

Next issue
in 2 weeks:
Sat., June 13

The Main Street WIRE™

29th Year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper

Meeting, Groundbreaking Signal New Pace on Southpoint Earth Turned at "Green Gardens" Project, But FDR Park Rapped as Failing to Show a Disabled FDR

by Dick Lutz

For residents who have wondered whether Franklin D. Roosevelt's namesake island would ever contain a material tribute to him, Wednesday night's meeting at the Good Shepherd Community Center seemed to push the plan for the *Four Freedoms Park* somewhat closer to a targeted completion date late in 2011.

Yet, the project remains controversial – perhaps more intensely now that the start of construction is, in the schedules presented, less than two months away.

On Wednesday night, the most prominent objection came from a group of disabled residents, who protested the lack of any plan for a full-length portrayal of FDR as a disabled person who nonetheless excelled in life in general, and as a wartime president in particular. They carried signs, but listened quietly as a representative from the construction company, another from the architectural firm, and officials of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI) made what amounted to a repeat of several previous presentations – six in the last 12 months, by FERI's count. The report on an environmental impact assessment, the intended purpose of the meeting, was pro forma.

There were also esthetic objections. "Sterile" was one that seemed to drive not only at the trimmed-trees-and-stone motif, but also seemed to refer to the lack of any portrayal of FDR as disabled.



Virginia Granato

In the Q&A period that followed the formal presentation, the president of the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association, Virginia Granato, calmly presented her group's objection: "We feel that being disabled was part of who FDR was, as a human being, and he made wonderful contributions in spite of his disability, and not depicting this is a disservice to disabled and non-disabled alike. It's part of this island. This island has a history of disabled people. We've got two long-term care hospitals here. We feel slighted in not showing that he was a disabled person, and we would like to right this wrong."

Dr. Jack Resnick, physician to many of the community's disabled or homebound people, spoke moments after Granato, and set forth the basic question in a few sentences.

"It really is unconscionable that you could build a memorial to FDR, on Roosevelt Island, that doesn't recognize *why* the island is named *Roosevelt* Island," Resnick said. "The history goes back to 1921. Roosevelt gave a speech at a Boy Scout camp, and contracted polio. He spent the next seven years of his life away from the public eye. He went to Georgia, purchased a resort spa – Warm Springs – and began to exercise and rehabilitate. He opened it to anyone with polio who could get there. He spent more than half his fortune on Warm Springs, but it was clear that he couldn't support all the polio victims of the nation. So, he started the March of Dimes.

"He also saved us from Hitler. He had a few other important things to do, but not the least of these was promoting that [polio] foundation. He was known as a man who had polio, even though the degree of his dis-

See **FDR Park**, page 8



A light drizzle may have kept many away Thursday morning, but officialdom turned out, with some members of the press, for the debut of the newly stabilized Renwick Ruin at Southpoint Park. More photos inside and, in color, on *Website NYC10044* at nyc10044.com.

Voters Pick Smith and Shinozaki as Community Nominees for RIOC Board

Margie Smith and Michael Shinozaki are Roosevelt Islanders' nominees to seats on the RIOC

Board of Directors. The voting, conducted by the Residents Association on Tuesday, May 19, brought out 768 voters, a respectable number for an election conducted on its own – without the draw of an accompanying city, state, or national contest.

Those 768 voters made 1,371 choices (voters could mark their ballots for up to two of the four candidates) and gave Smith a runaway victory. Chosen on 75.3% of the ballots, she won over the other three candidates, in every building or building group, by a convincing margin.

Shinozaki, who served on the RIOC Board until he was replaced by the appointment of Howard Polivy early this month, received 318 votes (chosen on 41.4% of the ballots).

Lee Edelman drew 287 votes (20.9%). Tammy Jackson received 187 (13.6%).

Both winners will now await action by Governor David Paterson, who holds the final power to select RIOC Board members, with each choice then subject to state Senate approval, which is usually routine. Edelman's name goes to the governor as an alternate, in case one of the winners doesn't make it through the state's vetting process.

