Sherie Helstien

ing far more than that with which they’ve been credited. So tap us, don’t be afraid. Give us a chance. We won’t disappoint. A prime example of what residents can do in running an entity: Rivercross. Is that a building run to near perfection, or is it not? Barbara Potts

guy causing the problem.” Clausus expressed “profound disappointment” in Housing Management for delays in providing documents he demanded in the course of preparing his case. He also said RIOC was unresponsive, but hadn’t really become involved until recently. On the other side of the case, Armenakis seemed pleased with the cooperation he received. On the issue of pinpointing responsibility, he said, “This whole Island is a noble experiment put together by well-meaning people with different inputs. You had the State, the City – so many entities created to make this thing work [that] nobody could have foretold the problems that would develop in the future because of all the various components and how these components interact with each other. It can be frustrating, even with well-meaning people at the helm.” Clausus commented, “The precedent has been set. The management company has inserted itself in this thing.” On that point, he said, “We won.” He then added, “But everybody has been amply warned” that he will take the matter to court again.

“Yes,” Armenakis said, “he could bring another action...” He later speculated, “If everybody takes the position that ‘it’s not my problem,’ the next time everybody could be named and some judge or jury will have to make a decision... But I am a litigator, and as a litigator I can tell you that the last thing you want to do is litigate. It means that everything else has broken down.”

### The WIRE needs you!

*The Main Street WIRE* relies on many Island volunteers to fill important roles in distribution, and there's a role for **you** if you'd like to join in this important community effort. On Friday, when *The WIRE* comes off the press, we have a stuffing crew at work from about 10:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. (lunch is provided). Friday evenings (and early Saturday), volunteers deliver *The WIRE* to every apartment door on the Island. It's an important service to the community, satisfying, and often fun. If you'd like to join this dedicated group, please call **935-6043**, or **935-7534**, or 826-9055. (Leave your number if a machine answers, and we'll call you back.)

**The WIRE and Website NYC10044 also seek news and feature writers. Call 826-9055.**

# DAILY PICK-UP & DELIVERY

**Overwhelmed?  
Just too much to do?  
Not feeling well?  
No time?  
Hate doing laundry?**



**Give yourself a break!  
Let us do your laundry!**

**BOB'S BUBBLES  
LAUNDROMAT  
718-937-8796**

**Expertly washed, dried, and folded.  
Includes sorting, spotting, detergent, bleach, and softener.  
Special instructions accommodated.  
Specializing in all sizes of comforters and down coats.  
New customers get an extra-large nylon laundry bag FREE.**

## Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.

Board Certified Pediatrician and Pediatric Allergist  
501 Main Street • Roosevelt Island • 1-212-753-5505

**Don't wait until the last minute.  
Schedule your child's school physical now.**

### Office Hours

Monday & Thursday • 9 a.m. -12 noon  
Tuesday • 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday & Friday • 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Coverage provided at all times, when office is closed,  
by Dr. Grimm or by her group, Uptown Pediatrics.  
**We provide comprehensive health care to children and adolescents.**  
Dr. Grimm is also qualified to evaluate and treat allergy and asthma in adults.

## Can I Give a Gift Subscription to a Former Islander?

**Yes, you can.**

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

# Island Arts Music Center

*Roosevelt Island's  
New Community Music School*

**Now Enrolling Students for the Fall Term**

*Offering instruction in a wide variety of  
instruments, the Island Arts Music Center is  
open to students of all ages and musical  
backgrounds.*

Located in the Main St. Cultural Center,  
(548 Main St.)  
Classes are offered Weekdays and Saturdays

For Information, call (212) 929-8343  
Or, visit the Main St. Cultural Center,  
and ask about our program.

The Island Arts Music Center was founded by Director of RIVER MUSIC, Robin Russell, trained at Juilliard and Harvard (B.A. in Music). With over 20 years teaching experience with private students, he has been on the faculty of the Turtle Bay Music School, and the Diller-Quaile School of Music.

## ATTORNEY ON ROOSEVELT ISLAND

*Long-Time Roosevelt Islander*

**Free Consultation for Island Residents**

*Evening and Weekend Appointments • Home Visits*

**General Practice Lawyer**

### PERSONAL INJURY LAW

### DIVORCE AND FAMILY LAW

- Custody of Children
- Child Support and Visitation
- Maintenance, Property Distribution
- Separation Agreements
- Pre-Nuptial Agreements
- Adoptions

### CRIMINAL LAW

- Felonies
- Misdemeanors
- Violations
- DWI

### WILLS, TRUSTS and ESTATES

- Probate and Intestate Proceedings
- Guardianships, Power of Attorney
- Living Wills, Health Care Proxies
- Notary Public

### BUSINESS LAW

- Buy/Sell Businesses, Closings
- Business formations
- Partnerships, Incorporations
- Commercial Leases
- Business Litigation

