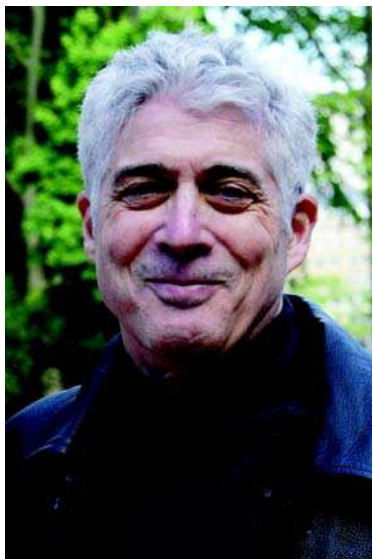


Next issue
in 2 weeks:
Sat., May 30

The Main Street **WIRE**™

29th Year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper

Four Seeking Islanders' Votes in Tuesday's Election To Nominate Residents to the RIOC Board



Lee Edelman



Tammy Jackson



Michael Shinozaki



Margie Smith

In the second-ever election of its kind, residents will vote Tuesday (May 19) to nominate residents to the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), the entity that oversees operation and development of this East River island.

Two will be nominated. One could take over the seat now occupied by Charlee Miller, a Riverwalk resident who has announced her intention to leave the board when her term ends this summer. Another could be appointed to the seat now occupied by H. Patrick Stewart, whose term expired some years ago. (Under the law, board members serve until a replacement is appointed.)

All the candidates are longtime residents:

- Michael Shinozaki served on the board from late 2004 to this week, when Howard Polivy replaced him. Polivy was nominated by residents in the election held February 5, 2008.

- Tammy Jackson was among 10 candidates in the 2008 voting, but was not among the six elected by residents.

- Margie Smith, a former Vice President of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) and a member of the Rivercross Board of Directors, is seeking a seat on the RIOC Board for the first time.

- Lee Edelman, a longtime Island House resident who has served on that building's Task Force, is also a first-time candidate for the RIOC body.

Statements by all four candidates appear on pages 6 and 7 in this issue.

All island residents 18 and over are eligible to vote in Tuesday's island-wide election, regardless of their country of citizenship.

For many temporary or long-term visitors from foreign countries, a Roosevelt Island election becomes their first opportunity to vote for a public official. Voter registration status is also irrelevant on Tuesday, since this election is not being conducted by the New York City Board of Elections, but by the Roosevelt Island Residents Association.

Tuesday's voting will take place from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Voting locations are listed on page 6 and in a RIRA advertisement on page 5. See **Election**, page 6



Where/When to Vote –
Information on page 6

Baseball Season Arrives and, With It, the Battles Over Field Time for Islanders vs Off-Island Teams

by Jim Baehler

Some Roosevelt Island parents are still unhappy with the playing-field time available to their children.

It's a longstanding controversy that took a new turn on Saturday, April 25.

On that day, a group of youngsters refused to surrender a playing field to two teams from an off-island adult softball league. At the direction of some parents, the children sat on the pitching mound after the conclusion of a Little League game. The game, between teams of Junior Division youngsters, had run past the 1:30 p.m. deadline because of time spent getting the field into playing condition. The adult team allowed the Little Leaguers to finish their fifth inning, then took the field at about 1:45.

But some parents say the adults had earlier begun practicing in the outfield as the Little League game progressed, intimidating the 8- to 11-year-olds. Angered, the parents told the children to sit in the infield instead of leaving after five innings.

Joan Christianson, a grandparent who was present, says that she was among those who told the children to sit on the pitcher's mound. Speaking of the adult softballers, she said, "They gradually moved closer and closer to the infield, and they ignored our appeals to move off the field."

After the sit-in on the pitcher's mound, Public Safety was called. Those on the scene report that, after 15 minutes, two officers arrived in a Public Safety squad car. They say the officers remained in the car to listen to both sides of the story. An incident report was completed,

and the parents instructed their children to leave the field.

Adib Mansour, one of the parents who was at the field, says that the difficulty with access to the playing fields on Roosevelt Island goes back more than a year. "The problem is that RIOC has all the fields on the Island scheduled for virtually all the after-school hours and for the full day on Saturday and Sunday," he said.

According to Mansour, RIOC collects \$45 an hour from the Youth Center for scheduled use of the baseball and soccer fields. "With the limited funds available to the Youth Center, there is almost no money available to schedule practices for baseball or soccer. To make maximum use of what time is available to us, last fall we had 12 soccer teams practicing at the same time on the soccer field east of Riverwalk. You can imagine what that looked like."

Mansour said that, last fall, parents began circulating a petition calling for more time for local teams and a limit on time assigned to off-

island groups. At that time, they were told by RIOC that the island's athletic fields are part of New York City and, therefore, must be open to all residents of the city. But RIOC promised, in a letter, that Capobianco Field would be available for unscheduled open play during the week. Based on that promise, the parents discontinued the petition effort. Mansour now says, "RIOC has not lived up to its commitment in that letter. In addition, RIOC does not properly maintain the fields. The lines are seldom drawn in time for a game to be started promptly. Sand is not spread in puddles after a rain. And the scheduling is not done carefully – occasionally, two groups will find they were scheduled for the same field at the same time."

In order to find some space for his soccer team to practice last fall, Mansour led his team on two occasions to the Rivercross Lawn. He says he instructed them to be quiet and not to interfere with anyone else using the lawn. "On

See **Fields**, page 13



Island children occupied the Capobianco Field pitcher's mound briefly on April 25. Depending on the adult source, it was either over playing-field time or a protest against use of the outfield, during a Little League game, by off-island adult softballers who were scheduled to use the field next.

Inside Pages:

2 – Queensboro Bridge
Centennial Events

6 – RIOC Board Candidate
Statements

10 – A Deal for Rivercross?

11 – Latest Tram Cabin
Rendering

Vote Tuesday to Nominate Residents to the RIOC Board

Yet Another Boring Appeal to Please VOTE...

Yes. Here we go again. This time, *The WIRE’s* appeal that you vote on Tuesday is even more critical than usual. That’s because this time, there is no simultaneous city, state, or federal election – not even a *primary* – to move voters to the polls. That means the vote on Tuesday, in which we residents will select our community nominees to the RIOC Board of Directors, is a **pure test** of the local governance question.

That question is this: **Do the residents of Roosevelt Island really want a measure of democracy on the body that runs Roosevelt Island and makes development decisions here?**

We believe the answer is **yes**. We believe the **necessary** answer is **yes**. We believe that answer is necessary because since this community’s founding as a residential entity, ordinary residents have had **no** direct democratic voice in its development, administration, or day-to-day operations. Over the years, jobs at RIOC, including its presidency, have too often been doled out to political hangers-on to whom the state administration has *owed* something.

No reflection on current RIOC President Steve Shane, but during the Pataki years, you can imagine the conversations between the governor and Republican kingmaker Al D’Amato: *Well, we’ve got to give something to Jerry Blue. He knows too much and he’s been a faithful servant of our personal needs. Sure, he’s barely competent as an administrator, but we’ve got to give him something... What about Roosevelt Island? He can’t do much damage there, can he? And what the hell – everybody there votes for Democrats, anyway. Screw them.*

So the **system** is bad... A system in which incompetence and venality had to be rewarded with salaries near and above \$100,000 a year.

Democracy is an imperfect cure for this sort of thing, but it sure as hell works better than just about anything else invented by humankind.

Tuesday’s election is terribly indirect. We choose, then the powers-that-be, notably the governor, get to say yes or no to our choices. ***But a strong turnout in this “pure” election will send a powerful message that Roosevelt Islanders want more local control – a greater ability to reward or punish at the polls. A greater ability to approve or disapprove of the way Roosevelt Island is run and – lest we forget – developed.***

So: Yes. This is another boring appeal that you vote. But this time, you can do so knowing that because the numbers will very likely be small by comparison to any other election ever held here, your one vote will **measurably emphasize** the need for greater local control here. Please. Please vote on Tuesday.



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COMING UP – This Weekend –

Seussical Jr., musical presented by the Main Street Children’s Theatre, **Fri May 15**, 7:30pm; **today (Sat May 16)**, 2pm & 7:30pm; **tomorrow (Sun May 17)**, 2pm & 7pm; **Mon May 18**, 7pm. Tickets \$5-\$15, **212-371-4449**. (Ad, page 9.)
Health & Fitness Day Basketball Tournament, today (Sat May 16), 10am, Capobianco Field.
Third Annual Health & Fitness Day, today (Sat May 16), 11am-4pm, Capobianco Field, including a ping-pong tournament. First 100 attending receive a free recyclable grocery tote bag.
Art from the Heart III, Gallery RIVAA. Exhibit of the work of Coler-Goldwater patients, through **tomorrow (Sun May 17)**. Gallery hours Sat-Sun 11am-5pm, Wed & Fri 6-9pm.
Walking tour of Roosevelt Island, **Sun May 17**, 2pm, by Bernie’s New York. Meet at northwest corner of East 59th St. and 2nd Av. \$19 includes tram round trip. Information: **718-655-1883**.

– **Continuing** –
New York Junior Tennis League spring program for kids 8-18 years, every day, 3-6pm, Octagon courts. Pee-wees (5-7 years), Wed 3:30-4:30pm, provided by RIOC and Councilmember Jessica Lappin.
Open Swim Hours, Sat 12-3pm & 4-7pm, Mon-Fri 6-11am, Tue & Thu 6-9pm, SportsPark. Adults \$5, children \$3, seniors & infants free.
Day Nursery Registration continues. Information: **212-593-0750**.
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.
Book Bingo (ages 5-12), Thu 4:00pm, Library.

