

Next issue
in two weeks:
Sat., Jan. 22

The Main Street WIRE™

25th Year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



The Octagon is now fully wrapped, as work continues on restoration.

Island Efforts in Tsunami

Three Roosevelt Island-based efforts to help tsunami victims got under way over the last two weeks. Here are the facts:

Collection At Trellis

Eastwood resident Fay Vass and Trellis proprietor Kaie Razaghi are collecting contributions for tsunami relief. Funds will go to Americares and Save the Children USA. Contributions can be left at Trellis, next to the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, and will be tallied as a Roosevelt Island tsunami relief fund.

Checks should be made payable to either Americares or Save the Children.

In a Trellis ad running in this issue of *The WIRE*, those collecting the funds say, “One Island – Roosevelt Island – can make a difference. You can be assured every dollar will go to those in need for food and water, shelter, medicine – and for a future.”

A list of additional organizations seeking contributions for tsunami relief is available on *Website NYC10044* at <http://nyc10044.com/wire/wire2509/relief.html>, along with a riveting account of a close call for two vacationers with a Roosevelt Island connection.

River Music Plans Benefit

At Wednesday night’s meeting of the RIRA Common Council, River Music Director Robin Russell proposed a concert, not yet scheduled, to benefit Orphans International’s efforts to rescue tsunami orphans through its facilities in Indonesia. The Common Council voted unanimously to support the effort.

Briefly...

A double stabbing Christmas eve in Eastwood, allegedly committed by an Island resident, tops the Public Safety Blotter for the last half of December. The full blotter is now available on *Website NYC10044* at nyc10044.com/wire/2509/blot2509.html.

Rivercross Doorkeeper Herman Lawson (right) retires next week. He’s been on duty from Rivercross’s beginning, and for most of that time has been the building’s daytime face to the world.

Orphans International

“I have just returned from Indonesia where I visited a nation in mourning,” writes Jim Luce, founder of Orphans International (OI), which operates facilities in Bali and Sulawesi. Luce’s travel to the area was coincidental.

In a press release issued earlier this week, OI announced that its two Indonesian projects, Bali and Sulawesi, will double their capacity to take in children orphaned in the tsunami. Luce said that the founder of OI’s Bali project, Ramdani “Dani” Sirait, is working with associates in Aceh, on the island of Sumatra where he was born, to select children and insure their care before their transfer to OI housing. They will be transferred as soon as a travel ban is lifted.

Sponsorship of an orphaned child through OI costs \$600 a year. Roosevelt Island has been a key source of support for Luce’s effort, which is aimed at raising “citizens of the world” in a stable, family-like environment that is interfaith, interracial, international, intergenerational, and Internet-connected. Several Island residents visited OI’s Bali facility in 2004.

Contributions can be addressed to Orphans International, 540 Main Street #418, NYC10044. Information is available on line at oiww.org/HowToHelp.html.

In an unrelated development, a prominent business leader in Guyana has donated 40 acres outside Georgetown to be split between Habitat for Humanity and OI Guyana.



RIRA’s Octagon Suit Is Filed

Officers of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) filed the organization’s expected lawsuit to stop construction of the Octagon Apartments project shortly before the end of 2004. The suit asks the court to order a halt to the work, and restoration of the land to its former state.

The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) is named as a respondent, along with MEPT Octagon LLC, the owner of record of the project designed by Becker and Becker Associates. Gotham Construction, which is at work on the site, is also named.

The suit claims the project violates the law, specifically the language in the 2002 Open Spaces Law saying “no further development... for other than park purposes shall be permitted...” at Octagon Park and at several other designated open spaces on the Island. The law goes on to pose an exception: “...unless such development... includes the reconstruction, restoration, rehabilitation, or preservation of the historic landmarks located [there]... and furthers the use of the areas surrounding the landmarks as open space areas.” It is on this latter clause that respondents are expected to base their claim that the project is within the law.

The respondents might also challenge the “stand-

ing” of the Residents Association or individual residents to bring the suit, because they are not party to the contracts under which the apartments project is being developed.