### REAL ESTATE

- Residential Closings

**PHILIP GRONER, ESQ.**

67 Wall Street, Twenty-second Floor  
New York, New York 10005-3111

Office (212) 709-8028 • Cell (917) 539-6415

## GENERAL CONTRACTOR

FULLY INSURED

Painting, plastering, skimcoating • Wallpapering  
Expert carpentry • Kitchen & bathroom renovation • Tile work

**Rivercross References**

**212 751-8214**

RIRA from page 3

been percolating for years is an “insurance fair” to inform renters of their obligation to provide coverage for their personal property and liability. This proposal resulted from the disastrous Eastwood fires of some years ago when it became apparent that several of the victims were uninsured. Our intention is to invite apartment-insurance brokers to the Island to explain what they cover (and don’t cover) and what their services cost. If you would like to participate in the Housing Committee’s project, contact Housing Committee Chair and Vice President, Eddie O’Flynn, at the Thrift Shop.

Return with me now to Roosevelt Island’s continuing soap opera, Days (and Years) of Our Lives at the Westview Health Club. In our last episode, you learned that the Westview swimming pool had reopened after the damage from the Great Blackout of 2003 was repaired. Still hanging fire, and promised since the pool returned from its two-year coma last July, are the men’s and women’s locker room saunas, lane markers, beverage and snack vending machines and new gym equipment. The operating company, Total Swimming Pool Management of Long Island, should have had these amenities available 3½ months ago when they took over. After all, the membership fees are supposed to cover more than just a big box full of water. Now me, I’m happy just to swim in clean, warm water. But the Westview Pool Committee did a good deal of work trying to create a health club with a variety of conveniences and services that would encourage old members to rejoin and new members to come on down. This continuing saga is slowly moving towards a happy

Konnert from page 1

services provided by the City Department for the Aging at the Senior Center at 546 Main Street. There, seniors get together daily for nutritious and inexpensive meals, which are also delivered to home-bound residents. Konnert can help elderly victims of crimes with the replacement of stolen ID cards and even small emergency cash grants. Family members of elderly relatives can receive referrals for long-term care or Alzheimer’s advisers. Or seniors might be interested in the Senior Employment Services offered: one program is a 20-hour work week as a Foster Grandparent that provides a modest tax-exempt income.

Foreign languages were Konnert’s focus in studies at New York University. She speaks Spanish and Italian fluently and has studied Arabic. Here on Roosevelt Island, she has access to Korean and Russian interpreters. She even teaches Spanish, a language skill honed toward perfection in the two years she spent in the Peace Corps in El Salvador.

In that smallest of Central American republics, Konnert was the Peace Corps’ Municipal Development Program representative. She was sent to San Fernando, a small mountain village in the northeastern province of Chalatenango, not far from the border with Honduras. Chalatenango had been hit hard by a civil war, which ended in 1994 with a

dénouement, but it’s time that Housing Management, which represents the members’ interests to the operating company, takes the necessary steps to bring this facility to full service. Even soap operas deserve a happy ending.



Bernard Dove  
Senior Dance Classes

Monday (beginners)  
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Thursday (advanced)  
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Senior Center, 546 Main St.

For more information, call  
1-212-826-5646

Between issues,  
keep up through  
The WIRE’s occasional  
e-mail bulletins:  
Send an “Add Me”  
to nyc10044@rcn.com

Celebrate Roosevelt Island

Too busy to write a letter? Here’s a great excuse to write a short note instead. Send a Roosevelt Island postcard!

This limited edition set of color postcards is currently available only through The Main Street WIRE.  
(Proceeds benefit The WIRE.)

Sold only in sets: \$8 per set of 20 cards (10 of each), or \$7.50 per set for 2 sets or more.

To order, complete form (or provide the same information on a sheet of paper) and mail with check or money order payable to The WIRE.

Send to:  
The Main Street WIRE  
531 Main Street #413  
Roosevelt Island, NYC NY 10044.

(Orders, addressed to The WIRE, may also be dropped off at the doorstation at Rivercross, 531 Main Street.)

Questions?  
Call (212) 826-9055, but sorry, no telephone or credit card orders.

No shipping charge on Roosevelt Island. For buildings with concierge or doorkeeper, your order will be delivered or ready for pick-up within three days after we receive it. For pick-up orders, provide a phone number with an answering machine and/or e-mail address, and we’ll notify you when your order is ready for pick-up.

The Main Street WIRE  
presents a limited edition of two Roosevelt Island postcards



Cards are  
in rich color  
on heavy stock,  
4.25x6 inches

How many sets? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 \_\_\_\_

\$8 for one set, \$7.50 per set for two sets or more.  
For off-Island address, please add shipping charge (see below).

