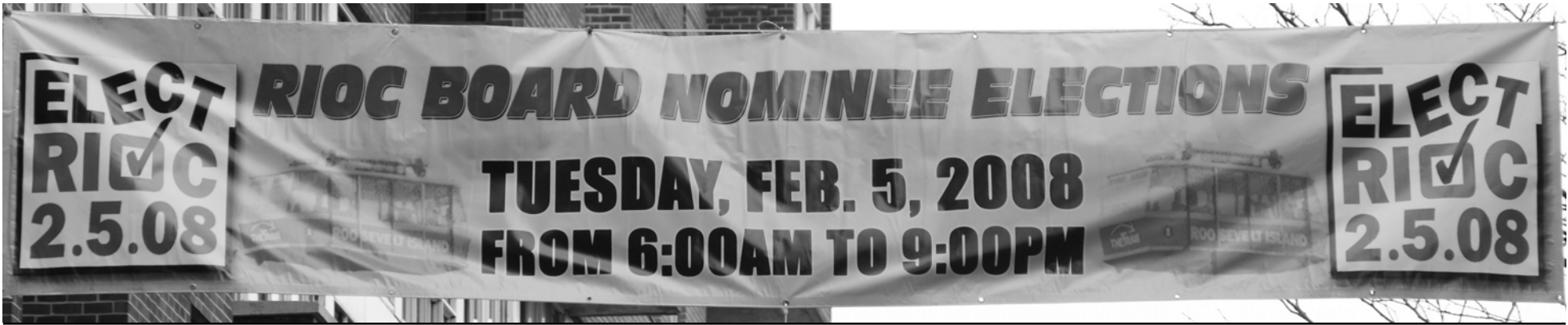




Vol. 28, No. 10B

Election Day, February 5, 2008

This is an
ELECTION DAY EXTRA
Next regular issue:
Saturday, February 9

The Main Street **WIRE**™

28th Year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper

Island Votes Today to Nominate Residents to the RIOC Board

Three Voting Locations – Polls Open 6 AM to 9 PM

All Island residents 18 and older are eligible to vote in today's balloting to nominate six Islanders to the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), regardless of national citizenship, and regardless of voter registration status.

Where to Vote

These voting machine locations have been set up:

- **Octagon residents** will vote at The Octagon, near the café.
- **Southtown residents** (425-475 Main Street) will vote at 455 Main Street, in the lobby.
- **All others** (Manhattan Park, Eastwood, Island House, Westview, and Rivercross) will vote at PS/IS 217.

Photo ID Required

The Residents Association committee managing the Island election has asked buildings for lists of their residents. But **voters should bring photo ID** and, **if the photo ID does not show a Roosevelt Island address**, should bring other material establishing Island residency; something as simple as a credit card bill will do. A lease is also acceptable. **Proof of age may also be required.**

Candidate Position Statements

Nine of the 10 candidates seeking the community's nomination provided position statements to *The Main Street WIRE*, and they are reprinted, from the January 26 issue of *The WIRE*, on the next three pages.

Turnout is Key

RIRA officials are hoping for an impressive turnout, believing it will go a long way toward persuading the Governor that residents want a greater voice in the management of Roosevelt Island as a residential community, and in determining the nature of its future development. With that goal in mind, members of the committee plan to pass out reminders at the subway and Tram on election day, **Tuesday, February 5.**

At least two websites carry current information and will report the results of the election as soon as they are known: *The WIRE's Website NYC10044* at nyc10044.com, and *PressHD.com*, a site that also has video coverage of last week's Candidate Event at Good Shepherd Community Center. *PressHD.com* is run by Kimberly Lengle, who is the partner of one of the candidates in the election, Jonathan Kalkin.

The WIRE is endorsing no candidates.

0 DAYS
to Island-wide
balloting
for residents' RIOC Board nominees
Today's event:
Vote!
6 AM - 9 PM

Presidential Primary Voting Is Separate

Many Islanders will enter voting booths twice today – at voting locations designated for the Island election of RIOC Board candidates, and at PS/IS 217 in the Presidential Primary.

See the report at left for information on your voting location.

However, only registered voters will cast ballots in the Presidential Primary, while voting in the Island election is open to all residents over 18.

In both cases, the polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Nomination Process, But A Potentially Historic Vote

Today's vote is the closest Roosevelt Island residents have come to having a direct voice in the governance of Roosevelt Island.