The suit also claims a violation of the law in that “Octagon Park was planned and developed with grants from the Environmental Quality Bond Act,” and the law provides that property developed with such funds “shall not be sold or disposed of or used for other than public park purposes without... an act of the legislature...” At one point last year, a RIOC resolution greenlighting the Octagon Apartments project did call for legislative approval, but that provision was dropped from a later version of the resolution.

Finally, the suit charges a violation of the doctrine of public trust, pointing out that the land has for years been designated as a park – specifically an urban ecological park – on maps of the Island, that RIOC has accepted grants for developing the area as a park.

The papers filed by RIRA conclude, “We request that the court immediately and permanently prohibit development in Octagon Park for anything other than park purposes, and that they order an immediate and prompt restoration of the area to parkland.”

RIRA: What to Do About Public Safety?

The Residents Association Common Council asked one of residents’ perennial questions Wednesday night: What should be done about the Public Safety Department (PSD)? The Council’s agenda included a “forum” on the question – a response to a series of continuing concerns or recent developments:

- Recent efforts by RISK, the Roosevelt Island Public Safety Committee, to get the City to put an NYPD substation on the Island.
- Continuing concern about alleged drug traffic. (A Christmas eve

double stabbing in Eastwood is rumored to be drug-deal related; see the PSD Blotter on *Website NYC10044* at nyc10044.com/wire/2509/blot2509.html.)

- Dr. Ron Musto’s arrest for taking a photograph outside his apartment – a disorderly conduct summons dismissed for lack of evidence – and other, similar incidents in which Island residents complain they were harassed or arrested by Public Safety Officers, allegedly without reasonable cause or, sometimes, without asking obvious questions.

- Failure to control automobile burglaries at Motorgate.
- Lack of accountability “to anyone,” including residents.
- Word that the Sheldrake Corporation may seek to negotiate an elimination of support for PSD from its cost structure for Island House and Westview.

On the last point, Rivercross representative Ron Schuppert told the Council that under letters of agreement between Northtown buildings and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), the building

See PSD, page 2

Islanders

Holding Bronze Star and Other Medals, Sciallo Still Says, “I’m No WW2 Hero.”

by Anri Wheeler

Walking the halls of the Roosevelt Island Senior Center, Dominic Sciallo is completely at ease. “This is more like my second home. At my age now, I have no other place to go,” the 87-year-old says, after entering the room that is normally home to an English as a Second Language class, sculpting and latch hook. Seated on one of the blue plastic chairs that are scattered throughout the center, Dominic’s head is just level with a row of watercolor portraits done by some of the seniors. He is one of the many faces of the place, his solid gaze and shy smile fitting right in with those on the wall behind him.

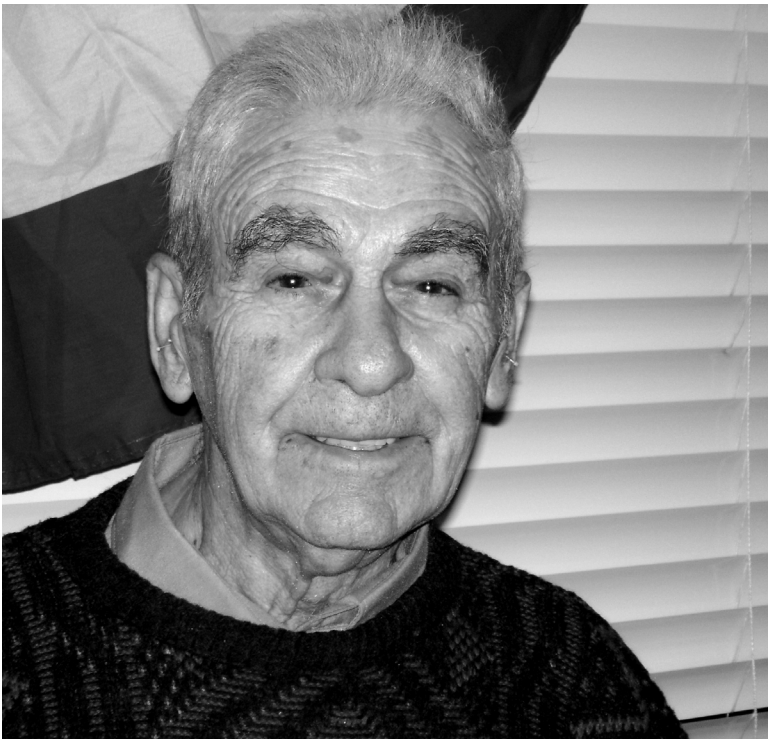
When asked about his time in World War II, Dominic produces a crinkled envelope from his back pocket and removes a faded piece of paper. On it, in bold typewriter lettering, are the details of his service, for which he was recently decorated. “I have quite a few medals. I gave them all to my son to take home. The only one I’m missing is the Bronze which probably was given to me after I left the hospital – I don’t know.” He speaks slowly and deliberately, clasping his large hands in front of his mouth.