Check or money order enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address & apt: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phones - Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening/weekend: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Off-Island shipping:  
One set, \$2; two sets, \$3; free for three sets or more.

# SPORTSWIRE

Islander Nicholas Bdera broke three age-group records Sunday at the 2003 USA 50K Race Walk Championships in Hauppauge. He won the right to participate in the 2004 Olympic trials in Chula Vista, California, in February. At 55, he is believed to be the oldest athlete to qualify for Olympic trials in any Track & Field Event.



# The Farmers Market

the highest quality every Saturday at Motorgate

Since 1989



# WENGERD FARM

Watson town, Pa.

It's become a Roosevelt Island tradition. The crisp fall air and the good food at the Farmer's Market – and meeting old friends you haven't seen all week. And here's a tip: Try the pears and apples! They're at their peak.

As always, Thank you for shopping with us every Saturday.

# Jack Resnick, M.D.

Board-Certified Internist, FACP  
Specialist in Adult Medicine

Health Plans Accepted  
Aetna/USHealthcare  
Empire Blue Cross  
CIGNA GHI HIP  
Multiplan  
Oxford  
United Healthcare  
Medicare

1-212-832-2310

House Calls  
For the frail elderly  
and the homebound

501 Main Street  
Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044

# JOLSON'S

WINES & LIQUORS

22-24 31st Street, Astoria  
1-718-728-2020

Present This Newsletter For An  
Additional 15% OFF Any Listed Item!!

Prices valid through Nov. 25, 2003

Chat. St. Jean  
Chardonnay  
\$11.99  
750ml

Rosemount  
Shiraz/Cabernet  
\$11.99  
1.5 Ltr

Koonunga Hills  
Shiraz/Cab  
\$10.99  
750ml

Stonehaven Shiraz  
\$10.99  
1.5 Ltr

Campanile Pinot  
Grigio  
\$8.99  
750ml

Lindeman's  
Chardonnay Bin 65  
\$11.99  
1.5 Ltr

Walnut Crest  
Merlot  
\$8.99  
1.5 Ltr

Gabbiano Chianti  
\$9.99  
750ml

Frixenet C.N Brut  
\$9.99  
750ml



Free Delivery to Roosevelt Island  
Gift wrapping available  
All major credit cards accepted

# Classified

50¢/word • 1-212-751-8214  
Deadline for November 8 issue: November 4

**ELDER LAW** – Wills & Trusts, Medicaid Planning, Nursing Home Matters, Estate Planning, and Living Wills. Steven M. Ratner, Esq., 420 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY. 1-212-754-9117.

**LOOKING FOR A BABYSITTER?** Call Adama Konte at 1-212-371-3273. I live at Island House. Kids from 1 to 5 years old welcome.

**COMPUTER** problems/consultations 1-917-916-5306.

**MAIN STREET THEATRE & DANCE ALLIANCE** – Ongoing registration for dance and theater classes. 1-212-371-4449. Unique or period clothing & furniture gladly accepted.

**DAISY DOODLE** – Magic Shows, Dance Parties, Disney, Toddlers, Princess, Pirate, Barbie, Harry Potter, balloons, facepainting, crafts, holiday shows. 1-212-501-4828.

**LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST** / Certified Reflexologist – Island resident Diana Brill. Gift certificates available. 1-212-759-9042.

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

**PIANO TUNING** – \$75. Prompt. Formerly with Steinway. Ben Treuhaft. 1-212-505-3173.

**YOUR FRIENDLY AVON REPRESENTATIVE** – Dolores Green. 1-212-223-4077.

**NOTARY PUBLIC** – 1-212-935-7534.

**EXPERIENCED PAINTER/CONTRACTOR** – Excellent Island references, fully insured. Free estimate. 1-212-751-8214.

**CAT-SITTER – VACATION IN PEACE** – Will feed and play with your cat, water your plants, pick up your mail, etc. 1-212-751-8214.

**ROOSEVELT ISLAND POSTCARDS** – Color Views of Tram and Lighthouse Park; sets of 20 (10 each) for \$8, or two sets, \$15. Check payable to *The WIRE* to 531 Main Street with your address, phone, e-mail address (if available). Questions: 1-212-826-9055. Sorry, no phone or credit card orders.

**APARTMENT SUBLET AVAILABLE** – Union Square area, very large, sunny, L-shaped studio available for a year, give or take a month or two, starting December. \$2,000/month. Fully-furnished (queen-size bed plus two couches, TV, VCR), full service, 24-hour doorkeeper. Contact owner at [ffandco@aol.com](mailto:ffandco@aol.com) by e-mail.

**MOVING?** – Use *WIRE* classifieds to sell the stuff you'd rather not move. Reach every apartment on Roosevelt Island and turn your discards into dollars.