If the process plays out as the Residents Association intends, and as envisioned by the Maple Tree Group (MTG), a group of residents who have worked toward election of the RIOC Board for over a decade, Governor Eliot Spitzer will ultimately send the names of the winners to the State Senate for confirmation. (That will be preceded by the normal investigation by the State Police and other "vetting" that is part of being considered for such an appointment.)

An Indirect Election

The election isn't direct because, under the statutes governing State public-benefit corporations and authorities, and the law establishing RIOC as an agency in charge of developing and managing the Island, only the Governor has the power to appoint people to the RIOC Board, with two of those nominations being recommendations forwarded by the Mayor of the City. (New York City owns Roosevelt Island, which was leased to the State for 99 years so that the State could develop a residential community here; that lease runs to 2068.)

Although not direct, this election is the first time that residents have had a role in putting a list of residents forward for the RIOC Board.

Just how historic this election of nominees is will depend on Governor Eliot Spitzer's response, once the names of the community's nominees have been put before him. The hope of those mounting the election is that he will ultimately appoint all six to the Board.

Currently, six seats on the Board are either vacant or occupied by appointees whose terms have expired. (Under the law, Board members whose appointment terms have run out continue to serve until replaced.)

Candidate Statements

This special edition of *The WIRE* has position statements from nine of the candidates. The website *PressHD.com* also has some video statements.

Results

Vote tallies will be reported as soon as they are available on *WebsiteNYC10044* at nyc10044.com, and, most likely, on *PressHD.com*, *RooseveltIsland360.com*, and on the Roosevelt Islander blog, all of which are accessible from the home page at nyc10044.com.

**Results tonight
on nyc10044.com**

These Residents Are on the Ballot; Nine Statements Appear on Pages 2-4

1A MICHAEL G. CAREW 마이클 지. 커루	2A FAY CHRISTIAN 페이 크리스찬	3A FRANK FARANCE 후랑크 화란스	4A ERIN FEELY-NAHEM 에린 윌리-네헴	5A KATHIE GRIMM 케티 그림	6A ADRIENNE GRIST 에드리아나 그리스트	7A TAMMY JACKSON-CULLER 테미 잭슨-컬러	8A JONATHAN KALKIN 자나탄 칼킨	9A HOWARD POLIVY 하워드 폴리비	10A LYNNE STRONG-SHINOZAKI 린 스트롱-쉬노자키

Residents Will Vote for Up to Six • You Are Eligible to Vote If 18 or Over and You Live on Roosevelt Island



Michael G. Carew

The Roosevelt Island community is at a crossroad. The election of RIOC Board members by the community provides a chance for starting a democratic local government. Starting our local government means both setting the scope of the local government and setting an agenda of community goals. The future success of our local government will depend on the vision of the first elected Board members, and their actions. Just as our Founding Fathers designed our United States government in 1787, these first elected Board members will be designing our local government.

The present governance of the Island is quite complex; with the State government and its agencies such as the Division of Housing, the Governor, and ESDC having substantial powers, in addition, the City government also plays an important role at RIOC, the Fire Department and municipal service, also the Federal government plays a big role in providing housing subsidies and policies. Many of the practices and methods of these complex governments are rooted in events of thirty and more years ago, and are no longer relevant to the Roosevelt Island community and its needs. The newly elected directors of RIOC will play the defining role in adapting the government of the Island to the present needs of the community.

The past thirty years have seen substantial growth and change on Roosevelt Island. The next few years will see further rapid change as construction is completed, and the original vision for the community matures. These first elected Board members must meet with the different building, and group organizations on the Island to achieve agreement as to the scope and goals of our new local government. That effort should provide the chance for all members of the community to express their concerns as to the opportunities and risks faced in our future on Roosevelt Island.

Further, this effort to meet with and discuss the community’s concerns should be an ongoing process of outreach and consensus. These new RIOC directors will set the standard for truly representative local government.

In order to achieve this consensus the mechanisms and procedures for easy communication from Roosevelt Island residents to the new directors must be set up promptly. This will include regular visits to the different buildings and community groups, internet web-sites and e-mail facilities and participation in the Island’s organizations and meetings.

My interest in seeking election as a Board member is based on my experience as one of the senior officers of the New York State Urban Development Corporation when Roosevelt Island was conceived and built in the early 1970s. As a “new community,” Roosevelt Island was envisioned to permit full enjoyment of this special Island on the East River of New York. Roosevelt Island was to be a model for the City, the State. I believe that we still have the chance to fulfill that vision of a better community in this special place for all the residents of Roosevelt Island. That prospect will require a knowledge of the Island and the City, which I believe I possess.