Dominic was born in East Harlem and voluntarily joined the U.S. Army in 1940. He was placed in the

first infantry division and shipped first to Fort Wadsworth in Staten Island before he was sent overseas. “We were an amphibious force...we had a lot of experience going through England and Scotland training for different invasions, the first one was the invasion of [North] Africa. After that, north Sicily,” he says. After Sicily, Dominic was sent back to England

for further training and – under the control of the British Army – he landed on Omaha beach on D-Day. “We were trained to get off the boat and get off the beach. I just happened to be a lucky one, the bullet wasn’t meant for me. I happened to see a hole and I dove in the hole right at the end of the beach and I watched all the

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The Editorial Page

New Year,
New Board,
New Start

The New Year is upon us and, given that the RIOC Board’s last meeting of 2004 was canceled, 2005 will represent a fresh start for many, not the least the Board of Directors that oversees development and management of Roosevelt Island.

A key difference will be evident when the Board next meets: *A majority will be residents.*

It’s very tempting, therefore, to set down a bulleted list of proposed New Year’s resolutions for the Board, and an editorial writer’s fingers hover over the keyboard, eager to punch out the tsunami of do’s and don’t’s that would make a few thousand residents happier with the way the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation carries out its day-to-day responsibilities, as well as its long-term objectives.

The bulleted list could include a cleaner garage, repaired sidewalks, more productive personnel (at more sensible pay levels), solution of all promenade and street lighting problems, and a new comprehensive plan for Island development, financing, and governance. But so much of that goes without saying, and while it often appears RIOC is in desperate need of a reminder of its responsibilities, *they do know*, and we will waste no further ink on the obvious.

But we do have a wish for the new year – one that is overriding:

As RIOC works on the details of extended ground leases and other details on privatization of the mortgages for Westview, Island House, and Eastwood, we’d like the Board to remember that, above all, Roosevelt Island is a community not of developers or landlords or buildings or profit centers. Roosevelt Island is a community of people – residents, neighbors, friends – generations, now, of young and old who have bonded in ways that go far beyond the simple proximity of street addresses. We have formed organizations, circles of friends and valued acquaintances – connections and relationships.

Roosevelt Island is about the people who make their homes here.

We are therefore eager to see the RIOC Board act responsibly and thoroughly in using its powers to protect our neighbors and their homes by conditioning lease extensions on very particular terms that will strengthen the bonds of community and keep our circles of friends together. It can be done.

And with a resident majority on the RIOC Board, it should be possible, finally and for all time, to put the people who live here at the top of every agenda.

That’s our wish for the newly composed RIOC Board and for the New Year of 2005.

I hope that everybody had a happy and healthy start to the new year. I look forward to accomplishing a great deal in the coming months.

The new year has brought some changes to the RIOC Board. I want to welcome the two new members of the RIOC Board, Alberteen Anderson and Michael Shinozaki. Both of them truly care about the Island. I have spoken to them several times about Island issues and I look forward to working with them. They have already made some good suggestions.