– **Coming Week & Next Weekend** –
Tramway 30th-Anniversary Observance, Mon May 18, 3-6pm, Tramway Plaza (on the island). A videographer will record residents’ stories about the tram.
Special Election to nominate residents to the RIOC Board of Directors, **Tue May 19**, 6am-9pm. (Ad, page 5.)
Community Board 8 Meeting, Wed May 20, 6:30pm, Good Shepherd Community Center.

Sprout Film Festival at The Child School, featuring 10 short documentaries addressing the pain of being different, and what it’s like to be disabled in other countries, **Thu May 21**, 3:15-7pm, Child School gym, 566 Main St. Appropriate for ages 10 and up. \$15 for 3:15-5 or 5:15-7; \$20 for both. Information: **212-223-5055**; seating limited.
Family Courts Q&A Session, Thu May 21, 4-6:30pm, Good Shepherd Center, with LIFT (Legal Information for Families Today) executive director Melissa Beck, a former resident. Free; individual counseling; no appointment required. Sponsored by Assemblymember Micah Kellner. Information: **212-343-1122** or www.LIFTonline.org. (Story, page 10.)
Book Discussion – Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama, **Thu May 21**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

How to Become a Personal Assistant session taught by Linda Stanley, **Thu May 21**, 7pm, Orphans International, 559 Main St. \$10 donation to OI projects.
Run for Children’s Rights, Sat May 23, 10am. \$20. Information at tinyurl.com/run4children.
The Queensboro Bridge at 100 show at Gallery RIVAA, **Sat May 23** through June 28, co-sponsored by RIVAA and the Historical Society. Gallery hours Sat-Sun 11am-5pm, Wed & Fri 6-9pm.
Roosevelt Live event, **Improv Everywhere**, **Sat May 23**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main St.). Improvised event by “undercover” participants, sponsored by Riverwalk. Free.

– **Future Weeks** –
Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, Mon May 25, 8pm. Visitors welcome. Information: **212-751-9577**.
FDR Memorial Park meeting with the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI), **Wed May 27**, Good Shepherd Community Center. Presentation of environmental review.
Preserving Randall’s Island, Thu May 28, 6:30pm, Library, 524 Main St., with Prof. Julie Miller of Hunter College. Third in a series presented by the

Letters

To the Community:
Enclosed with the May 2 issue of *The WIRE*, there was a Retail Survey asking for your opinions about the existing stores and conditions on Main Street as well as what you would like to see on Main Street. The survey is due Thursday (May 21), and it’s very important that you voice your opinions. This is your opportunity to let RIOC know how you feel about the current conditions of Main Street, and to be a part of shaping its future development.
If we don’t respond, we will be hurting ourselves. Speak now or forever hold your peace.
If you need a copy of the survey, please call me at **212-223-1108** and I will get you one.

Vicki Feinmel

To the Editor:
On Tuesday, May 12, I witnessed a red bus, “out of service,” careen into a parked car on Main Street. The driver didn’t even slow down to see any damage. I reported this to Public Safety, but when is anyone going to take seriously how dangerously these drivers operate? Daily, I watch the buses blow through stop sign after stop sign. What’s it going to take to make them obey the laws like us regular folk? How long is it before it’s not just a parked car taking the brunt of reckless driving?

Cari Ellen Bak

Letters deadline for May 30 issue: Tuesday, May 26

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*.
Submit letters by email to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com or 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 handwritten 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.

Historical Society. Free.
The Main Street WIRE – Next issue **Sat May 30**.
Advertising Deadlines: Ads in the paper, Wed May 20, decision date on circulars/inserts, Tue May 26; they are due Thu May 28. **Additional issues in 2009:** June 13, 27 (Fourth of July issue); July 25; Aug 29, Sep 12, 26; Oct 10, 24; Nov 7, 21; Dec 12 (holiday issue). **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**.

Roosevelt Live event, **Alex Battles and the Whiskey Rebellion** (country/folk music), **Sat May 30**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial Refreshments in Tramway Park, Manhattan, **Sun May 31**, 11am. Register at tinyurl.com/053109. Free.

Queensboro Bridge Photo Exhibit, May 31-July 4, 2-7pm seven days a week, Historical Society kiosk, Tramway Plaza, on the island. Photos by Sid Kaplan.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial: Hunter College Jazz Ensemble, Sun May 31, 3pm, Pavilion Park, 60th St. east of York Av. Register at tinyurl.com/0531jazz. Free.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial Fireworks Celebration, Sun May 31, 9:15pm, Southpoint Park, Roosevelt Island; Gantry Park, Queens; other locations. Free.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial Lecture by Manhattan Borough Historian Michael Miscione and others, **Mon Jun 1**, 6:30pm, Weiss Cafeteria, Rockefeller University, 1230 York Av. Register at tinyurl.com/0601qb. Free.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial Lecture/Slide Show (trolley, kiosk, construction) with Judy Berdy, others, **Tue Jun 2**, 6:30pm, Weiss Cafeteria, Rockefeller University, 1230 York Av. Register at tinyurl.com/0602qb. Free.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial Lecture, How the Bridge Transformed the Life of NYC, with NYU Prof. J. Ward Regan, **Wed Jun 3**, 6:30pm, Mt. Vernon Museum (formerly Abigail Adams Smith Museum), 421 E. 61st St. Register at tinyurl.com/0603qb. Free.

See **ComingUp**, page 14

May 12, 2009

1. **Board of Directors:** Meeting of May 14, with a Town Hall meeting following. Howard Polivy’s appointment by the governor and Senate confirmation completed. Mr. Polivy will occupy the seat that was held by Michael Shinozaki. With Charlee Miller’s announced intention to retire from the board at the end of her appointed term in June, new nominees will be needed. RIRA’s election on May 19 should produce candidates.

2. **Southpoint:** A press event commemorating the completion of the preservation of the Renwick Ruin [photos, page 12] and the start of Green Rooms/Wild Gardens is scheduled for May 28. As to the projects:

(A) **Renwick Ruin:** Stabilization work is complete, and the entrances to the building will be boarded up to secure the interior and prevent trespassing.

(B) **Green Rooms/Wild Gardens:** The contractor has started 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) is working on engineering and permitting with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Army Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, etc. FERI has delivered its environmental analysis to RIOC as lead agency, and our consultants are reviewing for completeness as part of the SEQRA (environmental review) process. As soon as it is in final form, it will be published to the community, and we would like to schedule a public meeting for May 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd for the FERI group to present their project and answer questions. If all the deliverables required under the conditional designation agreement are in hand, the RIOC board could make its final determination at the June 25 meeting. RIOC has been in consultation with the state Division of the Budget and the Parks Department to work out funding mechanics for the \$4 million state appropriation to RIOC, conditioned on a matching \$4 million from the city and at least \$8 million from FERI as necessary to complete phase 1. After the permitting process, much remains to be resolved, including coordination of funding and supervision among New York State Parks, New York City Parks, RIOC, and FERI during development and thereafter, before bringing the project back to the board.

4. **Tram:** The birthday of the tram will be celebrated on Monday afternoon, May 18 from 3:00-6:00. Cake will be served, and a videographer will interview residents for tram stories. On schedule for a July 6 shutdown and December reopening, although the contractor, POMA, may request a shift in the window of closure to accommodate redesign changes in the structural elements. Work is under way on design and fabrication. Spools of cable are soon to be shipped from Europe. Final details of cabin design are being completed. Scheduling of tower reinforcing and top replacement, cable pulling, street and park closures, crane locations, etc., with permitting for everything, is ongoing. Met again with Community Board 8 (CB8) on May 5. CB8 will be holding its May 20 meeting on the Island at Good Shepherd at 6:30. Architectural work for tram stations is proceeding. A preliminary sketch of the Manhattan station is posted. Studies of present-day code requirements (ADA, fire, electrical, lighting, access & egress, communications, security, HVAC and sprinklers for sub-grade rooms, wind, rain, and snow barriers, etc.), as applied to both stations, are in the works.

5. **Subway:** MTA has put out notices that, due to emergency track work, trains will be slowed down, reducing the rush-hour schedule by two trains, increasing the degree of difficulty when the tram will be out of service from July 6 to mid-December. Despite our questioning, there is apparently no good answer to the inconvenience and discomfort.

6. **Projects:** Work is ongoing to replace the exterior of the AVAC building, install replacement chambers for AVAC, lighting at Motorgate, repave portions of Main Street, re-

place the façade at Sportspark, and make improvements to Public Safety headquarters. Public Safety has temporarily relocated to 504 Main Street while the work is being done. The board agenda will include replacing the HVAC system for Good Shepherd, the AVAC building exterior, the fire alarm system at Sportspark, swimming pool resurfacing, and architects for the new Tram Park.

7. **Bank:** RIOC has received no response to its letter in answer to the notice from NYNB that it intends to close its branch at 615 Main Street on June 6. We have met with Amalgamated and supplied a letter of support for application to the State Banking Department to allow Amalgamated to open a branch. All signs seem positive.

8. **Southtown Buildings 5 and 6** are moving toward completion. Landscaping being done, and interior finishes and fixtures being installed. The roadway in front of the tram is scheduled for paving; the fountain in the turnaround will follow.

