

Next issue
in 2 weeks:
Sat., Mar. 21

The Main Street **WIRE**™

29th Year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



Banishing Winter By Thursday afternoon, the Siberian winds and cold of Monday were just a memory, and RIOC workers were removing evidence of unmannerly winter days from Good Shepherd Plaza.

Six Organizations to Get Public Purpose Funding

Six organizations will receive project financing from the Island's Public-Purpose Fund, according to decisions made in a Residents Association (RIRA) committee and Wednesday night at the RIRA Common Council meeting.

They are **Island Kids**, the **Disabled Association**, **LifeFrames**, the **Community Literary Associates**, the **Senior Association**, and the **Day Nursery**.

The committee, headed by former RIRA president Steve Marcus, dealt with requests for \$165,847, but had \$100,000 to work with. The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation has put that much in its budget, and has given the RIRA Council the task of apportioning it among competing demands. The committee's recommendations were unanimous.

Recommended grants include:

- Island Kids, \$36,000 (the full amount requested) for scholarships for its summer day camp program.
- Roosevelt Island Disabled Association, \$25,000 (full request) for a used van suitable for transporting disabled passengers.
- LifeFrames, \$20,000 (\$25,000 requested) for educational and recreational programs centered on gardening, at PS217 and Coler-Goldwater Hospital.
- Roosevelt Island Community Literary Associates, \$10,000 (\$19,000 requested) to provide financial assistance to the Island's non-profit cultural organizations with advertising for their activities, and a program of helping the same organizations apply for off-Island funding.
- Roosevelt Island Seniors Association, \$10,000 (\$19,000 requested) to provide financial assistance to the Island's non-profit cultural organizations with advertising for their activities, and a program of helping the same organizations apply for off-Island funding.

See **Public Purpose**, page 9

RIRA Plans Special Election to Nominate RIOC Board Members

But Kalkin & Polivy Are Told to Quit RIRA; Albany Sees Conflict

The Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) voted Wednesday night to conduct an election on Tuesday, May 19, to nominate residents to the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC). It will be the second such election. The first was conducted in February of 2008.

But two of the February nominees have been told to resign their seats on the RIRA Common Council. Jonathan Kalkin is currently serving on the RIOC Board, and Howard Polivy's appointment has been in the works for some time. Governor David Paterson's appointments office sees a potential conflict of interest – or at least the appearance of a possible conflict.

"Originally, it wasn't an issue," said Kalkin, who had represented Manhattan Park on the RIRA Council. "I actually discussed it with the original people [who vetted me as a potential RIOC Board member]. Now they have a different person [doing the vetting]." He said that the conflict may have been noticed when officials were considering the appointment of Polivy, a Rivercross resident who is also a member of the RIRA Council.

In a resignation sent to RIRA President Frank Farance, Polivy wrote, "I have just been informed by Governor Paterson's Appointments Office that, in accordance with their interpretation of New York State Ethics Advisory Opinion 98-07 and the Public Officers Law Section 74, I must resign my

position as alternate representative RIRA Common Council member upon appointment as Director of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation. This is deemed necessary to avoid even the appearance of conflict, which would be 'use your public position as a member of the RIOC Board to benefit yourself or any organization with which you are affiliated.'"

"I love being a member of RIRA," Kalkin told *The WIRE*, "and stayed on because it's a great way to communicate with residents, but I can still do that by attending the meetings, the town hall sessions, and just listening." Kalkin said he is comfortable with the requirement that he leave the Common Council. "This won't hamper communication in any way."

RIRA President Frank Farance objected in an e-mail to RIOC President Steve Shane, pointing out that RIOC Board members Patrick Stewart and David Kraut both served on RIOC's Board while also holding the presidency of the Residents Association. Shane told *The WIRE* that Kalkin's resignation and Polivy's, upon his appointment to the RIOC Board, are "consistent with the Governor's office's view of the requirements of law."

In response to a *WIRE* request, Shane wrote, "The requirements of being a fiduciary, which leads to

the avoidance of any even mere appearance of possible impropriety, often requires that one conduct oneself in an extreme, even stilted fashion. So it is in public life (see Caesar's wife). So no free lunches, even if the amount is ridiculous and the individual is beyond actual reproach.

"While it's easy to scoff at the extremes of the ethics and public authorities laws and rules, it is a reality to the standard of never hav-

ing been unduly influenced. Recusal (not voting on certain matters) does not answer the problem, as it leaves the individual in the position of being incapacitated.

"No one is suggested that either Jon or Howard has or would do anything wrong. However, it is all in the appearances and I, while being a pragmatist, cannot disagree or say 'what's the difference?' Thus begins the slippery slope. A Jesuit approach is always harder, but leaves little doubt."

The WIRE has asked David Bauer to state a different position and interpretation in a guest editorial (page 2). Bauer was the original convener of the Maple Tree Group, which has worked for 12 years toward direct election of RIOC Board members in a process that led to the current resident majority on the Board and the process

See **Election**, page 9

Related guest
editorial on page 2

Island Getting New Nursery Unit for Children 3 Months to 3 Years

by Jim Baehler

After more than 30 years in one location, the Roosevelt Island Day Nursery will soon be adding a second facility. The addition will be located in Building #6 of the Riverwalk project, and will be known as the Roosevelt Island Day Nursery at Riverwalk. The age group served there will be three months to three years. (After age three, children can attend the present facility at 4 River Road. When a student reaches age five, a

parent has two options – the Day Nursery for a year of kindergarten, or a transfer to kindergarten at PS 217.)

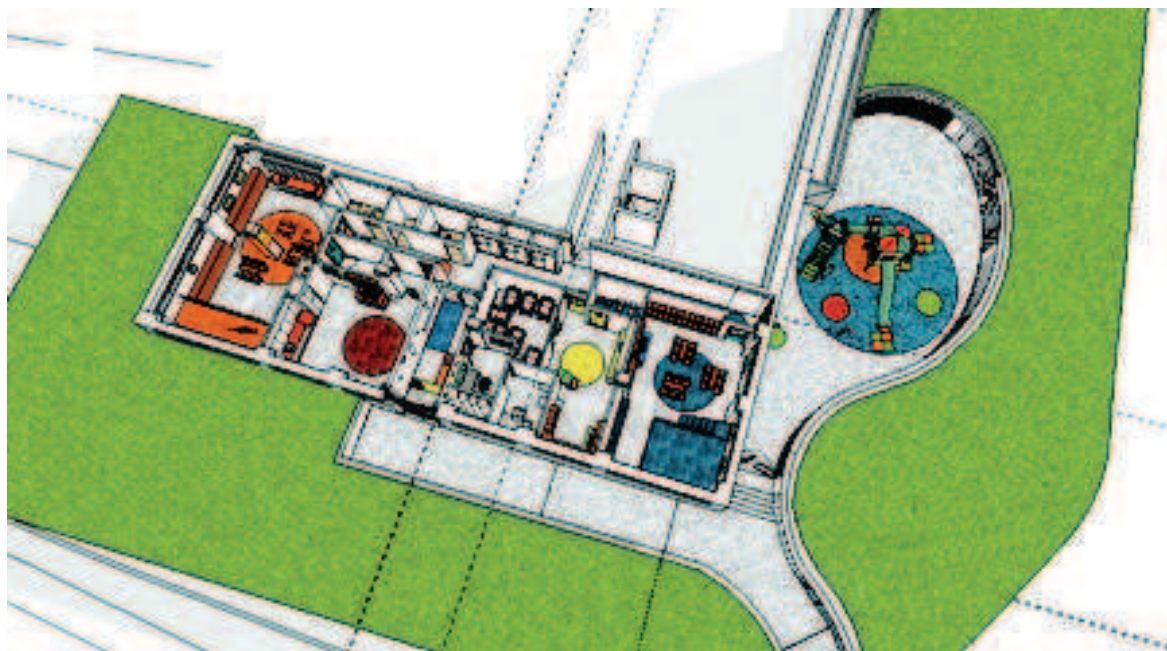
The new Day Nursery unit will be directed by Dana Harary Cotton, who has a long history with Roosevelt Island and the Day Nursery. She arrived here in 1978 as a fourth-grader and attended PS 217 through eighth grade. She obtained a B.A. in sociology from Hunter College, and in May will receive a dual degree: a Master of

Social Work from Hunter, and a Master in Education from the Bank Street College. Dana is married to Byron Cotton, who also grew up on Roosevelt Island. They now live in Astoria with their two daughters, ages 11 and 13.

In 1989, while still in college, Dana began working at the Day Nursery as an assistant teacher. She's been associated with the Day Nursery in various capacities ever since. Her principal focus, she says, is on drawing parents into the



Dana Cotton



educational experiences of their children, helping them to understand how they can enhance the social and academic growth created within the Day Nursery environment.