I also want to say goodbye to Leo Kayser. Over the years he has put a great deal of work into the Board and the Island. I want to thank him for that commitment.

The new year has also brought some changes to the Island. Southtown building three, also known as Riverwalk, is already coming out of the ground. The structure can now be seen above the construction fence. Work is also progressing on the Octagon site.

The new year also brought a coffee cart to the MTA property on Roosevelt Island. We are aware that this cart has received a mixed review from Island residents but, due to the fact that it is on MTA property, RIOC is unable to either give or revoke a permit to the cart. We have, however, contacted the MTA and they are looking into the rights of the vendor. We will keep you posted.

New signs are also being placed on all of the Island’s open spaces. This is the first step in allowing visitors to the Island to identify all that the Island has to offer. On many occasions we have heard that visitors arrive on the Tram and then turn around and go home. We are taking steps to put proper signage at the Tram and the subway so that visitors can find Southpoint, the Lighthouse, and all of the other landmarks and open spaces on the Island.

It is hoped that well before the end of the year we will also see some new stores in the vacant retail spaces on the Island. A major effort is being made to lease this space.

The
RIOC
Column

Other things on the Island will remain the same. We will continue to provide information through our info line, web site, e-mail blasts, these columns, and notices posted on the kiosks and in the buses. The information is updated frequently, and is easily accessed. The web site address is www.rioc.com. There are instructions on the home page about how to sign up for the e-mail blasts. The info line phone number is **212-308-6608**.

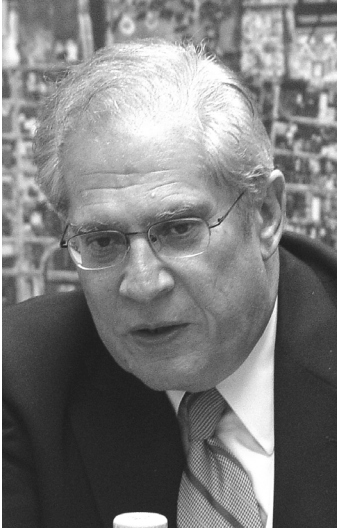
We will also continue to have meetings with a representative of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association and the State and City offices of Emergency Management. Those meetings have already included representatives from the MTA and Keyspan. Future meetings will also include representatives of relevant agencies and/or organizations.

RIOC will also continue to work with the Trust for Public Land to adopt the plans for Southpoint, obtain the necessary funds from various sources and begin the work. This is a long process, but we are committed to making it work.

I look forward to all of the new things that we can do in the coming year. We will continue work on the old issues listed above and others, but the new signage is just the beginning of some of the things that we are working on for 2005.

I am proud of all that we accomplished in 2004 as detailed in my column from two issues ago. I am confident that the year-end summaries for 2005 will show that even more has been accomplished this year.

Again, a healthy and a happy to all!



Herbert E. Berman, President
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746

That’s the number of current subscribers to *The WIRE*’s e-mail bulletin service. To keep abreast of important Island news between issues, send an *AddMe* message to bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.

Letters

To the Editor:

Due to an editing error, the amount of the prepaid lump sum that the developers are to pay RIOC for the entire ground rent due under the 62-year lease in Southtown for the new condominium building was incorrectly stated as around \$10 million [commentary, last issue]. The lease ordinarily would call for payment of about \$200,000 per year subject to annual inflation increases of 2.5%, which would result in total rent accumulated over 62 years to be more than \$13 million. The lump sum prepayment discounted at 8.5% of that amount comes to around \$3 million. Due to various tax laws, the developers needed to make a lump sum prepayment.

Robert Chira

Letters deadline for January 22 issue: Tuesday, January 18

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

PSD from page 1

ings pay more than half the operating cost of Public Safety, with the remainder coming from RIOC revenue also received from the buildings through ground rent. Schuppert said that Rivercross has been unable to get information from RIOC on what contribution is being made by Southtown buildings. “That should come off the top,” Schuppert said, reducing the share being paid under the letters of agreement.