9. **The Mobile Van for Free Mammograms** will make a return visit on May 30. If interested in scheduling an appointment, call Erica Wilder at our office – **212-832-4540**.

10. **Blackwell Park Playground:** In response to the request of some parents, we have emphasized the purpose of the tot playground by increased Public Safety presence to discourage older people from hanging out at the area. No adults unaccompanied by an age-appropriate youngster will be permitted.

11. **Bicycles:** To clear what is becoming an increasing problem, the bike rack at the subway station will have notices posted that leaving bikes overnight will not be permitted. After 2:00 a.m. and before 5:00 a.m., Public Safety will remove bikes to increase availability for those who utilize the space as intended. If not reclaimed at Public Safety within 24 hours, the bikes will be donated.



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

MTAyammer@gmail.com Is Drawing Response

A special e-mail address, set up by *The Main Street WIRE* to collect subway riders’ complaints about the talking escalators in the Roosevelt Island station, is drawing comments from straphangers weary of being told, repeatedly, *Have a nice day*, and being instructed endlessly on how and how not to use an escalator.

“Unrelenting noise pollution,” wrote one woman, “extremely annoying... made worse by the fact that not only does one hear the messages while riding the escalator, but then one is also subjected to the same messages over and over and over again while waiting on the platform.”

“Useless and a sheer nuisance,” wrote another rider, asking for restoration of “calm and tranquility.” She suggested the recording should be played non-stop at MTA headquarters.

“Just another unnecessary irritation,” wrote a man. “Shouldn’t your efforts be to make riding the subway as easy and non-obtrusive as possible?”

Other comments:

- “The subway service is dismal as it is. Why do we have to be assaulted by talking escalators?”
- “We hate them and we want them silenced.”
- “Interminable waits, serenaded by six broken records.”

When a larger number of complaints have been registered, *The WIRE* will give the MTA access to the e-mail address to read them as a group.

One resident following the gripes about the mechanical chatterboxes decided to make a short film. It portrays a confused rider bullied by the disembodied voices throughout his trip to the depths of Roosevelt Island’s subway station. It can be accessed via tinyurl.com/MTAyammer.

To pile on, send your comments and/or complaints to MTAyammer@gmail.com; please indicate whether it’s OK to publish your comment, with your name, in this newspaper.

1. **Progress on RIOC-RIRA collaboration on red bus schedule.** About two weeks ago, I had a very productive meeting with RIOC staff (Steve Shane, Fernando Martinez, and bus supervisors Buddy and Chris). The reason for the meeting was to share ideas on what causes the quirks in the red bus schedule and how to reduce them.

In my opinion, bus bunching is caused by uneven passenger loading throughout the bus route, such as the south-bound side of Main Street having more passengers in the morning rush. One result of bus bunching is that, regardless of the good intentions of bus drivers, the schedule will have variances: yes, a bus every 7.5 minutes on average, but you might wait 15-20 minutes. The variances are what cause people to be late on their morning commute – equivalently, why residents’ daily commutes increase by 30-40 minutes to accommodate variance. Another reason for variance is running a 30-minute schedule on a route that takes 35-40 minutes – you’re always behind schedule. Essentially, Shane’s argument is that if you run the buses continually, you’ll get the maximum passenger volume regardless of the reasons for bus bunching and schedule variance. (I disagree.) We both agree that customer satisfaction would be improved with a reliable schedule. Shane and I agreed to temporarily put down our theories and focus on the resultant data from the experiment.

We recognized that the red bus schedule is divided into 5 segments: (1) morning rush, (2) late morning, (3) early afternoon, (4) afternoon rush, (5) nighttime. We agreed to

work on segment #2 (approximately 9:50 to 11:35) first, and conduct a one-week experiment (see *RIOC Column*, this issue). After segment #2, we’ll work on segment #1. It is important to recognize that the overall approach is incremental, not all-or-none, so we won’t lose any prior successes in one segment while we work on improvements in other segments.

Regarding the so-called problem of buses “waiting in the bushes”: Just as you expect at the beginning of a subway or bus line, buses will be waiting briefly at Octagon and the tram to synchronize with the schedule – there is no implied laziness of the drivers.

We’ll keep you posted on experiments, schedule changes, and results.

2. **Adult Softball:** We’re still organizing teams. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Sunday on Capobianco Field (across from PS/IS 217). Bring your bat and glove. The tentative schedule of the short season: co-ed league; slow pitch; 6-12 arc; 1-1 starting count; play at Capobianco Field; Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., May 17, 31; June 7, 14, 21, 28; July 12 (championship).

3. **RIRA Blood Drive on June 6, Roosevelt Island Day.** RIRA volunteers will be at the greenmarket on Saturdays through June 6, so please sign up!



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

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
10:20, Shoppers’ Bus
11:00, Arabic
2:00, Bingo
2:00, Paint & Sculpt
7:30, Games (RISA)

Wednesday
9:30, Yoga
10:30, Computers
10:20, Shoppers’ Bus
10:30, Spanish Class
7:00, Pokeno (RISA)

Thursday
9:30, Get Stronger Bones
10:30, Creative Arts
11:00, Arabic
12:30, Movie

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

Saturday
7:30, Bingo (RISA)

Special Events
Senior Day, Sun., May 17

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The RIRA Column

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VOTE FOR THE RIOC* BOARD

*Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation

Tuesday, May 19

BUILDING	HOURS	VOTING LOCATION
Octagon	6:00 am – 10:00 am 10:00 am – 4:00 pm 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Octagon Lobby Good Shepherd Community Center Octagon Lobby
Southtown	6:00 am – 10:00 am 10:00 am – 4:00 pm 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm	455 Main St. Lobby Good Shepherd Community Center 455 Main St. Lobby
Island House, Manhattan Park, Rivercross, Roosevelt Landings, Westview	6:00 am – 9:00 pm	Good Shepherd Community Center

All RI Residents, 18 years or older, can vote in the RIOC election, including non-citizens and those registered to vote elsewhere.



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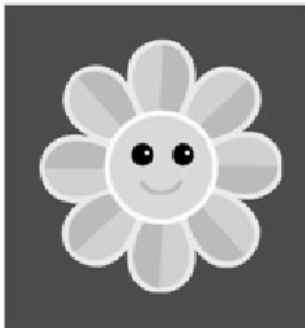
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Statements of Candidates for the Community’s Nominations to Seats on the RIOC Board of Directors

The WIRE asked all candidates for the community’s nominations to the RIOC Board to provide statements of up to 800 words; those statements, unedited, are reproduced on these two pages.

VOTE
TUESDAY,
MAY 19

About Tuesday’s Voting:

You will be voting for **up to two** candidates. (You may vote for only one, but not more than two.) If you mistakenly mark your ballot for more than two candidates, or otherwise spoil your ballot, ask the pollworker for a replacement ballot form.

All Residents Should Vote:

All Roosevelt Island residents 18 or older are eligible to vote, regardless of length of residency, country of citizenship, or voter-registration status. (This is a Roosevelt Island election conducted by the Roosevelt Island Residents Association. It is not an official government election.)

Where and When to Vote:

The election will be conducted all day Tuesday, May 19, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Voting locations are:

Octagon residents:

- 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., vote at The Octagon.
- 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., vote at the Good Shepherd Community Center.
- 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., vote at The Octagon.

Manhattan Park residents:

- 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., vote at the Good Shepherd Community Center.

**Residents of
Westview**

Island House

Roosevelt Landings (Eastwood)

Rivercross:

- 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., vote at the Good Shepherd Community Center.

Southtown/Riverwalk residents (475 Main Street and lower):

- 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., vote at 455 Main Street.
- 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., vote at the Good Shepherd Community Center.
- 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., vote at 455 Main Street.

If You Have a Question on Tuesday:

Call 917-517-8572.

Alternate number after 11:00 a.m. only – 917-273-1883.



Lee Edelman

I’m not a politician.
I’m an entrepreneur, and I am a successful one.
The hallmarks of a successful entrepreneur are creativity, sharp analytical ability, organizational savvy and tenacious follow through. These are all qualities I will bring to the RIOC board and will demand of RIOC. These have been sorely lacking.

Personally , my wife, Kasia, and I set down roots here in1992 at the time of the birth of our son. Over the years I have developed a deep understanding of the subtleties of this Island (Island Kids the Halloween parade, the youth program to PS/IS 217, etc.). With this understanding a passion invariably grew in me fomenting an agitation to do what I can to ensure that it is not only protected but strengthens and grows.

Over the years I have been involved in several Island efforts and organizations, most notably The Maple Tree Group and Island House Tenants Association . This involvement along with my entrepreneurial skills have given me broad experience with RIOC and the subtle details and twists and turns, both public and behind the scenes, of the various RIOC administrations present and past.

With my solid entrepreneurial abilities and experiential perspective, I plan to approach the position as director of RIOC in a strong, no-nonsense way. I will not play games. I am not a politician. The RIOC board has not been responsible in its mandate to control, run and develop “a new community”, has had no creative vision, has been wasteful and inefficient, never carried out thorough analyses and has failed in its roll in overseeing and insuring a proper and well run organization. To reverse this failure the steps that the board must immediately take start with the following.

1) The RIOC board must immediately search for the best possible person to hire as president . It is the responsibility of the board to have the best possible talent running, administering and building this Island and community. The only people who have a realistic possibility of doing this are those who know the Island, the residents. The RIOC president works for the board. For far too long it has been the other way around. Priority number one is to correct this, to right the ship.