When David Kramer, the CEO of the Hudson Companies, approached Sara Seiden, founder of the Day Nursery, about opening a Riverwalk branch, Dana was the obvious choice to head the new project. "RIDN has a long tradition of providing families with a place where they can begin their child's education," says Dana, "but we also offer an invaluable source of community. The relationships

that are developed here are maintained for years on Main Street. The new site at Riverwalk Crossing gives us the opportunity to reach out to families when they are just beginning their lives on the Island. It's exciting to think of being able to welcome folks to the Island while simultaneously welcoming them into the experience of parenting."

Hudson-Related set aside part of the lower level at the west end of Building #6 (nearest the tram) for the new nursery, with enough space to accommodate 45 to 50 children and accommodations for

See **Nursery**, page 6

Guest Editorial

Democracy, Abridged

The reasoning, or lack thereof, of the State of New York never ceases to amaze and confound.

On Wednesday came the word from RIOC that if you are a RIOC Board member you can not be a member of a Roosevelt Island organization. Jonathan Kalkin, elected by residents last year, was required to resign from the RIRA Common Council in order to continue his service as a RIOC Board member. Howard Polivy, another resident elected last year and apparently about to be appointed to the RIOC Board, was directed to resign from the Common Council or face rejection as a RIOC Board member.

Incredible! Outrageous!

RIOC President Steve Shane passed along this latest bit of Albany warped thinking. Defending his bosses on the second floor of the State Capitol, Steve said "...the niceties of jurisprudence do not always accord with the common notions of rectitude. If avoiding even the appearance of impropriety is the standard (and, as in Caesar's wife, it is), then any possibility of serving two masters is impermissible. Do you believe that RIRA and RIOC are perfectly aligned? If not, then *res ipsa*." In other words, Steve said the resignations were deemed necessary to "...avoid even the appearance of conflict, should you use your public position as a member of the RIOC Board to benefit yourself or any organization with which you are affiliated."

Incredible! How could RIRA and RIOC have different missions? Are they not both trying to do the best for the residents and for the Island? If both bodies are trying their best to serve that one master – doing what is best for the Island and its residents – then where is the discrepancy? Is the discrepancy in the ways to accomplish that aim? If so, then RIOC and RIRA should be shoulder-to-shoulder in working out the best way to better serve the Island and its residents.

Outrageous! To suggest that Island residents on the RIOC Board may not belong to any Island organization would be to put the RIOC Board into a cocoon that would make it impossible to keep up with the concerns of the residents.

Democracy is the best of all the answers for governing. Putting a wall between the RIOC Board and the democratically elected Common Council is not moving in the direction of doing what is best for the Island and its residents.

David Bauer



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Circulation **212-935-7534**
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Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters of local interest to the community, and to/from officials. Requests for *Name Withheld* publication 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*.
Recommended way to submit: E-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com or submit on a CD left at the desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. If you e-mail, *expect a confirming response* and, if you don't receive one, *resend* and call **212-826-9056** to alert us that it's been sent. **Alternatives:** Typed copy left at 531 Main Street; allow extra time for typesetting. Clearly hand-written letters will be considered, if brief. We are not able to take telephone dictation of letters. **All letters subject to acceptance and editing for length and clarity.** Recommended maximum length, 350 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

Letters deadline for March 21 issue: Tuesday, March 17

Letters

Dear Verizon:

I'm writing this while on hold with one of your many departments. I'm writing it for *The Main Street WIRE*, confident that it would get little meaningful attention if I actually sent it to anybody at Verizon.

My friend Bill Wollheim has a new slogan for you: *Verizon – So bad we make the cable company look good.* He has nailed it.

When I finally succumbed to your many letters warning me that, if I didn't order before February 21, I would miss out on a wonderful FIOS package deal (which you renewed immediately after February 21 – so much for your deadlines), I dialed that 800 number and reached a young man whose first language was Mumblese.

His speech had all the earmarks of someone holding an eight-ball in his mouth while hanging upside down from a spinning trapeze. I got through the conversation only because, when you ask for multiple repeats of the same sentence, speakers of Mumblese seem to switch to a different dialect in which they speak more slowly in Mumblish, an amusing combination of Mumblese and pidgin English.

I was sure I was speaking to a foreign country (Mumblania, perhaps?) but, when I asked, I learned I was placing this order for New York City FIOS service with someone in Texas. Or, as he pronounced it, "T'us." *Oh, oh*, I thought, *this guy is going to know zilch about installations on Roosevelt Island.* I had heard from my neighbors, you see, that scheduled four-hour installations were taking six to eight hours. When we got down to it, I tried to tell him that, but he insisted as follows (I'm translating here): "They will arrive at 8:00 a.m. and they will be finished by 12 noon." Attempts to correct his impression of installer efficiency in this environment were rejected; it was clear anything but 4-hour blocks of time were not in his script.

Of course, the confirming e-mail said 8:00-12:00 was a window for arrival, not a time-window for the full job, confirming what I had told T'us and firmly contradicting his insistences to me.

Of course, when Vinnie and Tom – thoroughly nice guys – arrived not at 8:00 but at 11:55, they explained that 8:00 to 12:00 is a *window* and the T'us speaker of Mumblese should not have promised I would be free to carry on my life in the afternoon. And, of course, they confirmed what I had been trying to tell T'us: "This will be an all-day job."

We set up a new date, and they left.
You might think that would be the end of it. But please, don't be silly. We're talkin' about *Verizon* here.

Sometime during the day, Verizon had pulled my main phone line from the twisted pair and consigned it to the FIOS switch back at the main office. (If I don't have this exactly correct, technically, consider it a *functional* description, though I'm actually repeating words I heard from somebody through a series of 18 or 20 transfers from one Verizon department to another.)

The FIOS repair office (reached through 212-890-6611) said, "Oh, I'm sorry about that. But, believe it or not, you have to put in a new order to get this fixed." Could he just put that order in? No, he said, I had to do it because I would have to supply personal and financial information he didn't have. He transferred me to what he thought was the appropriate department. At that department, I was told to call FIOS repair at, guess what, 212-890-6611. Nope, I said, that's the number I called and they transferred me to you. Yep, he said, you really do have to talk with them.
Long story short, I quickly became the conduit for the contumacious counterclaims of two Verizon departments, who argued with each other, through me, about who was responsible for fixing this. But between them, I was transferred multiple times and had the distinct displeasure of having to listen to raucous, *severely* overmodulated (and badly distorted) music-on-hold selected from the CIA's *Anthems of Torture* album used until recently at Guantanamo. At one point, after yet another transfer, my call was dropped and I went back to *Square One* on the patented Verizon board game, *Hapless Customerdom*.

I confess that, ultimately, I was moved to *SHOUT* at someone when, yet again, she wanted to transfer me to somebody (read that as "anybody") else. *SHOUTing I do not want to be transferred again!* seemed to help. Finally, she said, "Sir," just hold on. "I'll call someone over there and get them to fix it." ... More music to administer genital shocks by ... "Sir, they're working on it. Please hold." ... Now, a Dick Cheney arrangement of *Death to the Suspect*. ... Sir, just stay with me..." I interrupted: "Excuse me, but I've been at this for an hour. Do I really have to hold while you get it done?" "Well, sir, if you leave the line I'll immediately get a call from another customer." "OK, why don't we do that, and you can put *that* unlucky fellow on hold instead of me?" "No, sir, I couldn't do that. It wouldn't be courteous." "OK," I surrendered, "I'll hold." ... *Themes from Abu Graib* ... The next time, I rebelled: "Gotta go. Toilet call." (Not really. I lied.) "OK, sir, it'll be fixed in ten minutes."

An hour later, *not fixed*. Called in again. Repeated my whole sad story yet again, pleading not to be transferred or put on torture-music hold. This time, the *Who-Wants-To-Be-a-Verizon-Customer-Anyway* answer was, "They'll have to come out there tomorrow morning. Can you be at home between 8:00 and 12:00?" But, I protested, "No changes were made within my apartment. Why do I have to be here?" "We don't want them to leave until you confirm that it works." "Oh, for @*&!~#, all they have to do is dial my phone number and get my answering machine!"

"But, sir..." I interrupted again, at high volume: "#@!*&!#{</#@&*, and furthermore, &%(@<!!"

As I write, that's where this stands.
*Verizon: We make the *&!#{</# cable company look good.*
Alas, to be continued.

DL

PS: Why did Justin (also a nice guy) show up at 4:00 p.m. next day? And why the message the day after that apologizing for being unable to complete an installation not yet begun, and never scheduled for the day Justin arrived. Does anybody talk to anybody else over there? (The technician who finally fixed the lost line two days later said, when he told me it was finally fixed, "I think I've talked to everybody in the company today.")

To the Editor:

To those who think an elevator to the 59th Street Bridge won't be able to move enough people off the Island: Here's another crazy idea.