Discussion centered on alternatives to the current PSD structure. Schuppert told the Council that as long as there is a Public Safety Department on the Island, NYPD is not likely to patrol or provide regular policing services. But he and others expressed concern that precipitously doing away with PSD could leave a gap NYPD would be unlikely to fill.

A meeting was scheduled for Thursday night, after *The WIRE*’s press deadline, with the commander of the 114th Precinct of Queens, which is the immediate response unit for Roosevelt Island, even though the Island is located in Manhattan’s 19th Precinct, where Island crimes are actually processed. RISK co-chair Byron Gaspard said that restoring the Island’s community policing officer

was a priority for that session; the officer, though assigned to the Island, is redeployed or unavailable.

Separately, political leaders are being asked to give their backing to an NYPD substation. City Council Speaker Gifford Miller has endorsed the idea, as have other politicians representing the Island.

Schuppert suggested that steps be taken to eliminate Public Safety and that the political structure “be put on notice” that funds will be needed for Roosevelt Island coverage. He said that internal security within buildings could be handled by the building management, with security personnel reporting directly to the management of each building.

The Residents Association has

On the
Website –

Supplements to this issue of *The WIRE* appear on *Website NYC10044*. They include the *Public Safety Blotter*, a listing of organizations seeking contributions for tsunami relief, and an account of a narrow escape by two tourists with Island connections. It’s all on line at nyc10044.com.

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; *letters submitted anonymously will not be published*.

Preferred submission: E-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com (plaintext e-mail format preferred, or attach a file created using any common wordprocessing software, but no MSWord files containing macros), or on a PC-standard 3.5" disk left at the desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. **Alternatives:** Typed copy left at 531 Main Street. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered if brief, but we are not able to take telephone dictation of letters. **Letters are subject to acceptance and to possible editing for length and clarity.** Recommended maximum length, 300 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

no direct control over Public Safety. But Schuppert said that if the Sheldrake Organization is successful in reducing or eliminating the Westview-Island House contribution to Public Safety services, other buildings would also want similar treatment. “Eastwood is not going to go it alone,” he said.

Action on the PSD question was deferred, but Island House representative Frank Farance summarized proposals before the Council as a suggestion that RIRA take these steps:

- Formally present RISK’s requests and suggestions about PSD to RIOC.

- Ask RIOC for timely management information about PSD.

- Ask for a Civilian Review Board, a suggestion advanced by Eastwood delegate Joyce Mincheff.

- “Get RIOC management out of the loop” by asking that PSD report directly to a joint venture of the housing companies.

Several Common Councilors characterized RIOC as a kind of “blind” to vitiate reporting of crime and quality-of-life incidents on the Island as a way of making the Island appear more attractive to developers.


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When Steve Marcus invited me to write the column for this issue I was excited to accept. I had a million things I wanted to write about. Then the tragedy of the tsunami hit and made everything else seem pretty insignificant.

Obviously everyone is affected by a catastrophe of this magnitude, but since Roosevelt Island has such a diverse population, my guess is that some of our neighbors have been more directly affected than others. On behalf of RIRA, I want to send our sympathies and pledge our support. At Wednesday's meeting (by the time this is published, the meeting will have taken place) we'll be discussing what RIRA can do to

join in the relief efforts underway. If anyone has any ideas please contact me at MSmith@quintennium.com or one of your RIRA reps and we'll make sure your suggestions are included in our discussions.

There's no way to switch from this into local issues, so I'm not even going to try. I'll just change the subject.

On December 29, RIRA filed an Article 78 to stop the destruction of Octagon Park. It's unfortunate that we had to take this step, but it was necessary to protect our parkland. For those of you who may not be familiar with the term, an Article 78 is the name for a lawsuit that challenges an action (or inaction) by agencies and/or officers of State and local government. RIRA filed this lawsuit because RIOC's approval to build 500+ units of housing in Octagon Park is a direct violation of the Open Spaces law passed specifically to protect our parkland on Roosevelt Island. If allowed to proceed, this infringement on our green space will not only take away the areas where we've spent countless summers enjoying the benefits of living on this Island, it will also set an irreversible precedent for RIOC to build whenever, whatever, and wherever they choose, including the other parks supposedly protected by the Open Spaces Law, like Southpoint Park, Lighthouse Park, and Blackwell Park. So, we had no choice but to take whatever legal means were available to us to stop this destruction of our parkland. We'll keep you posted on the progress of the suit in the coming weeks.