2) The RIOC board must set up a process to review the staffing positions and salaries of all RIOC personnel. Never has any analysis been done to determine how qualified and efficiently personnel are assigned and utilized and their appropriate levels of compensation. This is priority number two.

3) The Main Street stores have been vacant for far too long. The best approach is an “in-house” approach. We must not give a “master lease” to an outside organization. When this is done, we lose control and direction over our own community. Instead we should:

A) Develop a clear mission: potential store operators who have a unique creative vision, a passion and heart for what they do, organizational ability and enough capital to make it reasonably viable. Priority to be given to certain types of services and commodities that the community needs.

B) Work with these entrepreneurs to make them successful. Take a creative approach to the rents, e.g. allowing them to start with low or even no rent and escalate later as they get off the ground and/or work on a percentage of the gross. As stores open and a creative and unique flavor develops along Main Street, make a strong commitment to insure success by advertizing them to Octagon, Southtown and the wider City.

D) Much has been made of the limitations imposed by the Public Authorities Act. The fact is the Act has a broad exemption in it. Once an appraisal has been obtained, the community can utilize the property at other than market rate for the common good. Certainly this is the case here.

I have outlined my abilities, my background, my passion and how RIOC and the RIOC board have let the community down. I have clearly shown the direction I will take as a director and have outlined some positions that require immediate attention to insure that the changes, that are long overdue, are made to correct the problems and build on our strengths.

We must show the Governor, the Mayor and all those who inhabit the political realm what is needed: the proper direction to ensure that our community will flourish as a creative, vibrant and enriching place to live.

Election from page 1

Governor David Paterson continues to hold the final authority to put people on the RIOC Board, which consists of nine people. Two serve by virtue of their positions in New York State government – a representative of the Division of the Budget, and the commissioner heading the Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), who chairs the RIOC Board (currently Deborah VanAmerongen).

The remainder of the Board members are chosen by the governor, with two recommendations coming from the city’s mayor, by virtue of the 99-year lease under which New York State is developing and operating Roosevelt Island, which is part of New York City. RIOC, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, is the entity which handles those tasks for the state.

Of the 10 candidates who sought RIOC Board seats in the 2008 election, four now serve on the Board: Dr. Kathie Grimm, Jonathan Kalkin, Fay Christian, and Howard Polivy, who replaced Michael Shinozaki starting at Thursday’s meeting. Three other appointees, all residents, complete the board membership: David Kraut, Patrick Stewart, and Charlee Miller. Kraut was reappointed in 2008. Tuesday’s successful candidates could replace Miller, who has announced her intention to leave the board, and Stewart, whose term has expired.

Appointment of one additional community nominee will give community nominees a majority of the board seats; appointment of both chosen on Tuesday would put community-chosen members in six of the nine seats.



Tammy Jackson

Greetings fellow residents! I am running for a seat on the Roosevelt Island’s Board of Directors. I desire to utilize my excellent communicational and professional skills to give back to my community what it has already given to me and my family. I am originally from Columbus, Ohio. I moved to Roosevelt in 1989 with my son and have been living here ever since. Over these twenty years I successfully raised three children and have seen the progress that we have made throughout the years; however, I still see problems that I desire to fix.

First, I want our residents to feel secure about their housing. By working closely with our landlords I believe that we can keep our low and middle class residents secure and safe in their homes regardless of their current or future income status. This is a program that some of our landlords are now accepting and I hope that they will continue to accept so that families will continue to have descent residency to raise their family, especially being a single parent like myself.

Secondly, I want to provide fair and quality assurance to our merchants so they can continue to provide Roosevelt Island’s residents and employee’s with good quality of service, that I have experienced for the past 20 years.

Lastly, I will always work closely with those that provide great services for our youth so they have fun and educational indoor and outdoor activities to be involved in. I want our youth to start preparing at an early age for the great challenges that lie ahead for them in their fast coming future.

Most of all there are many issues on Roosevelt Island that have to be resolved concerning tenants, business owners, and employees that still have not been addressed. I continue to hear many of the same concerns that I heard during last years’ election. Allow me to take your feelings, ideas, and opinions and let them be heard, worked on, and finally resolved.



Michael Shinozaki

My name is Michael Shinozaki and I am declaring my candidacy for the elections to the RIOC Board selection list. I have been a resident of Roosevelt Island since 1991. I met my wife (Lynne Strong-Shinozaki), got married, and have been raising three children on Roosevelt Island. I have been employed by the Microsoft Corporation since 1995, and am currently assigned to the Microsoft Federal Services Team.

In December of 2004, I was confirmed by the New York State Senate as a mayoral appointee to the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation Board of Directors. While discharging my term of office, my wife and I have sought to serve the community’s many issues from improving the lighting, to park and tramway construction issues, housing issues, to improving the quality of the RIOC management. During my term I have endeavored to increase the recognition and involvement of the Island community with the board by regularly requiring input from RIRA Common Council representatives during Board session. For the first time, a percentage of the Board is now drawn from the community by popular vote.

While the island has come a long way from its condition four years ago, it faces many challenges in the road ahead. There is great concern over some of the large projects under way on the Island. The Board will require a diverse set of talents to oversee these wide-ranging issues:

- Tramway Reconstruction
- SouthPoint Park Construction
- Development of the Island commercial spaces
- Housing issues
- Potential NYC development on the current hospital locations
- Island operations

I believe that it is a duty and honor to serve the community through representation on the board. Therefore, I seek the community’s consideration to continue to serve as one of their elected designees to the board’s selection process.



Margie Smith

I’m running for the RIOC Board and I’m asking for your support.

I believe very strongly that the people who live here should have a voice in the management of the island. The RIOC Board oversees day-to-day operations and our future growth. I believe that Board should be made up of qualified residents who care about the present (and future) state of the Island, and who are elected by the residents.

I’ve lived here 30 years. Obviously, I like it. What I don’t like is the way it’s becoming run-down, the empty storefronts, the crowded F train, the splintering of the community, etc. We have major problems with transportation, affordable housing, future development and much more. These issues must be addressed by the RIOC Board.

I believe I have the qualifications to be on the Board, based on both my community involvement and my business experience. I promise, if elected and appointed, to do everything in my power to see that every resident’s voice is heard, and every decision is made within the context of what’s best for the Island as a whole.

My Community Involvement

Over the past 5-10 years, here are some of the areas where I’ve participated:

- Vice President of RIRA 2004-2006
- Rivercross Board member 2004-Present
- Rivercross rep on RIRA Common Council for 6 years
- Chair, RIRA Gov’t Relations Committee 2002-Present
- RIRA Social-Cultural-Education Committee 6 years
- Member, of Icla DaSilva Foundation
- Several special projects at Gallery RIVAA
- Member, Community Emergency Response Team
- Worked with multiple Island groups to help organize Island-wide events, such as Movies@Southpoint, Roosevelt Island Day, Fall for Arts Festival, fundraiser for Roosevelt Island House in Sumatra for Tsunami victims, 9/11 Memorial in Good Shepherd Plaza, RIRA dances on the pier, etc.

My Business Experience

- Currently Director of Administration for a brand-licensing company. Responsibility for overall operations, contract administration, facilities management, personnel, etc.
- Prior to that, 20 years as a management consultant to several Fortune 50 companies. Assignments aimed at increasing revenue/decreasing expenses while maintaining levels of customer service and enhancing corporate image.
- Before that, Director of Education for a major NYC bank, responsible for training needs of 2,000-person Consumer Banking Division.
- And prior to that, I was Assistant VP, Private Label Credit Cards, for an international banking entity.

My View on Island Issues

There are a myriad of issues, too many to mention here, but, in my opinion, the most pressing ones are:

Affordable Housing – We must support Eastwood (Roosevelt Landings) in efforts to solve submetering problems; we must support Island House, Westview & Rivercross in efforts toward affordability plans.

Empty Storefronts – No reason to still be empty – They must (and can) be leased to viable merchants.

Island Maintenance – Broken sidewalks, chipped signs and railings, faded crosswalks, Motorgate (need I say more?).

Transportation – Red bus schedule, overcrowded F train, alternate transportation during Tram renovation – we must have a plan that works and is flexible.

Future Development – If any, it must be responsible development that protects our character and our open spaces.

One Community – No matter your building or when you arrived, we need to become one community again.

Financial Solvency – Are we or aren’t we financially stable for the long term? We need a real answer.

I feel strongly that my background qualifies me to be on the RIOC Board. I understand the business issues involved in running an organization the size and scope of RIOC. I also understand the customer service aspects of the job. Residents are RIOC’s customers, and we need more communication between RIOC and residents.

Roosevelt Island, in my opinion, is the best place in New York to live. The people are great; views are spectacular; the potential is extraordinary. We have to make sure it lives up to that potential. I care about the Island. I’ve worked hard in the past. If elected and appointed, I’ll continue to work hard. I’m asking for your vote.



At Thursday’s meeting of the RIOC Board of Directors, RIOC President Steve Shane (center) presented a plaque to Michael Shinozaki (left), thanking him for his service, and welcomed Howard Polivy (right) to the Board. Polivy, who was among the community’s nominees in the election of February, 2008, assumed Shinozaki’s seat. Shinozaki is running, in Tuesday’s election, for a community nomination to return to the board.



Also on Thursday, David Kraut marked 15 years on the RIOC Board.