As a resident, and working in New York all my life, my background may be especially useful for the tasks faced by the newly elected Board members. At present I am a professor of economics at Baruch College of the City University, my college work was at Fordham, and my graduate work and doctorate were at NYU. After military service as an officer, my career was spent for forty years in investment banking and financial management, finally as chief financial officer of Equitable Life. My academic research is in economic history with my first book published in 2005, and the second scheduled for next year.

This career experience in finance and economics will provide me a special strength as a new director at RIOC Board. Many of the issues faced by the Roosevelt Island community are rooted in the peculiar financial structure and operations of RIOC and its relations to the State and City governments. A strong knowledge of finance will permit me to seek and obtain the best economic resolution to the opportunities and risks in the Island’s future.

When the original units of Roosevelt Island were designed and built in the 1970s, Westview, Eastwood, Island House, and Riverview, I was part of the design team. I have been a resident of Manhattan Park for four years, and now am a resident of the Octagon. I have visited and wish to get to know River Walk better. This knowledge of the Island and its individual buildings also gives me a more complete understanding of the Roosevelt Island community.

Finally, I am committed to the effort to develop a thorough understanding of the concerns and aspirations of the Roosevelt Island community for its future.



Fay Christian

Facts:
30-year resident of Westview
Teacher at PS/IS 217 for 15 years
Vice Chair of Westview Taskforce, Inc.
Former Interim Acting RIRA Delegate of Westview
Current Licenses: Administration Supervision in Education
Early Childhood and Elementary Education
Reading certifications
New York State Notary Public

Dear Fellow Neighbors,

I was ecstatic to learn members of our community would be given the opportunity to become elected board members of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC). RIOC has delegated decisions concerning our community for many years without the input of residents. Many of these changes have not necessarily benefited the residents who have lived here for years.

As a long time resident, I have seen our community change from “Shangri-La” to “Asphalt Jungle”. We had open spaces, trees, grass, wooded areas and a view that was not obstructed by buildings. The street (we only had one....) was not jammed with speeding cars and pedestrians had the “right of way”. Potholes were repaired promptly and never allowed to get in the condition we see them in today. What happened to our picnic areas where families could gather and have barbeques while the children played on the jungle gym and swings? We once had our very own adult baseball teams that could use the fields at affordable rates. The fields are presently rented to schools and companies that can afford the high fees. Our buses were on time and stopped to pick up residents when they were not full. The Tram never had a waiting line of residents who had to wait for the next Tram. Many residents were against the subway being added to the Island, but realize now, it was needed because we did not know the future plans that were to be forced upon us. We should have some decision in the allocation of monies concerning the Island. Affordable housing and having the right to purchase our buildings have been a major concern of many residents.

These are only a few of the many concerns voiced by residents as I collected signatures to run for office. If elected, I will make sure we have an on-going forum for Islanders to meet and hear what is on RIOC’s table and gather residents’ input and concerns. Frankly, any reasonable person realizes that not every single resident’s concerns will be able to be addressed and resolved to that particular person’s satisfaction – but rest assured, that in me you have someone who will fight on your behalf. As a board member, I will establish office hours when I can be contacted in person or via phone/email. Also, anyone who already knows me knows that I am more than happy to stop and speak if you happen to see me on my way to the grocery store! Having been a resident of the Island for 30 years influences my visions and expectations and if elected, I would use my role on RIOC as a vehicle to work for the mutual benefit of all residents.

Thank you.
Fay



Frank Farance

Hello, my name is Frank Farance, a Yale graduate and a resident of Island House for 28 years. I run my own consulting business and have been extremely active in Island organizations since 1994.

Perhaps you’ve seen me around the Island with my 5-year-old twins, Emilia and David. It is partly because of them that I am a candidate for the RIOC Board, because I love that my kids are growing up in the equivalent of a small town, where you say Hello to neighbors whenever you walk down the street. I want to preserve that kind of life for them.

Roosevelt Island is my home. I care about this community, and I’m well qualified to help improve it:

- I am currently a RIRA Common Council member and have been its Communications Chair since 1996.

- I have been active on the tenants association in Island House and am currently an elected member of its Board of Directors.

- I train with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which helps in first response to emergencies on Roosevelt Island and in neighboring communities.

- I host websites for several of the Island’s non-profit organizations.

- I ran the Island’s popular adult softball league in the 1990s and was sad to see it disband when RIOC instituted onerous rental fees on the ballfield.