New Year's is about resolutions and hope. This RIRA has already resolved to work hard for all Islanders and we hope more residents will get involved in our efforts. Over the coming months, we're asking RIOC to resolve to be more responsive to the residents. If there's any question about where to start, here are a few suggestions:

- Give the Youth Center the space they were promised years ago so they can accept their grant money and continue serving the Island's kids.

Sciallo from page 1

activity... We couldn't move 'cause they had us trapped, they had machine guns and what-not, a whole artillery there. We were unfortunate that, at that time, a German regiment was running maneuvers in that area so we got the brunt of them."

Dominic does not know how long he was on the shore, but the experience left an indelible impression on him. "There was quite a bit of activity, all the kids on the beach. From what I understand, they had to have the bulldozers get the bodies off the beach." Amid the chaos of the beach, Dominic and his company had a group of engineers working with them to build a path through to safety. Dominic was fortunate in that they eventually prevailed and were able to find a route around the rear of the German forces. He and the rest of his company escaped to Belgium.

"Our final part in the combat was on the border of Belgium and Germany. The weather happened to break and there was every conceivable airplane that you could think of in the sky, because they were going over to Germany. It was bitter cold. I went to check on my men in the foxhole... The next thing I know I was being put in a jeep."

That is the last thing Dominic remembers, though some of the aftereffects of that day remain with him. He suffered irreparable damage to his hearing. In addition, he says, "My feet and legs were more or less on the verge of really freezing. They took me out just in time to save my feet and legs, and from there on out, that's it — that is my war," he says calmly, never once altering the expression on his face. To this day Dominic is not fully clear as to what happened in his last moments on the battlefield. He was hospitalized in Paris, then transferred to San Antonio, where he spent six months recovering.

After the war, Dominic went into the moving and storage business with his

brother on Long Island. Later, he was an inspector for Republic Aviation, eventually leaving that job as well to enter the automatic dry-cleaning business. He moved to Roosevelt Island in 1977 at the age of 60, and has been active in the Roosevelt Island Senior Association (RISA) ever since.

"The first day I came in, they put me to work... and here I am after 27 years," he says. Dominic has served as RISA president six times and currently holds the title of Vice President in Charge of the Center. RISA member Frank Gibbs has known him since Dominic first moved to Roosevelt Island, "He's always been the same way... He's a very quiet, peaceful, nice guy who is always trying to help people," Gibbs said.

As his greatest accomplishment as RISA president, Dominic cites, "getting people together and having activities and benefits for the seniors. Although I was still a young person when I came here, I adapted to the seniors and I helped them along and did whatever I could for them," he says. In the words of Dolores Green, current RISA president, "Dominic is the glue that holds the Senior Center together. He often calls it his second home, and he treats it with tender loving care. He is dedicated to seeing that the Center is kept in tip-top shape."

It was in this "second home" that Dominic was honored for his World War II service late in December. Surrounded by his son and close friends, Dominic received eight medals including the Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. A truly humble man, Dominic did not even know which medals he had been awarded until he recently enlisted the help of his long-time friend Congressman Carolyn Maloney. "I went all these years without saying anything, I did my job and that's about it. So one day I happen to see Carolyn Maloney and I said, 'Carolyn, I don't

- Treat the seniors and disabled better. Give them back their second shopping bus, which for some represented their only chance to get off the Island once a week. And permanently fix the dangerous situation at the bottom of the ramp that causes shopping carts and wheelchairs to get caught when crossing the street. The "temporary" fix was supposed to happen last winter with the permanent fix to follow this past summer. The reason given was that it was impossible to make a permanent fix in the cold weather. We're now in the middle of another winter with no permanent fix. It's difficult to understand why it's possible to continue erecting Southtown buildings and Octagon apartments in the cold, but it's not possible to fix a small slab of concrete at the bottom of the ramp.