What about a ferris wheel alongside the bridge? Picture one like the London Eye, each cabin the size of a tram cabin. This one will allow passengers to disembark at the top. To make the walk across the bridge friendly for all seasons, the walkway should be enclosed. Moving sidewalks wouldn't be a bad idea, either. Since Washington wants to put people back to work, here is a project that's better than a bridge to nowhere.

And since we are on the topic of transportation, on the red bus we get passenger gridlock because people cluster around the back door, even when not getting off at the next stop. Draw a box on the floor and post a sign – *Don't Block the Box* – not that I have any expectation that these people will read it.

And lastly, now that more escalators in our subway are up and running, any chance they could turn off those never-ending chatter-boxes? You can hear them talking to each other from one end of the platform to the other. Perhaps they could change their mantras to the teaching of Chairman Mao. If I am going to be trapped in the subway hearing voices, as a form of brain-washing, I would prefer a more profound and meaningful philosophy than what I do with a stroller, and being told by an authoritarian voice that I should "Hold the hand rail." I am a non-conformist who's been riding escalators for years, and I live on the edge; I ride those escalators *without* holding the hand rail. That's just the way I roll, and screw the guy telling me how it should be done.

"Have a nice day."

Neal Weissman

To the Editor:

Recently, one of our great community volunteers moved off the Island. There were no parties or fanfare for a person who so deserved recognition. Isabel Bartley was a friend and worker for many causes. She was always helping in the Cabrini Parish, the Thrift Shop, the Senior Center, and at street fairs and sales.

We will miss you, Isabel and John. I thank you for the years of wonderful friendship we had. Enjoy your new life off-Island.

Judith Berdy

To the Editor:

Regarding the article on Trellis, Mr. Baehler wrote a wonderful article on Kaie. But he needs to get the Green Kitchen history straight. Andy did not work in the Green Kitchen; he owned it. He then sold it to the three brothers, not knowing they were going to turn it into a drug operation. Andy took the place back and ran a very nice, friendly restaurant and bar.

I thought Mr. Baehler's remarks about businessmen hanging out with their inamoratas was very insulting. Many people of all walks of life come here, so I do not think he has any right to make derogatory remarks about the clientele. Andy and his family were very well liked on Roosevelt Island, and he also helped many people. I think you owe Andy and his family an apology.

And just for the record, when Andy closed, he had enough unpaid checks from customers to wallpaper the restaurant.

Get your facts straight.

Joe Palermo

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

— Continuing —

East & West Art Exhibition, works of Islander Toshiko Kitano Groner continues through Mar 29, Octagon Gallery.

New York Junior Tennis League winter program continues every Saturday through March, 6-9am, Roosevelt Island Racquet Club. Free.

Open Swim Hours, Sat 12-3pm & 4-7pm, Mon-Fri 6-11am (*extended starting Mon Mar 9*), Tue & Thu 6-9pm, Sportspark. Adults \$5, children \$3, seniors & infants free.

Knitting for Adults, Tue noon, Library.

Crafts for Children (ages 4-12), Tue 3:30pm, Library.

Poetry Hour (adults), last Tue of month, 6pm, Library.

Picture Book Hour (age 4 and under), Wed 11am, Library.

Game Night (ages 9-18), Wed 5pm, Library.

Book Bingo (ages 5-12), Thu 4:30pm, Library.



— The Coming Week and Next Weekend —

Baseball Tournament Signup for the May 16 Health and Fitness Day, **Mon Mar 13** and continuing weekdays through April 30, 9am-5pm; call Othneil at **212-832-4540**.

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, **Mon Mar 9**, 8pm.

Visitors welcome. Information: **212-751-9577**.

Opening Reception for Vernissage 8 exhibition,

Sat Mar 14, 6-9pm, Gallery RIVAA, running through April 19. Gallery hours Sat-Sun 11am-5pm, Wed & Fri 6-9pm.

Women's History Month event, **Sun Mar 15**, 2pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Film on midwives with lecture by Megan Elias, Professor of Women's Studies, Queensboro Community College. Free; refreshments. First of four events. Info at **212-832-4540**.

— Future Weeks —

Day Nursery Registration for Riverwalk families begins **Wed Mar 18**. Call **212-593-0750** for information.

Book Discussion — *The Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle, **Thu Mar 19**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

The Main Street WIRE — Next issue **Sat Mar 21**. (To receive *The WIRE's* e-mail bulletins between issues, send an *AddMe* message to Bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.) **Advertising Deadlines:** Ads in the paper, Wed Mar 11, decision date on circulars/inserts, Tue Mar 17; they are due Thu Mar 19. **Additional issues in 2009:** Apr 4, 18; May 2, 16, 30; June 13, 27 (Fourth of July issue); July 25; Aug 29, Sep 12, 26; Oct 10, 24; Nov 7, 21; Dec 12. **2010:** First issue Jan 16; thereafter, every two weeks. **News phone**, **212-826-9056**; urgent matters, **917-617-0449**. **Advertising**, display and classified: **917-587-3278**.

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, **Mon Mar 23**, 8pm. Visitors welcome. Information: **212-751-9577**.

RIOC Board Meeting, **Thu Mar 26**, 9:30am, Good Shepherd Community Center.

Women's History Month celebration, **Sat Mar 28**, 2pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Film on Nellie Bly (who reported for Hearst on conditions in the Pauper Lunatic Asylum here) and lecture by Leah Potter, Professor of History at Hunter College. Third of four events.

Women's History Month event, **Sun Mar 29**, 2pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Film & lecture series on four women who shaped cities and nations. Free. Refreshments, Last of four events.

General Day Nursery Registration begins **Mon Mar 30**. Call **212-593-0750** for information.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed Apr 1**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

Preserving Hart Island, **Tue Apr 7**, 6:30pm, Library, 524 Main St., with author/filmmaker Melinda Hunt. First in a series presented by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society.

Senior Center

Monday
9:30, **Hawaiian Hula**
10:30, **English as 2nd Language**
11:00, **Tai Chi**
12:30, **"Oldies" Movies**
6:00, **Yoga**

Tuesday
9:30, **Get Stronger Bones**
10:30, **Blood Pressure**
10:30, **Shoppers' Bus**
2:00, **Bingo**
2:00, **Paint & Sculpt**
7:30, **Games (RISA)**

Wednesday
9:30, **Yoga**
10:30, **Computers**
10:30, **Shoppers' Bus**
10:30, **Spanish Class**
7:00, **Pokeno (RISA)**

Thursday
9:30, **Get Stronger Bones**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**

Friday
9:30, **Yoga**
10:30, **French Class**
1:00, **Bridge**
7:00, **Games (RISA)**
Saturday
7:30, **Bingo (RISA)**

Special Events
Taxes for Seniors, Tuesdays
9am-1pm
Stop 'n' Shop, Mon Mar 9,
12noon
Green Acres Mall, Tue Mar 17,
12noon
St. Patrick's Day Party, Sat Mar
21, 6pm
Kaufman Studios movie trip,
Mon Mar 23, 11:30am

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

March 4, 2009

1. **Board of Directors:** Regular meeting held February 19. Draft budget for fiscal year 2009-10 was presented at the January meeting. The draft has been posted on the RIOC website for everyone's review. Some changes were reported at the Board meeting to reflect current events, both plusses and minuses, such as the time effect of delay in completion of Southtown buildings 5 and 6 (now anticipated in late April and May), potential savings in expenses for insurance and fuel, etc. A transposition error in reporting depreciation as a cash item has been corrected. After discussion and modifications as may be suggested and adopted, the final budget will be ready for adoption at the March 26 board meeting. The present decline in real-estate activity is having its effect on buildings 5 and 6 of Southtown, and that slowdown is now reflected in the budget. Also, the Octagon Field resurfacing has been withdrawn until the City standard for artificial surfaces is settled.

2. **Southpoint:**

(A) **Renwick Ruin:** Work continues with a completion date projected for early spring.

(B) **Green Rooms/Wild Gardens:** A Request for Proposals was published for the work, to be accomplished in phases. There were six responses, and the selected bidder is below the estimate for this phase of the site work. Work will start in April with rough grading, paths, and stone walls. Phase 2 will be the finish grading and capping of the site, utilities, fencing, and planting.

(C) **FDR Memorial:** The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI) made a presentation to the RIOC Board at the February meeting as to its phasing plan and the logic for it. A copy of the materials is posted on the RIOC web site. FERI is working on engineering and permitting with the Department of Environmental Conservation, Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, etc.

3. **Tram:** Work is under way on design and fabrication. We have had meetings coordinated by the Mayor's Office with various NYC departments. On schedule for July 6, 2009 shutdown and December reopening. The \$15 million state appropriation is in. Based on most recent NYC Department of Transport-

The RIOC Column



Steve Shane, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
e-mail: SShane@RIOC.com

tation requests, the substitute red bus service during non-rush hours will likely stop on the west side of Second Avenue between 58th and 59th Streets, to loop back on 58th Street either directly or via 57th Street.