For complete details on where I stand on numerous Island issues, please visit my website: farance4rioc.com. Meanwhile, here is a brief summary:

Transportation: With more residential buildings going up, the already difficult daily commute will worsen; multiply that if Goldwater Hospital is turned into 5,000 more housing units. Over the years, I have written numerous articles in *The WIRE* about the bus, Tram, subway, and proposed ferry. On my website, you’ll find in-depth analyses and proposals for express-bus and ferry service, plus a workable solution to the rush-hour crush. I’ve been working with elected officials, including Councilmember Jessica Lappin, who forwarded some of my suggestions to the president of the MTA, and Senator José Serrano, whose office has invited me to help develop a comprehensive analysis of the Island’s transportation.

Preserving Diversity: A key feature of the original “Roosevelt Island experiment” was the economic diversity of its residents. This naturally led to other types of diversity: cultural, ethnic, generational, and a mix of the able and the disabled. This is a good thing for all of us, and should be preserved. We have learned to live with differences and appreciate commonalities. We care for others simply because they are part of our community, and we benefit from a broader perspective. For RIOC, this translates into the ongoing need to maintain affordable housing – even when the definition of “affordable” changes – and to support our community of seniors and the disabled.

Emergency Response: Each summer before hurricane season, representatives from the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) ask us: Are You Prepared? And each summer, they are shouted down. OEM and RIOC have been unable to provide a competent evacuation plan. I am one of the few people, along with Matt Katz and Howard Polivy, who reviewed RIOC’s “secret” plans for emergency response, and I can tell you that we are heading for a Katrina-style disaster. RIOC refuses to plan competently and test those plans. Remember, had an evacuation plan been tested before the Tram stalled so disastrously two years ago, RIOC would have discovered that it takes approximately 36 hours to completely evacuate two fully loaded Trams – even in good weather! We can’t afford to make a similar mistake in the case of a major hurricane, because people can and will die while waiting to be evacuated. If elected, I promise to work on competent – and transparent – emergency planning for the Island.

Public Safety Department: As reported in *The WIRE* and the *Daily News*, I have been documenting the sad history of the Island’s parking enforcement, but there’s still work to do to curb infractions and make more parking spots available. I’m also investigating the possibility of replacing our Public Safety Department with real NYPD officers; see my website for details.

I love taking my children around the Island and sharing with them the delight of our parks, library, pools, walking paths, farmer’s market, and community organizations, teams, and events. I like that my children are growing up in a neighborhood that is rich in diversity. That’s the brilliance of the original plan 40 years ago for this community. It’s part of the enjoyment I experienced when I moved here 28 years ago. And it is still the wonder of Roosevelt Island today.

Six more position statements, next two pages



Erin Feely-Nahem

As one of the community’s elected representatives sitting on the RIOC Board, I will be an *independent* fighter for the economic and quality-of-life interests of the people who live here.

I will be independent of the real-estate and financial mag-nates, and the big-business politicians, who are looking out for their interests first and foremost. I will be a voice for *our vision* and a force, in alliance with like-minded indi-viduals and organizations, to promote plans that register *our* interests as Island residents.

The original vision and purpose of Roosevelt Island as an affordable, environmentally attractive, urban living space for working people, with a population composition that re-flects New York City, fully integrated by nationality, has been seriously eroded in the past decade. It is further threat-ened today. The current plans of high-powered real-estate interests, in cahoots with the political powers that be, im-pose so-called “market prices and values” on rents and prop-erty. This continues to be the main reason families are be-ing driven out. They obviously have Roosevelt Island in their target sights as a prime location to make huge profits. We are one of the last frontiers.

When I first applied for an apartment on Roosevelt Is-land almost 13 years ago, I was resistant. My father pushed me, telling me that apartments were affordable and that it was a good place to raise a child, for a then-single working Mom.

I applied for an apartment in Eastwood, fully aware that my two-room flat on the Lower East Side had become too small for my son and myself and that my search for a larger, affordable apartment, in a decent neighborhood, had been unsuccessful.

When finally called for an apartment in Eastwood, hav-ing just obtained a new job, with no vacation time, I felt overwhelmed by the idea of having to pack up and move seventeen years worth of stuff!

I fell in love on my first visit, but felt totally anxious about the timing of the opportunity. After expressing my appre-hensions, and providing documentation that indicated an increase in my yearly salary, it was suggested that I reapply and add my name to the waiting list for Westview.

I settled into my new job, met a wonderful man, and got married. We found ourselves living in my husband’s one bedroom “bachelor pad,” in need of an affordable two-bed-room apartment.

Sometimes you just get lucky. Out of the blue I was called for Westview!