As might be expected, Smith was pleased. "What a great turnout," she commented. "We really sent

Albany a message that we want a voice in the running of the island." She thanked Assemblymember Micah Kellner for

his financial help in staging the election, as well as the RIRA Common Council members and Maple Tree Group members who ran the election. "I'm very proud to have been elected by you and I look forward to working with the other board members, the RIOC staff, and the community to keep the vision of Roosevelt Island alive and



Shinozaki

Smith

flourishing."

Kellner sent his congratulations to Smith and Shinozaki. "I have worked with both for many years," he said. "I know they are the kind of people who will be passionate and responsive voices for all residents of the island."

Shinozaki thanked the Residents

See **Election**, page 8

Bearded Bards Strum Again



Islanders Howie Leifer, Chris Fuller, and Matthew Katz, folksingers all, will play a return engagement today (Saturday, May 30) at 5:00 p.m., at the library, with possible surprise guests playing surprise instruments. It's a free "back by popular demand" appearance.



Briefs

Tram Upgrade Slips 2 Months

RIOC President Steve Shane reports in his column (page 3) that work on upgrading the tramway will be delayed two months, at the contractor's request. Shutdown is now expected in September, he writes, with resumption of service scheduled for February 2010.

• Meantime, the **elevator** at the Manhattan station is out of service due to mechanical difficulties, with no predicted date for completion of a fix.

• Without an announcement or warning, the MTA failed to get **subway service** restarted Wednesday morning. Overnight shutdowns in one direction or the other are set for at least the next several weeks. There's a calendar schedule on page 10.

• Tenants of **Urban American** buildings, including Roosevelt Landings (formerly Eastwood) rallied Thursday to ask mortgage-holder Fannie Mae to demand better maintenance and repair work in the company's buildings. To charges that his company does not have the cash to handle repairs, company president Douglas Eisenberg said the properties' finances are in good shape. Crains New York Business quoted him as saying, "Anyone who knows these buildings knows that they are in significantly better shape today than when we purchased them." A Fannie Mae official said, "We are taking steps... to compel owners to properly maintain the properties."

Letters

To the Editor:

Typical for RIOC, there has been no vote, quorum, consensus. A few complaints, someone makes a decision, and the safety force spreads the news in an ungrammatical laminated note dangling from a plastic twistee. Have they given it any thought? How about the people commuting to the island who leave a bike overnight at the subway? Should the safety patrol take possession of bikes during the night instead of keeping the island safe? Also, declaring a rule on Saturday for Monday is the most crazy implementation of any rule in any municipality. Nobody has time to move or sell his bike.

Here are four smart ways to handle it:

- Move the bike racks.
- Put in more bike racks.
- Clear the racks twice a month to identify abandoned bikes.
- Ticket bikes that violate the clearing rule and then remove them at the next clearing.

The RIOC solution to the problem of unsightly (abandoned) bikes is absurd. Fewer bikes means more cars. These bikes are a solution to another problem – pollution, crowding, fuel usage. Amsterdam has accommodated thousands of bicyclists for hundreds of years without a moronic governmental response. These rules are making people less environmentally conscious, less likely to buy things at your stores on the island, less likely to visit overnight, less likely to move here, and more likely to use their cars. Buildings are all going to have to clean up the mess of bringing bikes into the buildings during the winter. That is also quality of life.

Of course, we will all see the delivery bikes all over the subway area despite this new rule. The bike rule will be as selectively implemented as the parking rule that allows certain people to park their cars right in front of Manhattan Park, RIOC’s office, and the hospitals.

John Anderson

To RIOC President Steve Shane:

I know I need not point out to you that RIOC is the main reason we now have dogs on the island. Thank you. I like dogs, so I have no problem with that. But I believe RIOC has a resultant responsibility to regulate the behavior of dogs and their owners. The Southtown and Octagon dogs definitely enjoy the run of the island, so we need signage on all grassy areas prohibiting dogs from traipsing upon them. For decades, our grassy areas have served families who spread out on blankets with young children. I don’t think they should have to worry about what a dog may have left behind, be it liquid or solid.