4. **Projects almost completed** include the bus transportation yard, AVAC-caused street repair, and the roof of 504 Main. Other projects in the design, bidding, and contract-awarding pipeline include upgrading of the lighting at Motorgate (we will install two alternative types to test efficacy), the exterior of the AVAC building, replacement chambers for AVAC, and improvements to Public Safety headquarters. Spring will see resumption of lots of activity.

5. **Red bus:**

Waiting for the GPS shakedown period to be finished so a decision can be made for the bus routes other than the Octagon Express.

6. **Public-Purpose Fund:**

As part of the budgeting cycle, RIOC received applications from several entities applying for public-purpose funding, forwarded them to RIRA, and now awaits a recommendation for action at the March Board meeting. RIOC conducted an audit (both finances and functions) on the recipients of last year's awards, and presented the results to both the Board and RIRA's review committee.

7. **Sportspark Swimming:** In response to requests, effective March 9, the morning weekday adult swim hours will be extended to 11:00 a.m. to accommodate those with child care responsibility. We hope for ever-greater participation.

8. RIOC received a notice from **New York National Bank** that it intends to close its branch at 615 Main Street on June 6, saying that the business does not justify maintaining its operation. Too bad. Banking is a very useful amenity. I hope another institution will find this event to be an opportunity, and RIOC is doing what it can to promote the possibility.

1. **Serious Questions About RIOC's Finances.** Members of RIRA's RIOC budget analysis committee have met a couple of times. We're delayed because RIOC is not providing the information we requested. We will continue to meet. About two weeks ago, RIOC announced that it had overstated its cash position in year 5 (2013-2014); they were off by a factor of two, leaving them with \$19 million in the bank and negative cash flow at the end of this five-year, \$72-million spending spree — not to mention a staff increase of 50% (2001-2008). (This assumes Southtown 7-9 won't be built in the next couple of years, which seems likely because the developers are choosing not to open Southtown 5-6 due to poor market conditions.)

Aside from our information requests, questions remain:

Question #1: When do the NPV (Net Present Value) payments run out for Southtown 5-9 (an answer for each building)?

Question #2: Assuming Southtown 7-9 will not be built and capital expenditures (e.g., maintenance) will continue at its current rate of \$8 million per year (as per RIOC President Steve Shane who said we should expect \$5-8 million of annual capital expenditures indefinitely), are we able to continue spending indefinitely at this rate? If not, when does the money run out?

Question #3: With the same assumptions as Question #1, except that Southtown 7-9 are built within the next five years, are we able to continue spending indefinitely at this rate? If not, when does the money run out?

Question #4: Assuming 0% inflation, unchanging costs, and that we have to spend another \$72 million 20-25 years from now as the present generation of infrastructure wears out, what will RIOC's finances be at that point? Will we be able to pay for these large capital expenditures? What is the plan for paying these in the generation afterwards in 40-45 years from now?

Question #5: What are the cashflow and cash balance projections for years 6-10?

In short, I'm very concerned that we're going to run out of money — possibly as soon as years 8-10. I

The RIRA Column



Frank Farance, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
e-mail: rira-president@rira-council.org

think we've gotten here via poor decision-making over the years. First, in the 1990s, Governor George Pataki said that Roosevelt Island should be "self-sufficient," which means that we pay city, state, and federal taxes (of which very little comes back to us) and we pay for the Island's upkeep (pothole repair, AVAC maintenance, etc.) through our rents or our merchants' rents. Second, in the past 10 years, RIOC negotiated sweetheart-deal giveaways for The Octagon and Southtown developments, which crippled the Island for future income. Third, rather than annual payments (e.g., Manhattan Park and the WIRE buildings), RIOC agreed to NPV (lump sum) payments. NPV itself isn't bad if you have competent financial management and financial discipline (which RIOC hasn't done well on either count).

Really, if DHCR mandates this kind of long-term budgeting and reserve planning for Mitchell-Lama buildings throughout New York State, why does RIOC pretend that this kind of financial management is impossible? Why don't the RIOC ex-officio members from the State Budget Office and DHCR complain about RIOC finances? Doesn't the State have an interest in seeing the long-term viability of RIOC's finances?

2. **RIOC and Governor's office force members to resign from RIRA.** Jonathan Kalkin said "I have just been informed that Governor Paterson's office, upon a second review of my file and the file of possible new Board members, has stated that I must regretfully resign my position as a RIRA Council Member. On the original review I was not told to resign. Since I have been informed, I officially and regretfully resign from my seat on the Roosevelt Island Residents Association." I asked Steve Shane for an explanation and he said that RIRA sometimes pro-

See **RIRA Column**, page 10

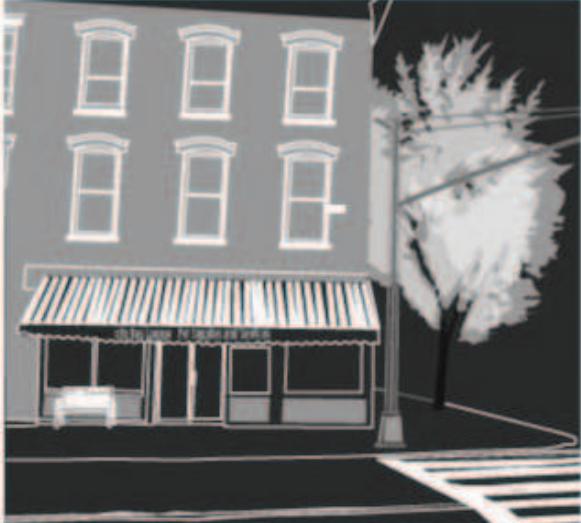
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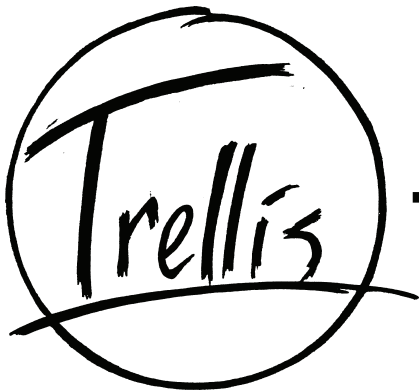
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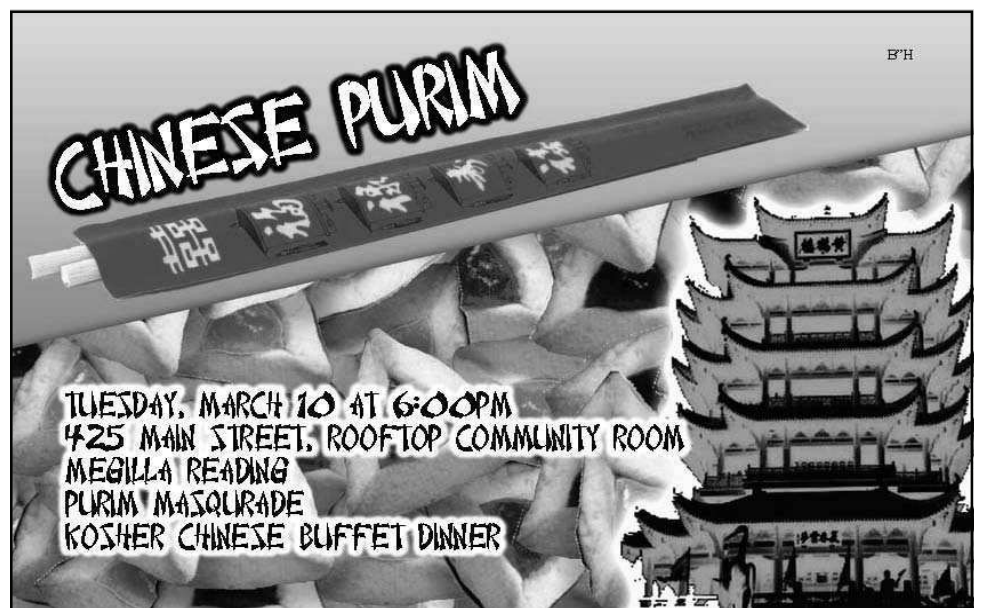
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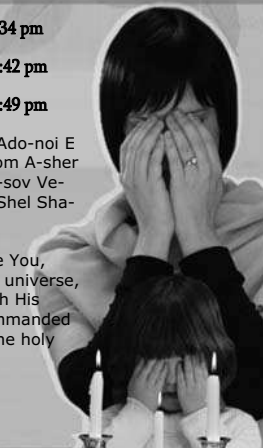


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bos Ko-desh.