Nine years ago, there was still plenty of open space. There were places for our children to play, and places for families to enjoy a summer day. We had barbeques where Octagon now stands, and watched our children play soccer and base-ball where South Town now stands. People were not afraid that the landlord would opt out of the Mitchell Lama pro-gram, placing their homes in jeopardy.

I have watched the Island change. The decisions made have been clearly thought out, but not with our interests in mind. We have tried to fight but until now they didn’t have to listen. Now, after a struggle, we have the opportunity to elect fellow residents to be our voice on the RIOC Board. We can demand that our vision, one that allows economic and cultural diversity, affordable housing and park land, be heard.

I want to be the voice of the families who live here. The voice of the people who crowd on the trains and Tram in the morning going to work, and who wait for the Red Bus trying to get home at night. The voice that tries to protect the families who are in fear that they will lose their homes, and the voice that assists in developing a transparent emer-gency plan for the Residents of the Island.

During my residency I have served for many years as the President of the PS/IS 217 PTA, served for two terms as the Westview representative on the RIRA Common Council, and was trained and participate as a member of the Roosevelt Island CERT team. Now, with this opportunity I hope to be your voice as a community elected RIOC Board member.

My professional experience as an Executive Director of a not-for-profit social service agency provides me with the experience to read spreadsheets, analyze and create bud-gets, as well as gives me knowledge of housing issues, and arcane skills useful to protect our interests in RIOC.

My main issues and reasons for running are:

Maintaining and improving the quality of life on the Is-land and protecting our open green spaces.

Fighting to keep housing affordable.

Protecting the racial and class diversity and integration of our community.

Fighting for a transparent and a realistic Emergency Di-saster Plan.

Finding solutions for the Transportation problems.

Providing input and a voice in the choice of vendors that line Main Street.



Katherine Teets Grimm

It was refreshing to me at candidates’ night on January 16, that most of the candidates for the RIOC board are zeal-ous for the same issues that I care about: affordable hous-ing, maintaining and developing parkland, solving trans-portion issues both on the Island and to and from the Is-land and basically keeping the Island safe and beautiful for a community that is multi-ethnic and represents all socio-economic groups.

When Roosevelt Island was created as a planned com-munity, this was the dream but over time the dream has been eroded for a variety of reasons including the building boom in New York City. It saddens me greatly as I see even mar-ket-rate families pushed off the Island by huge rent increases and it further saddens me when I hear that Goldwater Hos-pital and perhaps even Coler will be moved to less valuable land so that further market rate development can occur on these site(s).

When I moved to Rooseelt Island, I was so pleased that we had all groups of people represented, rich, poor, those in between, many different cultural groups and the handi-capped. My concern about the Island is the reason I have chosen to run for the RIOC Board. I recognize that the Board has a power base in some areas, such as approving the Roosevelt Island budget and approving senior appointees who manage Roosevelt Island. In other areas of Island life, the Board must use its power of persuasion. Since I have a practice on Roosevelt Island, I have the ongoing opportu-nity to solicit concerns and requests of community mem-bers and my goal is to accurately represent and advocate on behalf of the community.

Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.

Pediatrician on Roosevelt Island



Adrienne Daniel Grist

My name is Adrienne Daniel Grist and I am a retired teacher. I have lived on Roosevelt Island for 31 years. I wanted a safe place to rear my two sons and daughter. I first lived in Eastwood, and then moved to Westview, and I cur-rently live in the Rivercross co-op.

When I first moved here, I was very active in various organizations such as RIRA, the Eastwood Building Com-mittee, the Youth Board, and I am a founding member of the Melanites, a Black women’s cultural organization.

I am motivated to run for the RIOC Board because I want to continue to live here on Roosevelt Island in the Rivercross co-op and I want to do whatever I can to preserve afford-able housing. I believe that under privatization, it may be-come impossible for me, and others on fixed incomes, to stay here in our homes. I also believe that the Board of Di-rectors of the Rivercross Tenants’ Corporation should be exposed for their duplicity and dishonesty.

In 2003, I was cheated out of a two-bedroom apartment because the Board wanted it for someone else. (She is still living in that apartment, 1409.) I was number 1 on the two-bedroom internal waiting list and had been on the list for four years with my daughter, Lisa, who is in the military. The Board had recognized Lisa as part of my family com-position since 1999. (In February, 2001, I received a letter, which informed me that a surcharge of \$1,876.14 would be added to my maintenance charge since they had not received a certified copy of Lisa’s 1999 tax return. This certainly demonstrated that they recognized her as part of my house-hold.) The Board decided to refuse my request to buy apart-ment 1409 and when we went into court the Board had the backing of DHCR. I feel I have been robbed.