- Clean our streets; fix our streetlights; clean and repair Motorgate; make Public Safety accountable to the residents; rent the bakery and other vacant storefronts, etc.

- Get some more activities going at Southpoint, while at the same time actively pursuing the funds to make it a real park.

- Hold your Board meetings in the evening so residents can attend, and don't go into Executive

Session, excluding the community from hearing what's being discussed.

- Start issuing tickets, and/or take other measures to solve the parking problem on Main Street.

Unfortunately, the list goes on, but this would be a good place to start. As always, the residents stand ready and willing to help. This is one of the greatest places in New York, maybe the country, to live. It deserves more respect than it's been getting. We have amazing views, an unsurpassed diversity in our population, mixed income and age groups, and a history that all work to make this a remarkable community. But it won't be for long, unless more residents begin to pay attention and hold RIOC accountable for managing this Island. Why not make 2005 the year you attend a RIOC Board meeting, join a RIRA committee, or just become a little more active in an Island organization? A small group of caring people can achieve amazing things; the larger the group, the bigger the achievements.



Margie Smith, Vice President
Roosevelt Island Residents Assn.
e-mail: MSmith@quintennium.com

know what I have in medals, will you find out for me?" And that's how this got started."

The ceremony was a huge success. In the words of Dominic's close friend, Linda Egan, also a long-time RISA member, "It was a very touching, emotional ceremony. Dominic's daughter-in-law was brought to tears, his son was choked, people in the audience also were drying their eyes. I got calls from people afterward saying, 'Thank you so much for inviting me. It was the nicest thing I've ever seen in the Center so far.'" Dominic's own take on the ceremony was also very positive, "I felt very good. I thought it was very nice. I felt that I got a lot of respect."

Even after receiving his medals, Dominic in no way sees himself as a hero. "I never give a thought whether I was a veteran or whether I wasn't a veteran. It's part of my life, I was always this way. I never thought, 'Well, I want to be a hero.' I want to just be a regular person and do what I'm supposed to do. I probably could have been a hero, but I probably wouldn't be here speaking with you, so I'm better off here speaking with you," he says.

Though Dominic may see himself as just a man fulfilling his duty to his country, many others are willing to sing his praises. "I think he's a gem. He's the kind of person who can always bring you back to focus. Many times, I'm going right off the deep end and he brings me right back to center... He never has a harsh word to say about anyone. He's a gentle soul, he loves RISA, he loves the people here... I could go on for a hundred hours bragging about him," Egan said.

Perhaps RISA member Gloria Narduzzo said it best, "I can't say anything bad about him because he has a good heart, and that's it. Dominic is a *Gentleman*, with a capital G, and I don't know what this Island would do without him."

Engaged: Grubman, Reese

Announcing the engagement of Rafael Reese and Teresa Grubman, August of 2004, in the city of Nashville, Tennessee. Rafael is presently a resident of Roosevelt Island, and Teresa is a former resident. The two met last summer at Enchantments in Greenwich Village. Teresa is a published author with her most recent novel, *The Blue House*, as well as other novels and poetry. Rafael is a student at NYACK in Manhattan where he seeks a Masters Degree in Divinity in the near future. They will reside, thereafter, in Nashville, Tennessee.



COMING UP

— This Weekend —

Windows exhibition continues at Gallery RIVAA, **Sat.-Sun.** 11-5, Wed. & Fri., 6-9, 527 Main Street. Through Feb. 6.

— The Coming Week —

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, Mon., Jan. 10, 8:00 p.m. Visitors welcome. Additional information: **212-751-9577**.

— Future Events —

Book Discussion Group at the Library, **Thur., Jan. 20**, 6:30 p.m., *Don't Erase Me*, by Ferrall. Copies of book available at the branch.

Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. in song and verse, featuring the Tex Allen Sextet, with vocalist Janis Dempsey and guest poets, **Thur., Jan. 20**, 7:30 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Admission, \$20 (seniors, students, \$10).