# GRISTEDE'S

**PATSY'S ITALIAN FOODS • QUALITY AT ITS BEST!**

Prices Effective To 11/1/03



Established in 1944, PATSY'S has long been a celebrity favorite and a New York institution. Run by the same family at its one and *only* location on West 56th Street off 8th Ave., PATSY'S now brings its distinctively flavored red sauces to GRISTEDE'S, enabling you to prepare exceptional meals at home within minutes. Why settle for just any sauce when you can enjoy the legendary taste of PATSY'S sauces - made with all fresh ingredients and pure Italian olive oil, they are 100% natural, with no preservatives and no added sugar. We hope that once you try PATSY'S sauces and their other products, they'll become part of *your family tradition*.

**PATSY'S & GRISTEDE'S - Two Names You Can Trust!** John Catsimatidis, Chairman & CEO

**Patsy's Pasta Sauce**  
**\$5<sup>99</sup>**  
24 oz.

**All Natural Assorted Varieties**

**Patsy's Olive Oil**  
**\$6<sup>99</sup>**  
22 oz. btl.

**Extra Virgin**

**Patsy's Italian Balsamic Vinegar**  
**\$3<sup>49</sup>**  
22 oz. btl.

**Patsy's Roasted Vegetables**  
**\$4<sup>99</sup>**  
11.6 oz. jar

**Eggplant, Onions or Peppers**

**Patsy's Italian Cabernet Vinegar**  
**\$3<sup>49</sup>**  
1/2 liter btl.

**Pepsi Cola**  
Regular, Diet or Caffeine Free  
**99¢**  
2 liter

**PROGRESSO SOUPS**  
All Varieties  
A MEAL IN ITSELF!  
**\$1<sup>99</sup>**  
19 oz.

**PHILADELPHIA BBQ CHICKENS**  
New Yorkers have told us that GRISTEDE'S has the best BarBQue chickens in town. Not only are they the best tasting, but the best price in town. Better than Boston. You Be The Judge!  
**\$3<sup>99</sup>**  
Whole Only each

**DECECCO PASTA**  
Assorted Varieties: #1, #6, #7, #9, #12, #23, #24, #26, #34, #38, #40, #41, #54, #74, #81, #87, #90, #93, #118  
**2 BOXES \$3**  
16 oz.

**Imported From Italy!**

**Canada Dry Ginger Ale, Club, Tonic or Seltzers**  
**\$1<sup>19</sup>**  
1 liter

**7 UP Soda 6 Pack \$1<sup>99</sup> 12 oz. cans**

**USE YOUR DIAMOND VALUE CARD FOR THE ITEMS BELOW!**  
If you don't have a GRISTEDE'S "Diamond Value Club (DVC) Card" apply now! *YOU WILL LIKE THE BENEFITS!*

**Star Kist Solid White Tuna**  
**\$3<sup>99</sup>**  
6 oz. **Limit 2**  
Limit 2 • effective 10/26/03-11/1/03

**Barilla Pasta**  
**88¢**  
1 lb. pkg. **Limit 2**  
Limit 2 • effective 10/26/03-11/1/03

**All Varieties**

**Marcal Toilet Tissue**  
**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
each **Limit 2**  
Limit 2 • effective 10/26/03-11/1/03

**20 Pack**

**Scott Towels**  
**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
64 ct. **Limit 2**  
Limit 2 • effective 10/26/03-11/1/03

**12 Pack**

**SAVE MORE WITH GRISTEDE'S CLIP & SAVE MEGA VALUE COUPONS**

**GRISTEDE'S COUPON**  
**Heinz Ketchup**  
**89¢**  
20 oz.  
Limit 2 w/add'l \$10.00 purchase not including coupon items, beer, stamps or cigarettes • effective 10/26/03-11/1/03 • MSW

**GRISTEDE'S COUPON**  
**Chock Full O Nuts Coffee**  
**\$1<sup>69</sup>**  
13 oz.  
Limit 2 w/add'l \$10.00 purchase not including coupon items, beer, stamps or cigarettes • effective 10/26/03-11/1/03 • MSW

**All Purpose**

**GRISTEDE'S COUPON**  
**Tropicana Orange Juice**  
**\$1<sup>99</sup>**  
64 oz.  
Limit 2 w/add'l \$10.00 purchase not including coupon items, beer, stamps or cigarettes • effective 10/26/03-11/1/03 • MSW

**Pure Premium**

**all var.**

**GRISTEDE'S CUSTOMER APPRECIATION COUPON**  
**\$5 OFF**  
Limit one per family with additional \$40 purchase. Can not be used for cigarettes, postage stamps, lottery tickets, and in conjunction with the IGT Card, Pharmacy & Phone Cards. Good only at: GRISTEDE'S on ROOSEVELT ISLAND • Effective 10/26/03 - 11/1/03 • MSW