Recently, when I reviewed the Rivercross Tenants Corporation’s records of shareholder transactions, I found there were as many as a dozen shareholders who owned two apartments. Most of these apartments were combined in the 1990’s when there were **long waiting lists for all apartments, just as there are now**. Three of the owners of multiple apartments are Rivercross Board members. The Board Treasurer’s family owns four apartments in Rivercross. If you are on the waiting list for an apartment in Rivercross, it is very likely you have been robbed since the purchase of more than one apartment while there are wait-ing lists is not legal.

The fiction that had been promulgated about the multiple apartments was that “they occurred in the 1970s when there were few buyers for apartments in Rivercross.” **That is not true**. Most of these sales occurred in the 1990s. The waiting lists for Rivercross were first created in the 1980s. Those lists were often ignored. There were, and still are, many people who want to buy apartments in Rivercross.

Many shareholders in Rivercross are also fighting a main-tenance increase which is imminent. Again we are faced with a situation whereby the Rivercross Board, which has the responsibility of acting in the best interests of the share-holders, chooses to act only in their own interest. Those who have incomes which are above the limit for Mitchell Lama co-ops pay a surcharge of up to 50%. In Rivercross they only pay 20% surcharge. (This has the backing of DHCR.) If the correct surcharge was required, there would be no need for the maintenance increase. The Board refuses to request that the surcharge be raised since most of the members of the Board pay a surcharge.

I have written to those at our State agencies about these abuses and asked them to investigate. I have met with Steve Shane as part of a committee of Rivercross shareholders who are protesting the proposed maintenance increase and the move to privatization. I was also part of the group which met with David Cabrera and Richmond McCurnin at the DHCR office in Manhattan regarding the vote for privatization.

As you can see, I am already quite active and becoming a member of the RIOC Board would simply be an extension of my activism. I must admit I am not fully knowledgeable about some Island-wide issues. However, if I am elected by the residents, and chosen by those in charge, I would work for the betterment of Roosevelt Island to the best of my ability.

The Main Street WIRE™

Published by **The Main Street WIRE™**
©2008 Unisource2000™ Inc.
531 Main St. #413, NYC10044

News **212-826-9055**

Urgent news **917-617-0449**

Advertising **917-587-3278 or 212-751-8214**

Circulation **212-935-7534**

e-mail **editor@MainStreetWIRE.com**
Website NYC10044 – nyc10044.com

Managing Editor – Dick Lutz

Reporters – Jami Bernard, Mary Camper-Titsingh,
Rachel Durfee

Photographers – Maria Casotti, Vicki Feinmel, Paul Katz
Chief Proofreader – Linda Heimer

Proofreaders – Ashton Barfield, Dick FitzPatrick,
Lillian Shaman

Advertising Sales – Ellen Levy, Stu Feit

Circulation Managers – Sherie Helstien, Matthew Katz,
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Circulation Assistants – Jim Bates, Gwen Ryals

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Website NYC10044 facilities – Frank Farance
NYC10044.com Webmaster – Geddes Munson

Founding Publisher – Jack Resnick
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Judi Arond, Bubu Arya, Steve Bessenoff, Marcie Brown-Suarez, Bob Cagle, Lynn Chambers, Carol Chen, Mark Chipman, Vivianne Codderrens, Malcolm Cohen, John Dougherty, Arlise Ellis, Angela Grant, Teresa Hasing, Darrell Henry, Roberta Hershey, Todd Jagerson, Justice Kananjembo, Ken Kaplan, Matthew Katz, Michael Kolba, Marilyn Mehr, Clarissa McCraley, Clinton Narine, Sandra Narine, Essie Owens, Joan Pape, Ronnie Rigas, Ron Schuppert, Raye Schwartz, Beryl Seaforth, Nina Wintringham; students of Legacy High School, and members of the Island Girls Project.

**Nine position
statements in all,
including previous
page and next page**



Jonathan Kalkin

I am running for the RIOC Board to help Roosevelt Island reach its potential. For those of you that think credentials are important, I hold a doctorate in law and have studied government administration on the graduate level. I have several state brokers licenses, and I run a corporation with more clients than the Island has residents. I was President of the Latin American Law Student Association in law school after graduating from military academy. I have served on the Steering Committee of the American Museum of Natural History and, in November, was elected the Democratic County Committeeman for the 65th Assembly District. I am also an active member of RIRA’s Common Council. But credentials alone won’t solve the Island’s problems.