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JUNE 5 @ 7:30 PM
JUNE 6 @ 2:00 PM
JUNE 7 @ 7:00 PM
....
Kaitlyn Abdul
Lauren Abdul
Nora Allison-Weiser
Emmet Ashton
Maya Averbuch
Melanie Beby Robert
Joan Marie Cusick
Gabe Decker-Lee
Sarah Jo Dutilloy
Sarah Geny
Chloe Goldmansour
Stephanie Herlihy
Sameer Kurien
Jake Saunders
Adam Schultz
Natalie Schultz
Mollie Wichtel

JUNE 6 @ 7:30 PM
JUNE 7 @ 2:00 PM
JUNE 8 @ 7:00 PM
....
Henry Aberle
Emmet Ashton
Nora Allison-Weiser
Gabe Decker-Lee
Sarah Jo Dutilloy
Anthony Fallone
Sarah Geny
Chloe Goldmansour
Stephanie Herlihy
Sara Meltzer
Yilinas Mqadi
Lilliana Nishihira
Sarah Palmer-Garrett
Natalie Schultz
Emily Schuman
Samantha Stone
Mollie Wichtel

BOOK AND LYRICS BY SAMMY BUCK
MUSIC BY DANIEL S. ACQUISTO
DIRECTOR - SOFIA LANDON GEIER
MUSICAL DIRECTION AND CHOREOGRAPHY - PHILLIP BETTENCOURT
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - M. J. GEIER

FRIDAY, JUNE 5 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, JUNE 6 2:00 & 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, JUNE 7 2:00 & 7:00 PM
MONDAY, JUNE 8 7:00 PM

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Tickets on sale at Box Office

Sat. May 16, 7:30 pm
Sun. May 17, 2:00 pm
Mon. May 18, 7:00 pm

Fri. May 15, 7:30 pm
Sat. May 16, 2:00 pm
Sun. May 17, 7:00 pm

Directed by
Carla Steckman

Musical Direction and Choreography by
Phillip Bettencourt

Music by
Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by
Lynn Ahrens

Book by
Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty

Co-Conceived by
Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty

Based on the works of
Dr. Seuss

Music Supervised, Adapted and Produced by
Bryan Louiselle

Malleigh Ashton Jonah Bobo Willa Decker-Lee Brandon Ewing Dolan Gallagher Payton Gallagher Ella Garrett Jane Garrett Danielle Herlihy Brock Lucas Maria Meriton Kira Narine Auste Norilla Janessa Parker Jorane Robert Lee Saunders Lucy Saunders Ty Scanlan Sara Serfaty Mahnoor Shah Kendall Strain Abby Thompson Dyami Vieira Imani Vieira	Madison Abdul Georgia Bobo Isadora Braune Maddy Chen Adrian Chobla Billy Cusick Nahnsu Dawkins Alexander Enoch Andrew Enoch Patrick Fallone Emelia Farance Annie Fleury Andrew Herlihy Rehana Hirji Noelle Ike Jordan Johnston Emily Leopold Sabrina Loureiro Karina Loureiro Jake Lucas Gabrielle Monge Carmela Ruiz Kayla Tang Michael Tang Illiana Wong Wilson Wong
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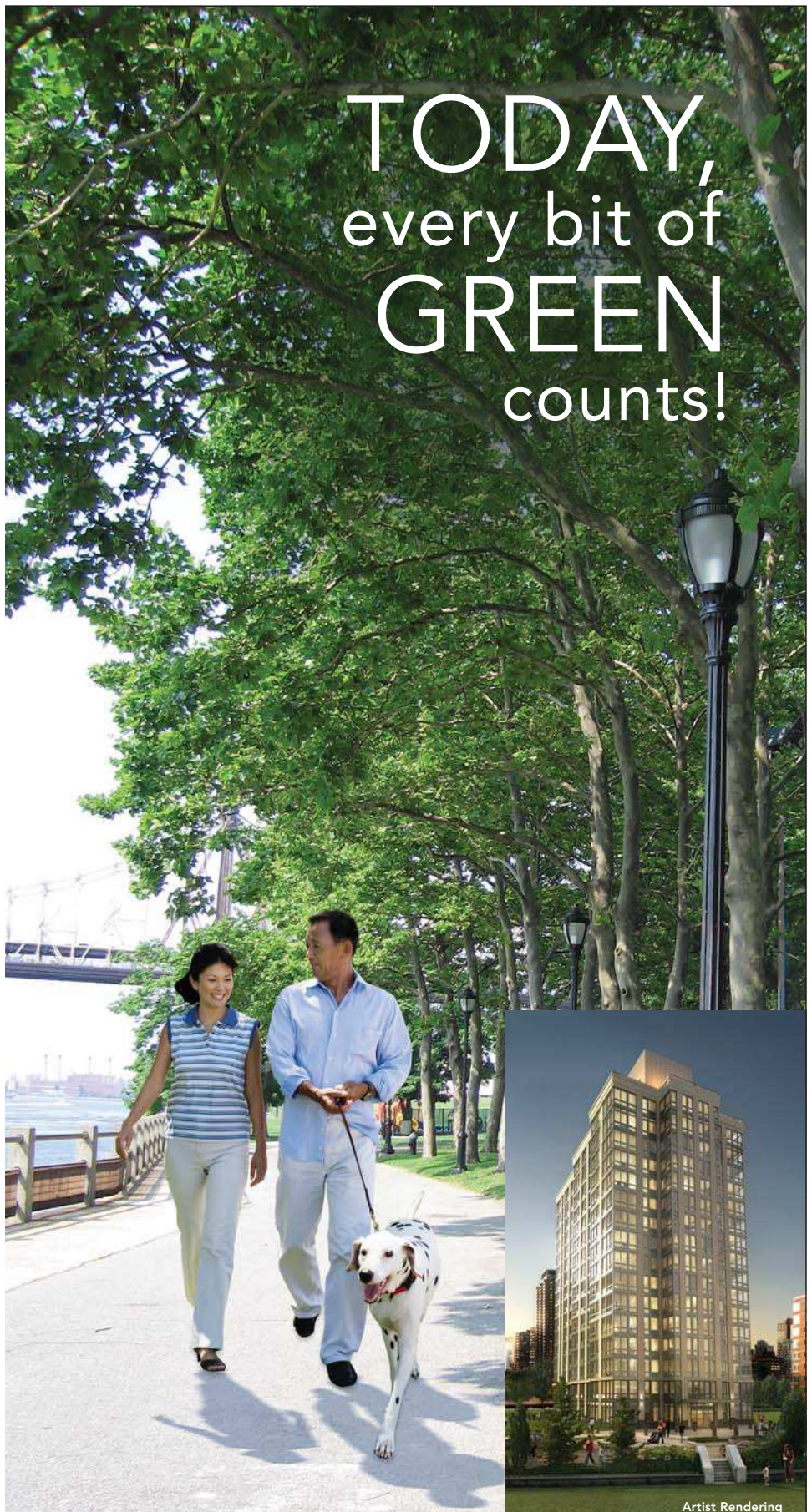
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Housing

Rivercross May Have Deal For Leaving Mitchell-Lama

Rivercross is approaching another step toward independence from New York State’s Mitchell-Lama affordable-housing system, with a plan that preserves full affordability in a fifth of its apartments and some measure of affordability in the rest, and aims to preserve long-term affordability for all existing residents.

Under a plan apparently supported by the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), 20% of the cooperative’s apartments will eventually be sold to qualifying newcomers at Mitchell-Lama-like prices, while higher price caps will be placed on 80% of the units.

The building’s Board of Directors told residents, in a memorandum dated May 1, “We believe DHCR is supportive of a reconstituted Rivercross leaving the Mitchell-Lama program in return for preserving long-term affordability for current and future shareholders.” It goes on to indicate that details are still under discussion with DHCR, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), and the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC). RIOC holds power over the building’s ground lease; ESDC must pass on any tax abatement that becomes part of a deal.

“Basic terms of the proposal include the following,” said the memo. Paraphrasing, in part, the

terms are:

- Extension of the building’s ground lease to 2068.
- Continuation of tax benefits under the existing arrangements.
- Allowing existing shareholders to sell at approximately \$350 per square foot.
- Sale of 80% of the apartments at \$500 per square foot.
- Use of the \$150 per square foot price difference for three purposes:
 - To upgrade the building for energy efficiency
 - To keep maintenance charges affordable
 - To subsidize lower-price sale of 20% of the apartments to new buyers who meet annual income levels somewhat below current Mitchell-Lama income levels.

In meetings with shareholders, building resident Sanjiv Tandon, who has worked on the plan with DHCR, said that probably two years will pass before any program goes into effect. Once DHCR, ESDC, and RIOC all agree to the terms of a deal, a “black book” offering plan must be prepared, after which the state’s Attorney General will conduct a review that could take 18 months.

Both Island House and Westview are also working on resident ownership plans that could involve departure from Mitchell-Lama, but would be likely to protect any tenants who would prefer to remain as renters.



Randall’s Island Program Set for Library on May 28

by Janet Falk

Randall’s Island, where many children now play in organized sports leagues, was once home to a very different population of children. Professor Julie Miller of Hunter College will describe the history of this New York island on Thursday, May 28, at 6:30 p.m. It’s the third of four free presentations sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society at the library (524 Main Street).