Translation: Blessed are You,
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commandments, and commanded
us to kindle the light of the holy
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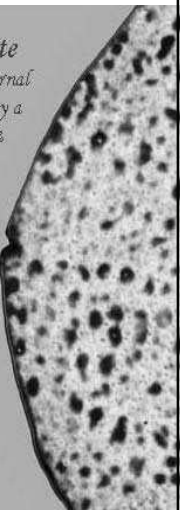
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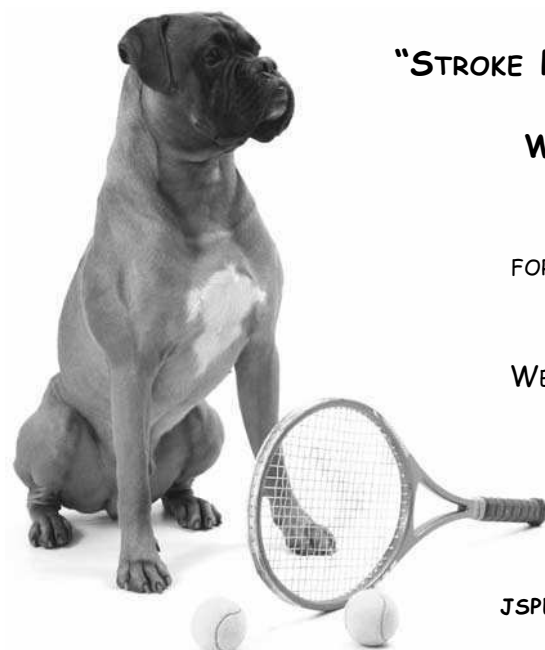


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Nursery from page 1

the necessary teaching and administrative staff. Kramer's company is absorbing the entire cost of building out the space and equipping it with all necessary utilities, appliances, and furniture.

Starting with a blank sheet of paper, Dana and her advisers spent many hours with the architect, Ellen Honigstock, to provide the most up-to-date and comforting environment for the infants and toddlers in their care. The rooms for the younger infants will be smaller and cozier, to create a more home-like atmosphere. The rooms for the toddlers will be larger, allowing for more physical activity and other learning and social experiences.

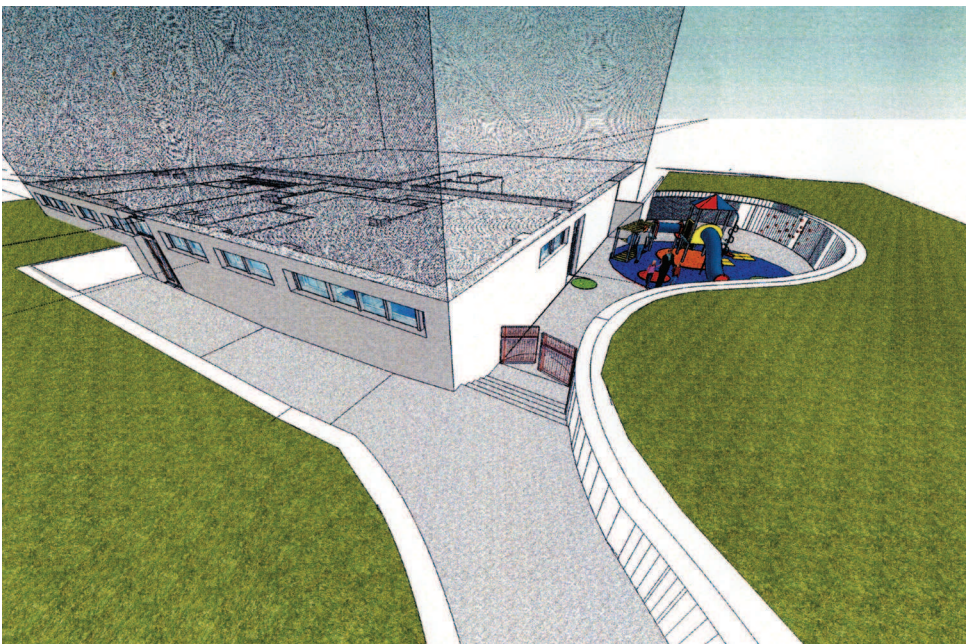
A separate playroom will have non-impact flooring. Each classroom will have its own toilet, washbasin, and refrigerator, and a dishwasher to sanitize toys daily. In each room, the furniture will be of high quality, and specifically suited to the age group in each room. The lighting will be controlled by dimmers, so the proper ambiance can be created. Outside the nursery will be a play lot with age-appropriate equipment. A ramp will descend from the sidewalk so parents can easily bring their strollers down to the entrance.

Ellen Honigstock, the architect, says, "It

was great working with the people from the Day Nursery. They had so much experience and they knew exactly what they wanted. It is rare when two parties are able to work so well together." They visited a number of other day nurseries, including one at Rockefeller University, to gather ideas and useful techniques. Honigstock was especially complimentary about Hudson-Related Companies and Andrew Jackson, the company's point man on the project. "Hudson really tried to make it right and not cut corners, and Andrew Jackson could not have been more helpful."

Kramer says that his company is "doing the best we can to have many shops, and to provide amenities for our residents. We now have seven stores and are trying hard to provide a greater variety of amenities. We continue to ask ourselves what else we can do to enhance the living experience of our residents. A day-care center was a logical addition."

On a personal note, Kramer said that his mother has been involved in child development as a social worker for 35 years and that his own world is real estate. He said a Venn diagram would show only one intersection of those two worlds: Sara Seiden, who has been known to his mother for many years.



Exterior view suggests look of entrance and outdoor play area of the new nursery facility.

Kramer's company already has a day-care center in its building at 475 Main Street, operated by Bright Horizons. With a laugh, Kramer said, "My mother would kill me if I opened another day-care center and did not involve Sara Seiden."

For his part, Jackson said that there was talk about including a day-care center during the design stage, but the space was not committed until last June. He adds, "Families love Roosevelt Island and its open spaces, but the Island doesn't have all the amenities that families are looking for. Young families need help with their children, and we thought a day-care center would provide them with options for their child care." After the space was committed to a day-care center, Jackson and his team visited the Bright Horizons day-care centers at 475 Main Street and The Octagon, conducting interviews. Jackson was impressed by the proposal from RIDN as being exceptionally well-rounded, and by the roots the institution had established in the community over the years. "In addition," Jackson said, "the resumes submitted by the Day Nursery had a great fit for our project."

Dana Cotton expects to maintain the philosophy established by Sara Seiden that has been so successful at RIDN. To that end, the selection of the staff will be a critical

element. Although there has been no formal search for staff members, resumes have already been arriving from interested teachers who learned about the school by word of mouth. Formal solicitation of teacher resumes, to fill the 12 slots available, will begin in the near future. Each teacher is expected to use every opportunity to enhance the children's social and physical skills. This process involves each child learning that other children have rights equal to his or hers, that living in the world involves give and take, that working cooperatively has many benefits, that making friends is an essential part of life, and that there is 'work time' and 'play time' in the nursery as in the outside world.

It is projected that the new nursery school will open in September for ages two and three. Younger students, three to 24 months, will be enrolled for a session intended to begin in January. Registration will begin on March 18 for Riverwalk families. For all others, it opens March 30. Enrollments can be for whole- or half-day sessions, depending on age. Specific details can be obtained by calling **212-593-0750**.

The Day Nursery encourages prospective parents to visit the present facility at 4 River Road to observe the classroom environment and talk to staff members.