My critical thinking skills, which have earned me these credentials, have made me into an independent thinker who is able to ask questions that will bring about change.

When I first came to this Island, the first question I asked is: Why are Main Street storefronts empty?

The problem was that RIOC owned the storefronts and had trouble leasing the stores because of the Public Authorities Act. It slows the leasing process to a crawl. I tackled the problem head-on by going through hundreds of pages of documents, laws and government websites. I met with RIOC and we agreed on a compromise. Together, we would look into a Master Leaseholder for Main Street with an advisory board of residents. We passed a resolution in RIRA and I interviewed several leaseholders who were very interested in revitalizing Main Street. I notified RIOC, but nothing has happened since. You can find my analysis of the Public Authorities Act in the 6/16/07 issue of *The WIRE*.

State Assemblyman Micah Kellner and Councilmember Jessica Lappin have joined in on the effort to bring storefronts to Main Street; they drafted a memo to the Attorney General citing my suggestions. Micah and Jessica are still working on this, and I applaud their hard work. I’ve gotten other offices involved too. Last week, I met with State Senator José Serrano’s office and directed them to the Authority Budget Office (ABO), which has a direct oversight on Public Authorities. They asked me to write to the ABO to find out how we can overcome this empty storefront problem.

The second question I asked when I came to this Island is: Why is the Red Bus unreliable?

We do not have a set schedule like other New York City buses. It won’t always be possible to make it exactly on time, every time, but standardization is necessary. This combined with additional training should make the bus more reliable. I believe that the drivers should be easily identified. Something simple like a name tag would increase accountability. And, if they are doing a great job, they will get the credit they deserve.

I contacted the Urban Planning departments at New York University and Columbia University to evaluate our transportation and population growth. It may be possible that the graduate students can analyze our current situation and suggest improvements – perhaps we can have expert eyes look at the problem without any cost to us. No matter what happens, I believe that any future development on the Island should be carefully planned. We have reached capacity, and without serious analysis or changes in transportation, traveling anywhere will become impossible.

The third question I asked when I came to this Island is: Why do they call it affordable housing when most of the people on the Island can never own their home?

We have to find a way for people who can’t afford to purchase their homes to be able to preserve them, for people who can purchase to have the opportunity to do so, and for incoming residents who need affordable housing to have access to it. It will be a difficult process, but we cannot wait any longer because people are losing their homes as we speak.

Finally, none of this can be accomplished without insight from the community. Otherwise the Board is out-of-touch with the concerns of the Island. I was first to propose that all Board members have office hours. In addition they should each have an e-mail address and phone number so someone can reach them at all times. Please see my website for more issues at VoteKalkin.com or e-mail me at votekalkin@gmail.com. If you see me on Main Street I would love to hear from you.



Howard Polivy

My family and I moved to Roosevelt Island about four years ago. The small-town atmosphere here welcomed me after my hectic days. I became involved as an alternate with the Residents Association, RIRA, learning something of the history and issues. A New York CERT training prepared me to help in urban emergencies and I was elected the Roosevelt Island team leader. RIRA and CERT exposed me to the breadth of issues confronting our town.

I am an Actuary, specializing in pensions and employee benefits. I use a mathematical approach to balance anticipated expenses with expected resources. I would like to aid Roosevelt Island by using rigorous analysis to keep the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, RIOC, on a prudent path.

I bring (1) a willingness to act and (2) an ability to listen. We must secure this community’s interests: Improving the quality of our lives. RIOC’s goal must be appropriate development balanced by our unique open spaces.

Roosevelt Island was developed by New York State to create a mixed-income urban community. In 1984, the State established RIOC to oversee the operation and development of this Island. This public authority is under the supervision of the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Renewal, DHCR, with a Board of Directors selected by the governor and the mayor. Essentially, at best this means that we have been under a benevolent dictatorship.

This election presents a unique opportunity to perhaps redirect this authority. I say perhaps for two reasons, First, because the Director of DHCR, Deborah VanAmerongen, still has supervisory authority. Second, because, ultimately, the Board remains the governor’s choice. We all would serve at his pleasure even if selected by our neighborhood.

Because RIOC and its operations are both ultimately controlled from afar and insulated from the residents, we have seen great variations in its services and the results produced. We are now experiencing one of RIOC’s better phases, but in the past were not as lucky. Many shortsighted development deals were made. We have yet to feel the full consequences of those deals.