The Main Street WIRE — Next issue, **Sat., Jan. 22**. (To receive e-mail bulletins between issues, send an "Add Me" message to Bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.) **Advertising Deadline:** Ads in the paper, Friday, Jan. 14; decision on fliers for *The Bag*, Mon., Jan. 17; inserts due Thur., Jan. 20. **Future issues:** Feb. 5, 19; Mar. 5, 19; Apr. 2, 16, 30; May 14; June 4, 18; July 2, 30; Aug. 27; Sept. 10, 24; Oct. 8, 22; Nov. 5, 19; Dec. 3, 17.

Phone/fax for news, **212-826-9055/755-2540**; urgent matters **917-617-0449**. **Phone** for display and classified advertising placement and information, **212-751-8214**. **To list your organization's Island-related event in this column**, please e-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com, or leave it, addressed to *The WIRE*, at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street; provide a telephone number for follow-up questions. There is no charge for such listings.

Queensboro Bridge Area Subcommittee of Community Board 8 meeting, **Tues., Jan. 25**, 7:00 p.m., New York Blood Center, 310 East 67th Street. Additional information: 212-758-4340.

Residents Association Common Council Meeting, Wed., Feb. 2, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd (lower level). Open to all; an opportunity to address the Council is included near the start of each meeting.

Senior Center

Monday 10-11, Latchhook Class 10-11:30, English as 2nd Language 10:30, Blood Pressure Screening 12:00, Painting & Sculpting 12:30, "Oldies" Movies 7:00, Dance Class (Beginners)	Thursday 10:00, Tai Chi 10:30, Creative Arts 12:30, Movie 1:00, Drawing with Pastels 7:00, Dance
Tuesday 10:00, Computers 10:00, Chinese massage 1:00, Bingo 6:00, Yoga Class 7:30, Games (RISA)	Friday 9:30, Yoga 10:30, Computers 1:00, Bridge 7:00, Games (RISA)
Wednesday 9:15, Stay Well 10:00, Spanish Class 10:30, Shoppers' Bus 12:30, Sculpting 7:00, Pokeno (RISA)	Saturday 7:30, Bingo (RISA)

Special Events

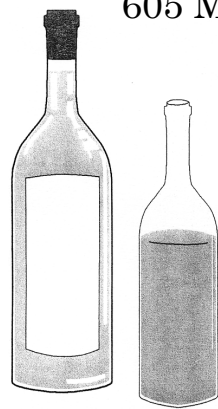
Mon., Jan. 17, Martin Luther King celebration
Wed., Jan 19, Atlantic City trip

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

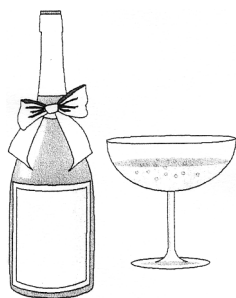
The **Public Safety Blotter** for December 17-31 is now on *Website NYC10044* at nyc10044.com/wire/2509/blot2509.html.

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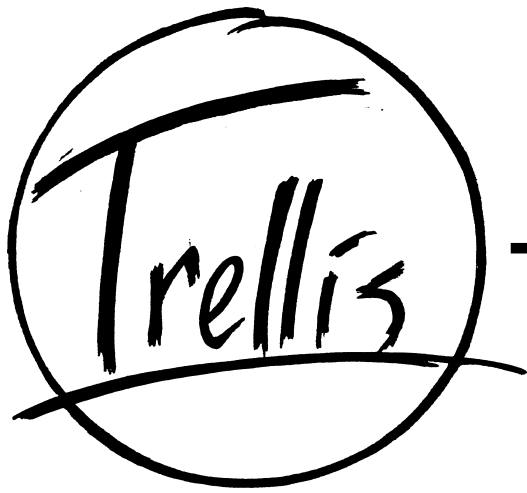
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Deadline for January 22 issue: Tuesday, January 18
Deadline for February 5 issue: Tuesday, February 1

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