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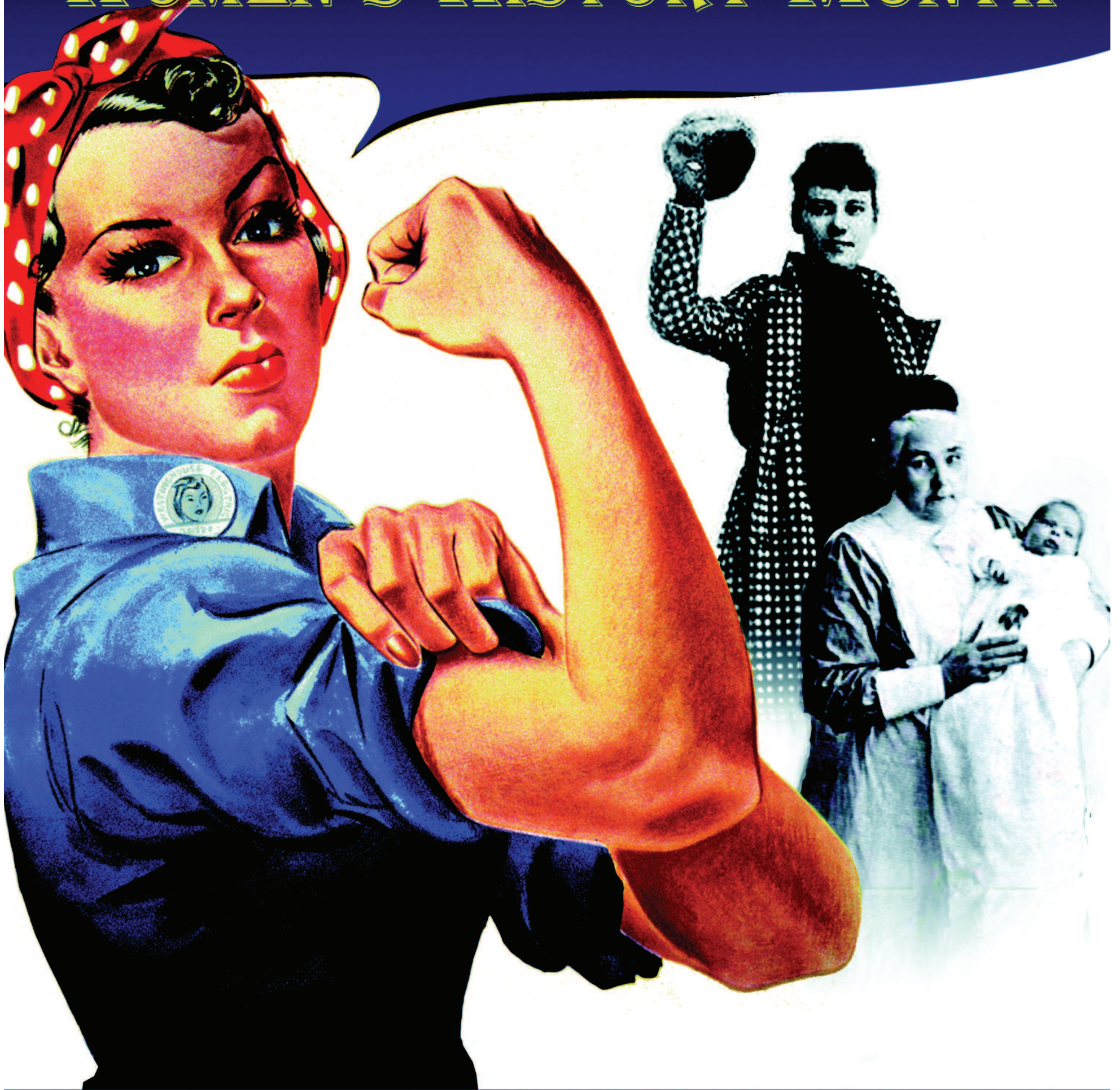
The Island on the Web

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Roosevelt Islander – Red Bus Fare and Route Changes Coming? – tinyurl.com/dkbsl5
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Daily News – Choppy Waters for Verdant Turbines – tinyurl.com/cn4vhh
The Star – Profile of UN Delegate Living on Roosevelt Island – tinyurl.com/brd7pf
Bunny Got Blog – Nelly Bly and the Island's Pauper Lunatic Asylum – tinyurl.com/cqqpav
Second Avenues Sagas – GPS Bus Tracking System – tinyurl.com/c3er82
Bisnow – RIOC's Rosina Abramson Addresses Construction Group – tinyurl.com/aocsw0
SI Advance – Goldwater Patient Kimberly Messink, 22, Passes Away – tinyurl.com/c9kcrz
You Tube – Tram Station Blown Up By Spiderman Movie Crew – tinyurl.com/cfggr6
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Pioneers

After 32 Years, a Look Back to Initial Enthusiasm for the Island...

After Ronn and Hattie-Jo Mullins moved here in 1977, she wrote about the decision for the Rockland County *Journal News*. Her article, published July 8, 1977, was headlined ***One Family’s ‘Escape’ to an Urban Island*** and a teaser asked, ***What happens when a family from Suffern trades the peace and quiet of the suburbs for an apartment on an island in the middle of the East River?*** The couple’s present-day retrospective (sidebar, below) updates their views after three decades.

by Hattie-Jo P. Mullins
Special to the *Journal-News*
“Aren’t you afraid you’re going to get mugged?” asked the store’s owner, before handing over my purchases.
“No,” I answered simply, probably for the dozenth time.
“Well,” he went on, glaring at me, “all I know is, everybody else is moving out of New York City.”
“We’ve decided to reverse the trend, so you might as well wish us luck,” I grinned, plucked my purchase from his grasp, and waved goodbye.

That was the last time I would shop in this Suffern store where I and many members of my family had been customers for more than 20 years. As I walked out the door I felt that, if need be, I could walk, blindfolded, from this corner to my parked car, so familiar was this sidewalk, this curb, this street.

As I completed my errands that afternoon, I drove past so many places where “historical landmarks” of my life had been established. There was Suffern High School (now the Junior High) where I had been a member of the class of ‘59, Christ Episcopal Church (not completely remodeled) where I had been married in ‘63 to my husband, Ronn, and the School of the Holy Child (now the Salvation Army School) where I had first interviewed, in a state of near nervous collapse, for a job as a French teacher, and Good Samaritan Hospital (now with a whole new wing and 25-cent parking charge) where my three children had been born.

Even the Grand Union on Orange Avenue retained an unlikely spot in my memories because its arrival in the late 50s in front of our home on Park Place, replacing a pretty, old-fashioned village park, had motivated my parents to buy a home “out in the country” along Route 202 where my brothers, sisters, and I had finished our growing up.

Six years later, my own children began their growing-up process in a brown-shingled house on Route 202 just inside the Suffern Village line. Now, at ages 10, 9, and 7, Gretchen, Margaret, and Lesley were beginning to build strong friendships and becoming involved in school and local activities, and their wishes and plans served as a strong deterrent to my increasing desire to live in New York City. (I had fallen in love with New York at age 13 when I saw my favorite comic-book character, Little Lulu, up in lights on Times Square holding her popup Kleenex box.)

However, in the winter of ‘76, after celebrating in a startled fashion my 35th birthday, I decided that my time was now. The children had many years ahead of them in which to recover from any traumas they might suffer from being propelled into urban life, so I began to seriously consider the advantages of living in New York.

There were five. The first, for me, was the resurrection of glamour. We had always enjoyed spending a day in the city, but the drive in had been time-consuming and expensive, and the parking situation was a serious problem. Therefore, a permanent move into the city would give us quicker and easier access to our favorite entertainments of the theatre,

unique restaurants, current movies, parks, zoos, circuses, concerts, sporting events, fabulous stores, and craziness.

Second, I had a yen for a broader human experience. We lived in a white neighborhood and the children attended a 99-to-100-percent white elementary school. Ironically, having spent the early part of my own childhood in the segregated South, I’d had more association with blacks than my northern children had ever experienced.

Third, I had become increasingly aware that the upkeep on our two depreciating cars was costing us far more per month than the upkeep on our three appreciating daughters. I wanted out of the endless rounds of gas station, repairs, licensing, inspections, chauffeuring, spiraling gas prices, and the ominous specter of any future gas lines. (I was still in shock from the last one.)

The fourth advantage was related to my anti-car-itis. I had a growing desire to learn to walk again. I had begun to live in our station wagon. Home was just a place to park. My



arms were a steering wheel and my legs were four whitewall tires with balding tread. My daily exercise was an unending Indianapolis 500 to the grocery stores, post office, schools, shopping centers, and other scenic wonders.

I began to notice that pedestrians all looked happy and well-adjusted. I wanted the life of a pedestrian that city life seemed to promise.

I also wanted my husband’s 12-hour working day to end. He spent eight hours of each weekday in his office, while the other four found him on the Erie Lackawanna and the Path tubes just getting there and back. Ronn and I had begun thinking that it would be a lot more fun to put some of his lost 80 hours a month



back into our own togetherness and time with our daughters before they were grown up and gone.

So we went looking, armed with our new resolve, and fighting off the fears of all the bad news of Big City life that we’d heard and believed for years. Everyone, knowledgeable or not about New York life, had said that city apartments were small, cost a fortune and were impossible to find, anyway, especially in a “decent” neighborhood. The public schools, where we wanted the children to go, were reputed to be disaster areas of gangs, drug addicts, and no learning.

We were told that there were far too many people, dangerous amounts of pollution, it was impos-

Today Disappointments? All Minor... Mostly, Contentment, and a Dream Fulfilled

by Hattie-Jo and Ronn Mullins

When we moved to Roosevelt Island nearly 32 years ago, one of our closest friends in Suffern, New York, our “hometown” about 30 miles northwest of the city, declared, “You’ll be back in a year.” She had never been a fan of New York City and, therefore, probably underestimated our enthusiasm about the impending move. She believed we would ultimately become, at the least, disappointed, and at the most, intimidated and disillusioned about living in the “sleepless” city. Today, we are still friends, but now she knows for sure, we will never return.

Every May 2, we celebrate, in some fashion, another year as New Yorkers and more specifically, Roosevelt Islanders. The anniversary serves to remind us how much, throughout the years, we have enjoyed and appreciated living here. What Roosevelt Island life initially promised, it has, for us, mostly delivered. It has been affordable, spacious, secure, convenient, active, beautiful, exciting, political, social, tolerant, and compassionate.