One challenge we face now is to preserve a level of safe and dependable access. Our population is rising rapidly. We face many problems:

- When the Tram is repaired we are losing some or all of our transportation alternatives.
- Storefronts must be filled. RIOC cannot maximize returns by receiving nothing.
- The General Development Plan, GDP, is the focal point for affordable housing, intelligent space usage and environmental preservation in the face of development pressures. The GDP must be either respected or amended with full community input.
- We living here need to protect our affordable housing.
- RIOC’s facility management is less than ideal. Look at the continued lighting challenge. Consider the permanent disrepair of Motorgate, our front door for many visitors.

I will require RIOC to fulfill our expectations. I will not vote in favor of any deal that is not sensible to the community, or any project where the resources do not balance the requirements. I will actively solicit the expertise of you and all our neighbors, many of whom are leaders in their professions and vocations.

Expenses rise over time, but some of the past development deals were settled for limited sums that may be exhausted long before the services they supposedly pay for are delivered. Controlling expenses and greater efficiency will help, but creative solutions are possible with the communities’ expertise and hard work. To name only a few examples:

- Bob Liss has envisioned the steam generating plant as a provider of low cost power for the Island.
- Matt Katz helped bring MetroCard service to the Tram and has been incredibly active advocating on behalf of our Island.
- Linda Heimer created RISC, which was responsible for the installation of annunciators and closed-circuit TV to improve safety in the Island and Lexington Avenue subway stations.
- The Maple Tree Group, led by David Bauer, laid the groundwork for this election by years of effort.
- Dick Lutz opened up *The WIRE* pages for all the candidates and, with the help of many volunteers, makes our newspaper happen.

I will work in partnership with the community, seeking out the help and expertise of the many existing groups and associations.

Several of your neighbors and myself have stepped forward to undertake this task. I ask for your support. This election is open to all, including international residents. Vote on February 5, and please vote for me, Howard Polivy.



Lynne Strong-Shinozaki

For those of you who do not know me, I am a 17-year resident of Roosevelt Island. I have had the opportunity to live and raise children in several of the buildings on Roosevelt Island and the great honor of meeting many wonderful people because of it. What has always meant a great deal to me is getting to know the terrific people who live here. I, like you, value the community that exists here and I am passionate about preserving and improving what we have. To that end, I have over the years been involved in the Mom’s Groups and the Roosevelt Island Residents Association. I have used my paralegal skills to advocate for families in Family Court and to advocate for neighbors in Housing Court through Eviction Intervention Services and have worked with our elected officials to correct problems in Eastwood.

Once elected onto the Board of Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, I plan on working with Island organizations and residents to formulate a “Vision” for the future of Roosevelt Island. I believe that this vision needs to preserve and protect the community and plan for new and better ways to unify this amazing Island. I know because I have spoken to you personally, there are many talented people who live here. I would ask you to “Bring your gifts and participate in developing our Vision.” You are our greatest underused resource.

How I plan to help facilitate your involvement is by scheduling regular office hours at RIOC, having informal events and coffee hours so we can get to know each other better. Many of you have already voiced your anger and frustration at the loss of retail establishments on the Island. We want Roosevelt Island to be something we are all proud of, with great restaurants, beautiful parks and things to do. One idea you had was a bike rental shop, so many of you have great ideas. We can make Roosevelt Island the “Healthy Island,” another suggestion, by rebuilding the fitness loop and updating existing parks. This vision will need to include our Emergency Plan, new approaches to transportation, addressing safety concerns and feedback from you.

We need a concrete plan for protecting “Affordable Housing.” What I mean specifically is housing that is not 50% or more of a middle-class take-home pay. Stable, affordable, housing creates less transient tenants and more stable communities. The more stable is our community, the stronger is our community. How will this benefit you? People who live in strong communities have a greater level of satisfaction with life and are happier people, we all benefit from a strong sense of community. We need to investigate how to preserve existing affordable housing and create new affordable housing on Roosevelt Island, our homes are worth every effort, and our community is worth every effort, our children’s future is worth every effort.

I have spoken with many of you and I know these are issues near and dear to your hearts. What I would like to bring to the table for you as a member of RIOC is my positive track record working with elected officials, my ability to research issues, and to find innovative solutions to our community issues.

I love Roosevelt Island and I am proud to be a member of this community. I would like to bring my tenacity to the table and continue to advocate for residents on this Island. The Island is worth it and so are you. On the Board, I will bring our collective “Vision” and work with the Board to create a plan for the future. To create this “Vision” I will need your help, your ideas, and your gifts. Please make sure and vote on February 5. The more we vote, the more we count! I am looking forward to serving you on the RIOC Board of Directors.

Nine position statements in all, this page and previous two pages