Dr. Miller explains that, in the 19th century, it was so common for unmarried mothers and poverty-stricken parents to abandon their infants that a procedure was developed to handle such cases. A police officer or passerby might spot an infant, bundled with a few clothes or modestly valuable items, in a sheltered spot. Generally, the castoffs were brought to the Police Department’s nursery on Mulberry Street. When a few had been assembled there, they might all be taken to the Bellevue Hospital dock on the East River at 26th Street and carried onto a ferry under the care of a nurse. After stops at Blackwell’s and Ward’s Islands, the boat would arrive at Randall’s Island and the babies would enter the Infant Hospital, which had been built in 1869. It was operated by the Department of Public Charities and Corrections.

As described in Miller’s book, *Abandoned: Foundlings in Nineteenth-Century New York City* (New York University Press, 2008), “The Infant Hospital was a grand, hopeful gesture in masonry. Standing on the western (Manhattan) side of the island, and facing the green hills of the Bronx (then part of Westchester

County) to the north, the three-story brick and stone building consisted of a central pavilion with wings extended east and west. Festooned with porches, gables, and turrets, and with a jaunty American flag flying from the top of the central pavilion, the building was, according to one observer, “in the most approved style of modern hospital architecture.” The building stopped admitting foundlings in 1907. It was demolished in the 1930s.

Sadly, most foundlings died in infancy. The ones who lived stayed at the Infant Hospital until age two or three and were then transferred to another institution.

In addition to the Infant Hospital on Randall’s Island, there was a publicly run Nursery Establishment (as the city called it) for older children, also run by the Department of Public Charities and Correction. There was also a privately run reform school on what was known as the “children’s island.” Most of the workers at these institutions were paupers or convict inmates of other institutions run by Charities and Corrections.

It was difficult to get to the islands, but the public was well aware of conditions in the institutions, which steadily grew worse. In the 19th century, reporters, public officials, and even groups of firemen visited the Randall’s Island institutions. Author Louisa May Alcott wrote about her experiences there for *The Youth’s Companion*, a popular magazine for children.

Prof. Miller’s book will be available for purchase at the May 28 session.

The Island on the Web

Compiled by Rick O’Conor
rooseveltislander.blogspot.com

- Roosevelt Islander* – Red Bus Schedule Experiment – [tinyurl.com/qsp5tv](#)
Roosevelt Island 360 – Seeks Paper Tram Model – [tinyurl.com/czzpz4](#)
Roosevelt Island Dogs – Applauds Improvements – [tinyurl.com/q9wxtw](#)
City Room – Gifted/Talented Program at PS/IS 217 – [tinyurl.com/c5xgty](#)
NBC New York – Lappin Explains Tram Deal – [tinyurl.com/cg3coc](#)
You Tube – Roosevelt Island Recession – [tinyurl.com/pwfdvc](#)
You Tube – Future of RI Subway Crowding? – [tinyurl.com/4xs4vs](#)
Daily News – Speed Of Priority Mail – [tinyurl.com/c3r2hz](#)
NY Observer – Octagon and Riverwalk Rentals – [tinyurl.com/c8u8vm](#)
Roosevelt Live – Summer Concert Series – [tinyurl.com/qu9ydh](#)
The Bowery Boys – Podcast Roosevelt Island History – [tinyurl.com/qlz2k9](#)
Sail Net – Navigating River Near Roosevelt Island – [tinyurl.com/caq8sb](#)
Daily News – NY World Laughter Day Led By RI’er – [tinyurl.com/cwfarn](#)
Newsday – RI Children’s Tennis Teacher Dead – [tinyurl.com/c56ulp](#)
PSFK – Vertical Farm for Southpoint? – [tinyurl.com/SPTscheme](#)
Retro Info – Bike Tour Passes Roosevelt Island – [tinyurl.com/pe7eem](#)
Contact Music – Rapper Visits Coler-Goldwater – [tinyurl.com/qp2cvw](#)
Chelsea Now – Resident, 95, In Senior Talent Show – [tinyurl.com/r4ccho](#)
Veronica Wallstrom – BBQ At The Octagon – [tinyurl.com/oy7avn](#)
New York Nitty Gritty – Blackwell House from Above – [tinyurl.com/q5t6bj](#)
In Love Of We – A Necessary Music – [tinyurl.com/okubbw](#)
NYC Bridges 100 – Q’boro Bridge Centennial – [tinyurl.com/dhn5w4](#)
You Tube – Noah’s Roosevelt Island Baseball Game – [tinyurl.com/ohqwp4](#)

Family Court Advice Available Tuesday

Residents who need advice on Family Court matters can get it on Tuesday, May 21.

LIFT – Legal Information for Families Today – will bring counselors to the Good Shepherd Center on that day from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., for one-on-one sessions. They’ll handle questions like, “How do I modify a child-support order?” and “What do I do if I take custody of my grandchild?”

Assemblymember Micah Kellner is sponsoring the event.

The executive director of LIFT is Melissa Beck, who grew up on Roosevelt Island. “It’s extremely important to me to bring the LIFT programs to Roosevelt Island fami-

lies,” she said. “Particularly in this economy, more than ever before, New Yorkers are facing Family Court without legal representation.” Kellner said, “Too many go through the Family Court system each year unaware of their rights and responsibilities, and unable to advocate for themselves and their children.” He praised LIFT as providing “invaluable help to parents, grandparents, and other family members trying to navigate the Family Court system.”

No appointment is required. The event is free and open to all.

For additional information about LIFT, call **212-343-1122** or check [www.LIFTonline.org](#).



I’m taking my second five-day bike ride in the Israeli desert in the spring. The ride is a fundraiser to help the Arava Institute bring peace to the Middle East. Arava is an educational institution devoted to post-graduate studies in ecology, the environment, and water resources. Its students are Jews and Arabs who spend a year living together in Arava’s dormitories.

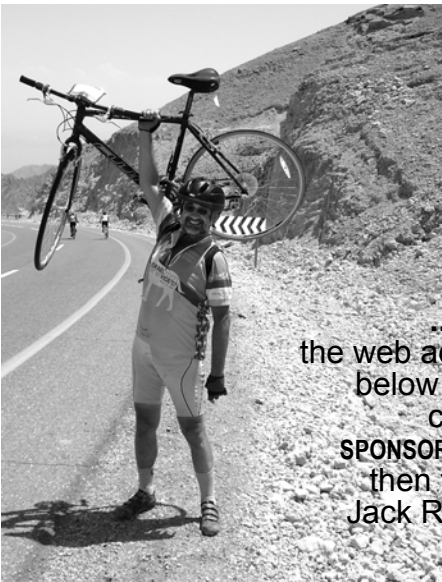
When I met many of them on my 2007 bike ride, I saw the best hope for a peaceful future – West Bank and Gazan Palestinian Arabs, Jordanians, and Israeli Jews who recognized that they share the same small piece of the earth and have to work together to solve its problems.

Arava is my favorite charity, and I hope my fellow Islanders can help me help it grow. Connect to this *YouTube* video to see some Arava grads on CNN – [tinyurl.com/helparava](#) – or contact me via [JackResnick@gmail.com](#) or at **212-832-2310**.

Jack Resnick, M.D.