We have especially loved and appreciated the activism of so many of our fellow residents who have risen up to defend and protect the above features if they were threatened. We have no illusions that some of the promises, such as affordability, might not have been retained if it hadn’t been for the Island activists and sympathetic politicians’ spunk and hard work to maintain that part of the “dream.” Also, the management powers-that-be generally, if not always, learned from their mistakes. For example, Eastwood’s ground-floor patio apartments were originally open spaces. However, fences were eventually built that we believe helped enclose and protect those areas from uninvited “guests.”

A feature we recall that was promised and never materialized was a “traffic-free” environment. While that was a disappointment for some residents, it was not for us. We believed it was an unrealistic goal, but

our opinion could well have been influenced by the fact that we own a car, and did not want to think that its moveability might be curtailed. An annoying disappointment was the abandonment of the original dog-free environment. In the early days, hardly a bark or yelp could be heard; now barking of all kinds breaks the stillness of the day until late in the night.

We have experienced many rewards from our life here. Most importantly, our children were well educated at P.S./I.S. 217, before entering the NYC public high schools, graduating to attend college, and continuing to graduate schools. They quickly learned

how to be socially aware, adaptable, and compassionate young adults by living here in a culturally, racially, and economically mixed community. They also had daily contact with senior citizens and the disabled, as well as experiencing myriad lifestyles as lived by their friends. Today, they are competent professional women

who are experienced, self-confident, understanding, and, Lord knows, not easily intimidated!

We have benefited from our involvement with the community over the years. Hattie-Jo was honored by being elected by residents of Roosevelt Island to Community School Board District #2 way back in 1980. And she also thoroughly enjoyed all the years she wrote articles for *The Island View* and *The Main Street WIRE*, particularly the profiles of Roosevelt Island residents, because they represented the impressive array of talented and accomplished people living here. Ronn served for over a decade as treasurer of the Protestant Parish of the Good Shepherd and the Good Shepherd Corporation.

Nowadays, our love for New York City is even greater than it was all those years ago, and since we live here, Roosevelt Island has to take credit for our continuing devotion.



sible to get back to nature, and nobody cared if “you dropped dead right in front of them.” Not to mention the high price of food and crime-in-the-streets.

So we decided to try Roosevelt Island. We crossed the Queensboro Bridge, drove through a dubious-looking section of Long Island City and then over a bright blue bridge onto what used to be known as Welfare Island, home of a couple of Manhattan’s major hospitals for the handicapped, and now renamed Roosevelt Island.

We had seen it on our trips along the FDR Drive, sitting in the middle of the East River between Manhattan’s upper east side and Queens (its location disqualified it as “inner-city”), and we had heard about it as the “home” of the nation’s first aerial tramway for urban transportation. This exotic tram connected Roosevelt Island to Manhattan in 3½ minutes, at 15 miles an hour, 200 feet high, in a ride across the East River, and I was enchanted by the sight of the two cars passing overhead.

When we had parked in the island’s huge garage (no traffic is allowed to park long-term on the streets), and stepped out to survey its main street (which to my amusement is called Main Street), I came down with a severe case of love at first sight. The rectangular-shaded, stair-steps effect of its poured concrete apartment houses lining both sides of the winding street looked exactly like my fantasy of a futuristic city.

It was quiet, very clean, and a few people representing both elderly and young, black, white, and yellow were strolling along the brick-paved streets. The roar of Manhattan could be heard in the distance like the sound of the ocean heard inside a large conch shell. Farther down the river on the Manhattan side, the glass wall of the United Nations building gleamed in the sunlight. This place was beautiful. I held my breath all the way to the rental office.

Once there, we could hardly believe how quickly our fears about city life disappeared. We learned that one huge complex, Eastwood, was the government-subsidized, low-income housing unit for which we qualified. With three children, we could have a four-bedroom apartment with a relatively broad range of choice in location. The renting had just opened up to families, as the first month’s renting had concentrated on apartments for the senior citizens and the handicapped. (The apartments for the latter are especially designed for their needs.)

A seven-room apartment would cost us \$421 a month, including utilities. Our children would be attending schools right across the street from our complex, as the island’s educational programs included preschool through ninth grade.

They would even be coming home for lunch (“Nothing is perfect,” I told myself on hearing that piece of news), and for after school the tremendous variety of parks, hiding areas, playgrounds, and inner courtyards would enable the girls to bicycle, skateboard (we’d been afraid to get them skateboards when we lived on route 202), and play baseball and soccer.

In making this change we did feel that we had one large advantage. We had rented our home in Suffern, which spared us the energy-sapping anxieties of trying to sell the house, and freed us to move when we chose to. We decided to do so before the end of this school year in order for our children to make some new
Continues next page

... And Satisfaction With the Decision to Become Pioneers Here

friends before the long summer vacation began.

There are eight million stories in the naked city, as the opening lines of an old television show used to say, and in the last six weeks, we have added our own story. We have experienced the ridiculous in the craziness of the cablevision man who nodded his head, moved his lips, and giggled hysterically to himself the whole time he was in our apartment hooking up the television. (The two cats and I were all alone with him, and even the cats were big-eyeing him).

We have experienced the sublime in our sky rides over the East River, where we wave to the other passing

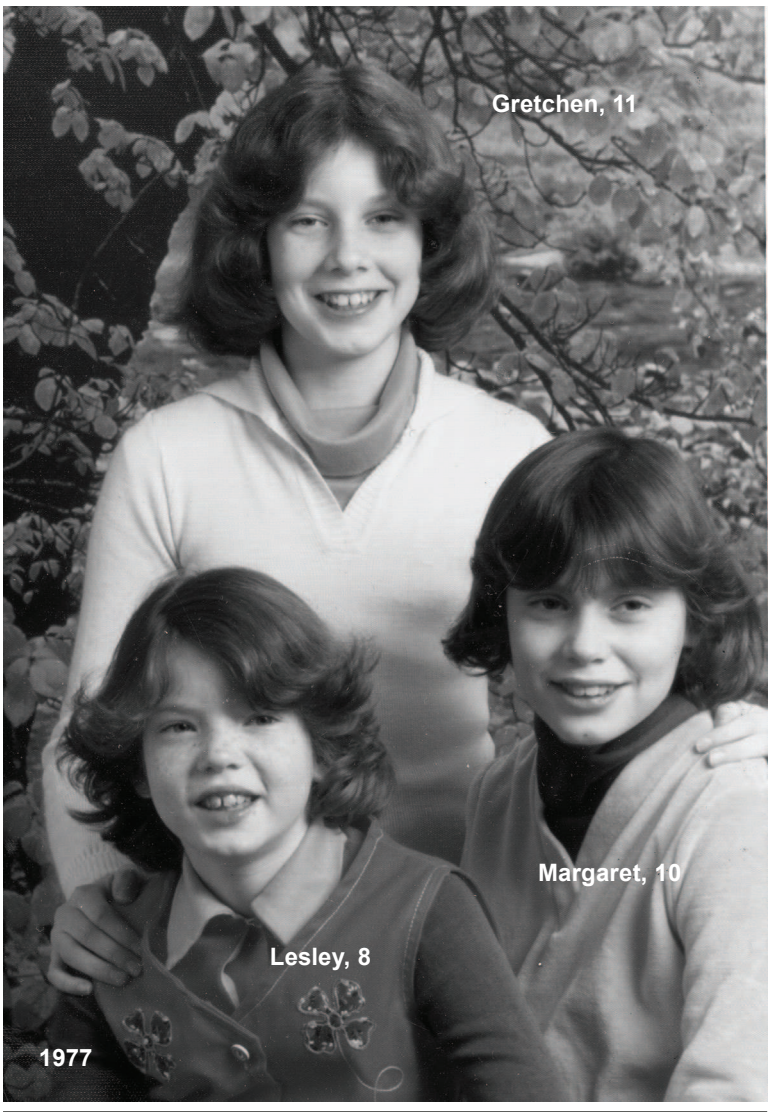
tram (I bet they don't do that on the Erie Lackawannas), and the sublime-sublime at the Tavern on the Green restaurant in Central Park, where the decor makes one feel that she's viewing life from inside a birthday cake, and the food is almost worth the \$40 lunch check.

We have survived the instant divorce land of unpacking. In order to fit in here, we had to throw out even more stuff, including our whiskey sour glasses which, according to Ronn, we never use. The first time we entertained, the people wanted whiskey sours. See what I mean?

And we have even survived the children's first day in a new school, when my oldest daughter sat in her

chair between two wild-looking kids, punching at each other, and glared at me unforgivingly. We have cringed in discovery that to join a swimming pool on the island would cost our family \$500 a year as compared with the Suffern Memorial Pool family membership of \$30. We have cheered to discover that the Long Island beaches are only 45 minutes away, and we'd rather swim in the ocean anyway!