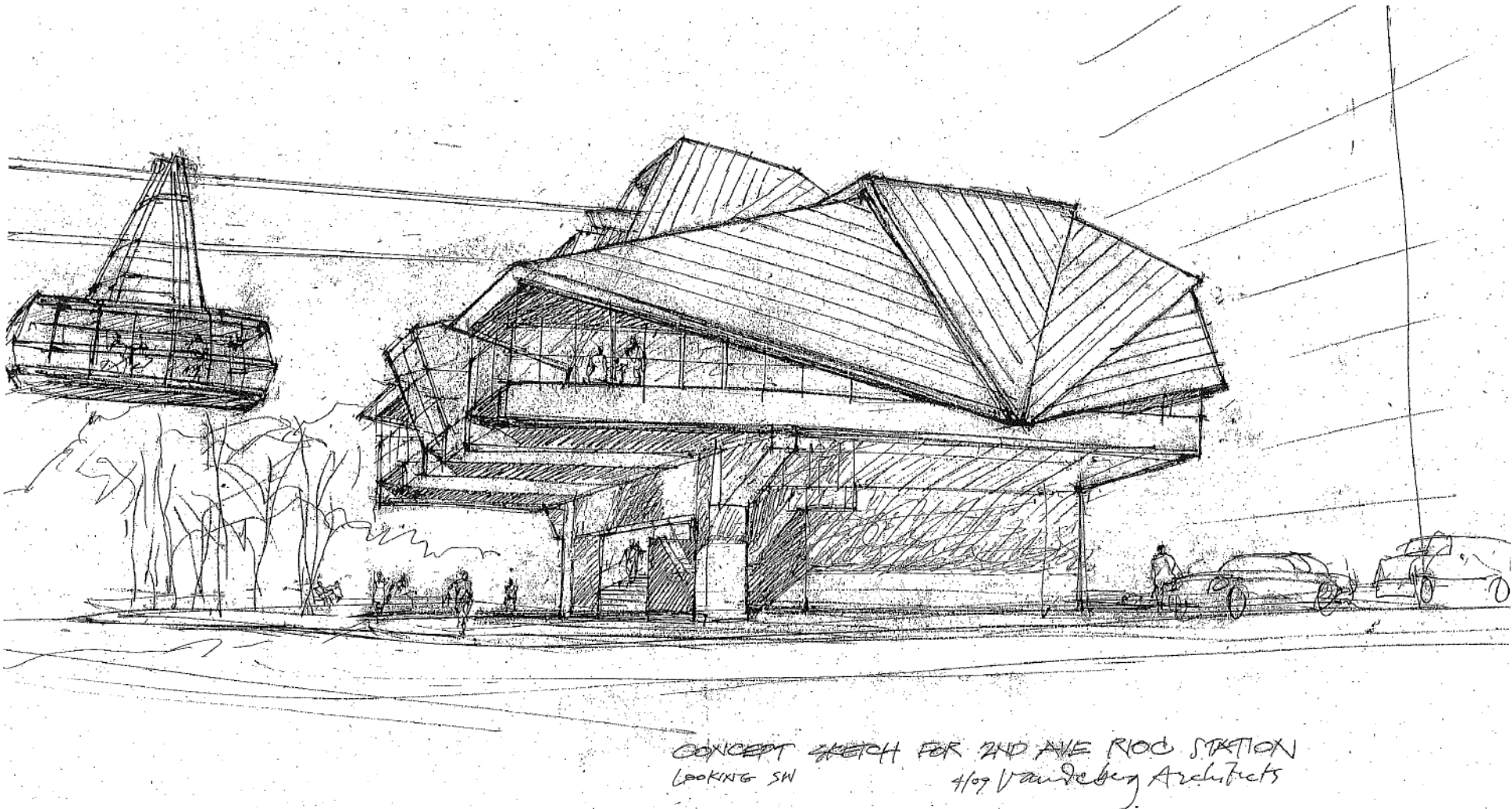
<http://tinyurl.com/SponsorResnick>

If you would like to support my ride to bring peace to the Middle East, please...



...Go to the web address below at left, click on SPONSOR RIDER, then type in Jack Resnick

Concept Sketch for Manhattan Tramway Station



Latest Rendering: Tram Cabin Design



Dis[^]Subway Service

May

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	15	16	Grey: No service to Manhattan 12:01am to 5:00am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23*	
24*	25*	26	27	28	29	30*	
31*	1	2	3	4	5	6	June
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Darker: No service from Manhattan 12:01am to 5:00am
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	July

As usual, all information is subject to change.
*No daytime service to Manhattan on these weekend days.

Wondering What to Do With an Old Cell Phone?

RIOC is providing collection stations for *Cell Phones for Soldiers*, a program in which unused cell phones (old, obsolete, or replaced) are collected and sold for disassembly or refurbishing. The funds are then used to purchase calling cards for troops overseas so that they can keep in touch with their families.

The program hopes to collect over 50,000 cell phones this year. On Roosevelt Island, there are collection stations at three locations:

- RIOCI offices, 591 Main Street
- Tram Plaza (island side)
- Public Safety temporary headquarters, 504 Main Street

Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded by two teenagers from Norwell, Massachusetts, Robbie and Brittany Bergquist, with a pooled fund of \$21. Since then, the organization has raised over \$1 million and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to members of the armed forces.

Over the next five years, the project hopes to raise \$9 million or more. Donated telephones are reconditioned and sold to wholesale companies in some 40 countries, or they are dismantled and their components recycled.

There's additoinal information on line at www.CellPhonesForSoldiers.com.

The Main Street **WIRE**™

Approaching the start of its 30th year as Roosevelt Island's community newspaper, *The WIRE* is a demonstration of how important an independent source of news is to a body politic. *The WIRE* runs on **volunteer** power. Volunteers help with writing, photography, editing, proofreading, "stuffing," and distribution.

Be part of it. There is a place for you. Call Dick Lutz at **212-826-9056**.

At The Octagon Gallery

review by David Stone

Fifteen members of RIVAA have come together to present a small, representative show at the Octagon’s free, public gallery. With the exception of Arline Jacoby’s delicately assembled, thought-provoking construction of glass and stone, *Painter and Sculpture in Nature*, the collection consists of photographs and paintings.

Toshiko Groner’s pastel still life, *Nature’s Bounty*, which subtly shifts between muted earth tones, offers a pleasing variation from work that she offered in a two-person exhibit immediately preceding this one.

Nearby, Bonnie Goodman’s ambitious and complex *Collective Unconscious* is an intensely surreal depiction of shared psychic space that deserves a long, thoughtful look. Fortunately, in the quiet, uncrowded confines of The Octagon, that freedom is readily available.

One of my favorites in this exhibit, one that caused me to go back for a second, indulgent look, was Rachel Garrick’s mysterious and beautiful, three-dimensional water color, *Geishas Fan on Fan*. The painted fan exposed inside a glass-covered frame is both original and unexpected.

Valeriu Boborelu’s acrylic *Blue Space* shows resurgent blue energy splashing through a surrounding border of mostly deep green, suggesting a clearing sky breaking through clouds in a universe made up only of intense feeling.

Deborah Julian’s *Bologna* is a thoughtful meditation on the rhythm and beauty of daily life in this not-so-well-known Italian city. The digital image places the viewer discretely in the position of unobserved observer.

Two rural images, Georgette Sinclair’s impressionistic pastel, *Morning Haze Vermont*, and Beatrice Popoiu’s ink jet print, *Northern Burlington*, capture serene settings that come off as images of harmony discovered off the beaten path.

Rounding out the highlights in this show is Ioan Popoiu’s thoughtfully modulated *Shadow 2009*, a painting intended to offer something much deeper and complicated than simple good looks.

Also showing in this exhibit are notable works from other RIVAA members well worth a stop by The Octagon to discover and enjoy. The show will remain at this gallery until June 21. (Photos below.)



Nelly Falcon



Nelly Falcon died early this month. *The WIRE* has not yet received obituary information.

Sam Rodriguez

Sam Rodriguez died last Saturday, May 9, two days after his 74th birthday.

Sam, along with his surviving wife, Lillian Rodriguez, was a Roosevelt Island pioneer who arrived in August of 1975. He leaves his wife; a sister, Judy Collazo; and a brother, Hector Rodriguez, along with three nephews, a niece, four great-nephews, and three great-nieces.

Sam, the son of Venancio and Marina Rodriguez, was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, though he grew up in the Bronx.

He held the same job from age 18 onward. At Grand Central Station, he put up theater posters. He never missed a day of work until a few years ago, when he was sick for a brief period. He returned to work, and never missed another day until September, when he was struck with his final illness.

On Roosevelt Island, recalled a neighbor, Sam called everyone “Mommy” or “Poppy,” because he had trouble remembering names. It was common for him to kiss a woman’s hand in greeting. “He was a real flirt,” said the neighbor.

In 1977, he became the first and last recipient of Roosevelt Island’s *Best Neighbor Award*. It’s never been awarded since. His fellow residents recognized him for a broad variety of service – getting up at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings to prepare the Little League fields, helping to build a barbecue area in Octagon Park, helping to build a soccer field, selling hotdogs at games, and working tirelessly in the community garden.

“He was the friendliest, happiest guy you’d ever want to meet,” said a neighbor, who told the story of Sam pitching softball in his tuxedo. “He loved that tux,” though, one year, he wore a white Caribbean outfit. “But he would even barbecue in his tux.” He rarely left Roosevelt Island, said the neighbor. “He loved it here and, for years, Lil couldn’t get him to go on a trip.”



Behind the Renwick Ruin, pallets of numbered stones (photo below at left) are stored for future use in the restoration effort.



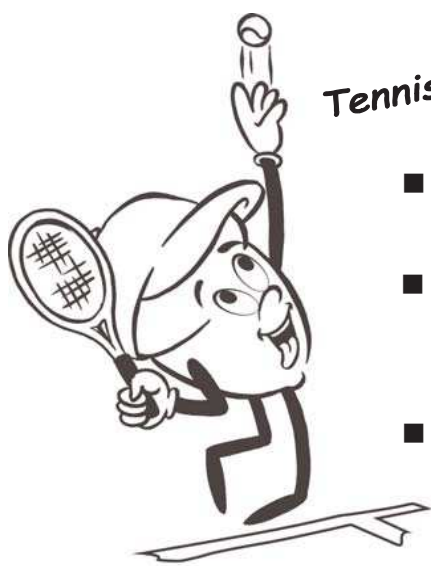
Progress at Southpoint Park on the Renwick Ruin



ROOSEVELT ISLAND RACQUET C L U B

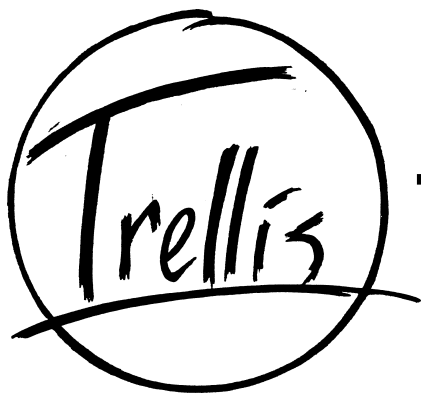
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Fields from page 1

each occasion," he says, "someone at Rivercross called Public Safety and we were forced to leave." He also inquired about using the baseball field to the south of the Octagon building and was told by RIOC that it is under repair and not available for use.

Christianson reports that her grandson's Little League team tried to practice in the courtyard of Island House on Saturday, May 2. She says that, in that confined space, her grandson was hit on the head with a bat and she spent five hours at Elmhurst Hospital emergency room while he received attention.

Charles DeFino, the director of the Youth Center, which sponsors the Roosevelt Island Little League, sees things differently. "I want to make it clear that this sit-in had nothing to do with the Little League," he told *The WIRE*. The action was directed by a group of adults who object to off-island residents being allowed to use the playing fields, limiting the time available for use by island residents. We are careful to observe the rules and to adhere to whatever schedule we are given. I think it is wrong for parents to use their children in this way."