We have watched with pleasure the children's comfort and unselfconscious friendliness with their racially mixed friends, and we have looked at the clock in amazement when Ronn arrives home, smiling, at 5:30 in the evening.



Gretchen, 11

Margaret, 10

Lesley, 8

1977

Observing Women's History Month

Films about two remarkable women will be shown at Gallery RIVAA in celebration of Women's History Month.

The first, scheduled for Sunday, March 15, at 2:00 p.m., is *A Midwife's Tale*, about the extraordinary life of Martha Ballard, a midwife and mother living in Maine in 1785. Ballard kept a diary of her twenty-years of service as a midwife to the women of the community in the years following the American Revolution.

The second, Saturday, March 28, will focus on Nellie Bly, who investigated the Island's Pauper Lunatic Asylum in the 19th century.

Both are sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation and the Historical Society.

Martha Ballard was "a midwife of English ancestry who trained informally with other women," according to Megan Elias, a professor of history at Queensboro Community College. "She was highly skilled and had a remarkable record, losing very few

babies and no mothers in her long practice." Elias calls the film a compelling and accurate representation of the role and responsibilities of the midwife in early American history.

In Ballard's time, women of all classes used midwives, because very few doctors wanted to be involved in obstetrics. But, Elias says, by the early 19th century, doctors were beginning to assert authority over midwives. Delivery by doctor became a choice of the wealthy, while delivery by midwife became the less expensive choice of the poor. Midwives tended to be women of the middle class, respected by their neighbors, but not so refined as to be unsuited for the work they needed to do.

In the 1970s, feminism and a countercultural movement brought back the midwife and home birth. Today, with another wave of renewed interest, some hospitals are working with midwives, opening delivery rooms to many different styles of delivery.

Cats Being Abandoned Here, Illegally

by Jennifer Dunning

The temperature has dropped to 27 degrees, the bitterly cold air coating each drift of snow in an icy carapace. People pass by, plump in extra layers of clothing put on as protection against the pushing wind. And somewhere on Roosevelt Island, a frightened pet cat struggles to survive in that unfamiliar and unforgiving world, abandoned because of sickness or pregnancy, perhaps, or the nuisance or expense of neutering, spaying, or otherwise caring for a once-chosen and once-cherished friend.

Winter is a favorite time for dumping cats on the Island. Over the past three months, four new cats have been seen at the edges of the outdoor-cat colonies that dot the area, spotted by volunteers for Island Cats, formed in 2005 to neuter and care for the Island's longtime population of feral and stray cats.

These cats have not been reported as lost, and no one appears to be looking for them. Sadly, Island Cats can no longer provide temporary or permanent homes for the cats. Judging from adoption events, there seems to be little interest in taking home anything but kittens, so charmingly small until they grow to be adults. And the group's foster homes are full.

So there seems to be little choice but to leave the cats outdoors, suddenly thrown out, without time to grow protective winter coats, into a world without walls where traffic roars by and where food and shelter, if any are found, are the hard-won province of



other, turf-protective cats. "Most lost or abandoned cats, frightened and lonely, die of exposure, starvation, or dehydration," says an Island animal rescuer with 20 years of experience.

It is sometimes argued that the outdoors is the historic natural environment for cats. But domestic animals are no more the primitive creatures that once roamed the earth than Roosevelt Islanders are prehistoric humans, dressed in animal skins that would never be mistaken for the parkas and thick overcoats that warm them today as they dart from one heated enclave to another.

Abandoning pets is illegal in New York State, punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine. And so, in an attempt to curb the dumping of pets – and help to find lost ones – Island Cats has created Operation Archy. Photographs of abandoned cats will be published in *The WIRE* in the hope that the cats and their owners will be recognized. A \$500 reward will be offered for information that leads to the conviction of the person abandoning the cat, payable on conviction.

Dumping is not the only alternative. Island Cats, though a small all-volunteer group, will provide lists of no-kill shelters and information on programs that may help pet owners keep their cats. (Organizations offering free or low-cost neutering, for example, include the ASPCA at www.aspc.org and 212-876-7700 and the Humane Society of New York at www.humanesocietynyc.org and 212-752-4842, which is a block from the tram. Another good source for information is the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals at www.animalallianceny.org and 212-252-2350.)

Island Cats, reachable at 212-593-1054 and ri.cats@yahoo.com, welcomes inquiries from anyone interested in offering a loving, responsible home for Bart, Boo, or Keecka, whose bios and photos may be seen at www.islandcats.org, or in providing foster homes for abandoned pet cats.

Public Purpose from page 1

sociation, \$5,000 (full request), for gardening supplies.

- Roosevelt Island Day Nursery, \$4,000 (\$35,000 requested) for scholarships.

The RIOC Board is expected to consider the RIRA recommendations at its March 26 meeting.

Two organizations received no allocation. The Child School had asked for \$5,847, but was turned down because, Marcus said in explaining the committee's choices, almost all beneficiaries of the expenditure would be non-residents – the children who arrive and leave each day on school buses.

Orphans International (OI) requested \$15,000, part of which was to cover a \$5,000 electric bill for its quarters on Main Street. The bill was paid by RIOC and passed on to OI. The organization, which provides family settings for orphans in several countries, also asked for funding for an internship and job-skills training program conducted on the Island. Common Councilors voted overwhelmingly against the funds requested by OI, but then volunteered in equal numbers to help raise the funds to pay the unexpected electric bill if paying it remains a condition of OI continuing to occupy its Main Street quarters.

The committee provided guidelines for future applicants that include such criteria as consideration of the proportion of residents (vs. non-residents) served by the pro-

gram, the number who are economically disadvantaged, the history of service to the community, its level of volunteerism, and the availability of matching grants – asking whether a public-purpose grant will improve the group's chances of getting funds from outside sources. The full listing of guidelines is online with this issue of *The WIRE* at nyc10044.com, or at tinyurl.com/c9nz22. It also recommended to RIOC that submission deadlines be publicized well in advance to allow organizations the time necessary to prepare applications and have them approved internally.

Common Councilors on the committee, in addition to its chair, Steve Marcus, were: Jim Bates, Phoebe Flynn, Dolores Green, Matthew Katz, Nikki Leopold, Margie Smith, Lynne Strong-Shinozaki, and Lydia Tang.

Briefly...

Longtime resident Joe Cristiano died last week. *The WIRE* hopes to have an obituary in a future issue.

The WIRE's Roosevelt Island Contacts List is distributed with this issue (as an insert). It will be republished soon. Organizations and businesses are asked to provide **updates and changes** as soon as possible to editor@MainStreetWIRE.com.

Weekends without subways are coming back (see page 10).

Election from page 1

of community elections to nominate community members for the Governor's consideration.

In the February election, six residents were nominated to the RIOC Board, including Kalkin and Polivy. Dr. Kathie Grimm, Kalkin, and Fay Christian, who were among the top six vote-getters in that election, now serve on the RIOC Board. Polivy's appointment is pending. The third- and fourth-highest winners in the February 5 election, Erin Feely-Nahem and Frank Farance, were not appointed; Farance subsequently ran for and won the presidency of the Residents Association.

In the planned May election process, nominees will be chosen for RIOC Board seats that are currently open or are expected to become open shortly. RIRA will forward the names of the winners, but will also remind the Governor's Appointments Office that Feely-Nahem and Farance were winners in the 2008 election and remain available for appointment.

Warning: Credit Card Fraud Here

The U.S. Secret Service has issued an alert that a cluster of some 35 cases of credit-card fraud have occurred on Roosevelt Island recently.

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Deadline for April 4 issue: Tuesday, March 31

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NOTARY PUBLIC – Roosevelt Island Day Nursery, 4 River Road, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. school days. **212-593-0750**.

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The WIRE runs on volunteer power! We may need help with distribution in your building (call **212-935-7534**), or join us for our Friday-morning stuffing session (**212-826-9056**), or try your hand at reporting (**917-617-0449**). Other help is needed, too. *What would you like to do?*

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Have something you're ready to give away, free, that might be useful to another *WIRE* reader? Find its new owner with your **free** ad here, up to 25 words plus phone and/or e-mail address. Send by e-mail to editor@MainStreetWIRE.com or leave as hard copy addressed to *The WIRE* at the front desk, 531 Main Street (Rivercross). Whether or not you include your phone number in your ad, include it in your e-mail or note so that we can contact you if there is a question.

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Unofficial Service Changes

Weekend

F

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Planned Disruptions
No Queens Service
April 4 - 6

No Manhattan Service
May 23 - 26
May 30 - Jun 1

THRU 2/22/08: THE QNY 1024 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 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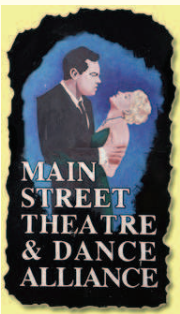
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