DeFino said that on the sit-in Saturday, the first game began late because of an earlier rain and that he and three parents spent an hour clearing puddles and spreading the last two bags of a drying substance to make the field playable.

DeFino says that the game in dispute did not go into the sixth inning because of the "mercy rule" in Little League play. The rule

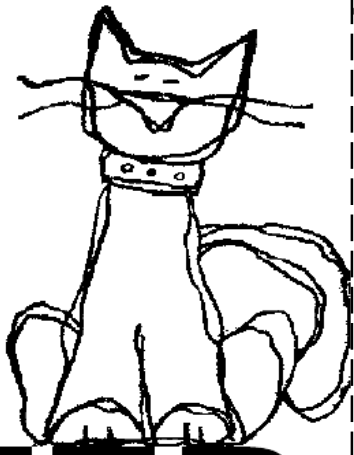
states that after four innings, if one team has a lead of 11 runs or more, the losing team will have one last at-bat to reduce the difference to less than 11. If that effort is not successful, the game is called. DeFino says that the score was 13-1 in the April 25 game, the mercy rule was invoked, and the Little League managers, coaches, and officials gathered their equipment and left. He says it was at that point that some of the parents who were present instructed their children to sit on the pitchers mound. Some of the children involved had played in the abbreviated game and some had been there as spectators. DeFino stressed that the action taken was in no way sanctioned by the Little League or the Youth Center, and was entirely the responsibility of the parents involved.

Donna Masly, RIOC's playing field coordinator, told *The WIRE*, "There is always free play time available on at least one of the fields." She consulted her computer program for the week beginning Monday, May 11, and found that all playing fields with the exception of Octagon Field were available for free play each day until 5:30 p.m. For Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17, her computer also showed free time late in the afternoon.

Octagon Field is currently being repaired, with reseeded and other work to make it more durable. RIOC hopes to have it back in service by fall.

Masly said that April and May are the busiest months for the playing fields because

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CAT SITTER

that is when the city's softball leagues are in action. Roosevelt Island plays host to teams from three different off-island softball leagues, with occasional use by other off-island teams. "I make sure that island groups are scheduled before any from off the island," she says, adding that requests from the Youth Center and The Child School are taken starting January 1, with off-island groups able to apply starting January 15. "Sometimes the island groups are a little slow in applying," Ms. Masly says, "but I hold off on the schedule until I hear from them."

Recognizing that a problem can be caused by games that run long, Masly has incorporated a 15-minute window between the ending and starting times when two groups succeed one another on a field.

Fees for use of the playing fields range from a standard \$45 per hour for island groups to as much as \$195 an hour for off-island groups. The fees are higher for after-dark use of the Octagon Soccer field, when the lights are turned on. RIOC President Steve Shane says that the fees are placed in

the general revenues of the corporation and dispensed by RIOC as needed.

In response to parent requests, Capobianco Field was left entirely open for free play last September, October, and November, except for some junior soccer teams who used it two or three times each week. During the summer, free time is much more available, especially on weekends. This year, if Octagon Field is back in use by September, Capobianco Field will again be reserved for free play.

Parents who are not satisfied with the condition of a field are encouraged to call Public Safety, which will then contact RIOC's Grounds Department and arrange for corrective measures to be taken.

Parents who wish to find out where and when free time is available can call Donna Masly at **212-832-4563** Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. On Tuesday and Friday, she can be reached at **212-832-4540** from noon to 8:00 p.m.

After June 1, availability of free time will also be found on the web at rioc.com.

COMING UP from page 2

Queensboro Bridge Centennial Lecture, *The Bridge Through the Eyes of Gridlock Sam*, with engineer Sam Schwartz, **Wed Jun 3**, 6pm, NY Library of Science, Madison at 34th. Register at tinyurl.com/0603sam. Free.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial event, *History and Geography in the Environment of the Queensboro Bridge*, 6pm, led by Jack Eichenbaum, **Wed Jun 3**, northwest corner of 21st St. & 41st Av., LIC. Register at tinyurl.com/0603je. Free.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial lecture, art exhibit, reception, *Queensboro Bridge – a Vision Realized*, with artist Antonio Masi, **Wed Jun 3**, 6:30pm, Fardom Gallery, 21-17 41st Av., LIC. Register at tinyurl.com/0603am. Free.



Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed June 3**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial reception by Manhattan Borough President, **Thu Jun 4**, 6pm, Municipal Building, 1 Centre St., 19th floor south. Register at tinyurl.com/0604ss. Free.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial lecture/slide show, *Construction Impact of the Bridge*, **Thu Jun 4**, 7pm, 35-20 Broadway, 4th floor, LIC. Register at tinyurl.com/0604cib. Free.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial film screening by the Museum of the Moving Image, **Fri Jun 5**, 6:30pm, La Guardia Community College, Little Theatre, 31-10 Thomson Av., LIC. Register at tinyurl.com/0605mmi. Free.

Like You Like It, musical presented by the Main Street Teen Theatre, **Fri Jun 5**, 7:30pm; **Sat Jun 6**, 2pm & 7:30pm; **Sun Jun 7**, 2pm & 7pm; **Mon Jun 8**, 7pm. Tickets \$5-\$15, **212-371-4449**. (Ad, page 8.)

Roosevelt Island Day, **Sat Jun 6**. (Ad, page 5.)

Queensboro Bridge Centennial walking tour with Richard Melnick, **Sat June 6**, 10am, East Side Crescent St. & Queens Plaza North, LIC. Register at tinyurl.com/0606walk. Free.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial boat tour & lecture, **Sat Jun 6**, 1pm and/or 2:30 pm, Skyport Marina, 23 St. & East River. Register at tinyurl.com/0606boat1 (1pm) or tinyurl.com/0606boat2 (2:30pm).

Queensboro Bridge Centennial event, burial of time capsule, **Sat Jun 6**, 4pm, Tramway Park, Manhattan. Register at tinyurl.com/0606cap.

Roosevelt Live event, *Vintage DeeJay* (swing dancing), **Sat June 6**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

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

Democratic candidates for Public Advocate at Roosevelt Island Democratic Club, **Tue Jun 9**, time and place to be announced.

Roosevelt Live event, *Leah Siegel* (singer-songwriter), **Sat June 13**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Book Discussion – *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote, **Thu June 18**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

Roosevelt Live event, *Frances* (sextet) and ***The Fabulous Entourage*** (rock), **Sat June 20**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, **Mon June 22**, 8pm. Visitors welcome. Information: **212-751-9577**.

RIOC Board Meeting, **Thu June 25**, 9:30am, Good Shepherd Community Center.

Roosevelt Live event, *Steve Bernstein's Baby Loves Jazz* (recast children's music), **Sat June 27**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Preserving Ellis Island, **Tue July 7**, 6:30pm, Library, 524 Main St., with Judith McAlpin, President, Save Ellis Island. Fourth in a series presented by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society. Free.

Roosevelt Live event, *New Orleans in New York* with Brother Josephus and the Love Revival Revolution Orchestra, **Sat**

July 11, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Book Discussion – *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath, **Thu July 16**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

Roosevelt Live event, *Nation Beat: Dance Live Brazil*, **Sat July 18**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Roosevelt Live event, *Jones Street Station* with Diane Birch, **Sat July 25** (American music), 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Outdoor Film, **Mon July 27**, Firefighters Field.

Roosevelt Live event, *The Flanks* (underground country music) with ***Hawk & Owl*** (alternative bluegrass/rock/Americana), **Sat Aug 1**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Roosevelt Live event, *Wakey! Wakey!* (music), **Sat Aug 8**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Roosevelt Live event, *Dance Live / HipHop*, **Sat Aug 15**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Book Discussion – *Seven Guitars* by August Wilson, **Thu Aug 20**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

Roosevelt Live event, *Chicha Libre* (Latin/Peruvian music), **Sat Aug 22**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Roosevelt Live event, *Generate Records* (experimental music), **Sat Aug 29**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Roosevelt Live event, *Ethan Lipton Orchestra* (jazz/folk/country/blues), **Sat Sep 5**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed Sep 9**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

RIOC Board Meeting, **Thu Sep 17**, 4:30pm, Good Shepherd Community Center. Town-hall meeting, at end of formal session, for resident comments and questions.

Fall for Arts, **Sat Oct 3**.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed Oct 7**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

Halloween Parade, **Sat Oct 24**.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed Nov 4**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

RIOC Board Meeting, **Thu Nov 5**, 9:30am, Good Shepherd Community Center.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed Dec 2**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

Tree Lighting Ceremony, **Thu Dec 3**, evening.



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- Shavuot, Fri., May 29 at 8:00 pm

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-vo-sov Ve-tzi-vo-nu Le-had-lik Ner Shel
(**Shabbat:** Sha-bos Ko-desh) (**Shavuot:** Yom
Tov).

Translation: Blessed are You, Lord our G-d,
King of the universe, who has sanctified us
with His commandments, and commanded us
to kindle the light of the (**Shabbat:** holy
Shabbat) (**Shavuot:** Holiday).

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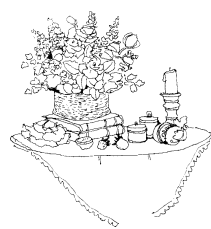
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