Also, we need signage that tells folks to curb their dogs, and informs them that failing to scoop poop results in tickets and hefty fines just as it does in Manhattan. It is currently being amply demonstrated that Public Safety can merrily issue tickets.

I believe that dogs and families can coexist beautifully anywhere when the rules are established and enforced. I have twice called Public Safety requesting that they find and silence a dog barking long and loud on Main Street around 10:00 p.m. The owners of those dogs are not good neighbors and they should be fined.

I understand that the people who fail to clean up after their dogs can most often be found in the morning between 7:30 and 9:00, and in the evening from 6:00 to 8:30, and 10:00 to midnight. The area behind the building formerly known as Eastwood is prime, as is the unkempt lawn just south of the Riverwalk sales office. A little less so, because it is so public, is what is commonly referred to as Rivercross Lawn, which borders the southern side of that building. I have not ventured to the ends of the island, but would anticipate that they could be grievously abused.

I do realize that you can’t put pampers on geese, but they and the dogs are currently giving new meaning to the term “slide” on our ballfields, so let’s try to control what we can control.

Mary Cavanaugh

The MTA has finally reached a conclusion about my intelligence. And the same conclusion about yours. While these are not conclusions with which I agree, the very fact that the MTA has implemented changes based on its faulty findings tells me something about the collective brainpower at work in our local transit agency.

island observer

Reprinted from *The WIRE*,
December 15, 2007

Lest you miss these instructions (heaven forfend) and, as a result, suffer some terrible calamity, I provide the full list here:

- For your child’s safety, do not allow them to play on or near the escalator.
- Baby strollers, push carts, and pull carts are not permitted on the escalator.
- Please face forward while riding the escalator.
- Avoid the sides of the escalator.
- Please do not sit on the steps or the handrail.
- Please watch your step when getting on and off.
- Please, no materials on the escalator.
- Please hold the handrails.
- Please be careful while riding the escalator.
- Have a nice day.

For that first one, we’ll give the escalator D minus for shattered grammar.

Had I been tempted to cozy up to the sides of the escalator, or to sit on a handrail, I would have had only seconds to do it, then be warned, then get off, for this is the shortest escalator at the subway – a ride lasting no more than 17 seconds – during which the MTA has crammed in one minute and 43 seconds of announcements deemed crucial to a successful escalator experience.

The WIRE is now collecting comments about the MTA’s talking escalators in an e-mail account, MTAyammer@gmail.com. When a respectable number of comments have accumulated, the MTA will be given the password to the e-mail account.

And, should I be managing a baby stroller and learn, halfway up, that *Baby strollers... are not allowed*, am I then required to toss baby and stroller over the side? Is this really when I can most effectively be provided with that particular instruction? And if my hands are full of holiday packages, what am I to do when instructed, *Please hold the handrails?* Perhaps we need further, more detailed lessons from the MTA on how to behave when riding their elevation devices.

Oh. One more thing. The escalator that was preaching at me? It was immobile. Not *moving*. But *speaking* very clearly.

DL

To the Editor:

Concerning the MTA escalator announcements, I suggest the following approach: The MTA is apparently unconcerned about the safety of its non-English-speaking escalator riders. The MTA posts other safety instructions *and event advertisements* in multiple languages, but the audio escalator announcements are only in English. If the announcements are indeed necessary, they should be made in at least a dozen languages. This is not just a Roosevelt Island issue; the announcements are heard in other subway stations as well.

I am also sending this note to MTAyammer@gmail.com [see *island observer*, below].

In addition to adding their own message there, residents with additional energy to spend on this annoyance might also try to interest local print, radio, television, and online media in this story. If you’re successful, we’ll all be grateful.

The MTA’s disrespect of its non-English-speaking riders should not continue.

Que tengas un buen día.

Marc Diamond

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 e-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com or on a disk 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.

Letters deadline
for June 13 issue:
Tuesday, June 9

COMING UP

– This Weekend –

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. Sponsored by Riverwalk. Information on weekly events through Sep 5 online at roosevelltlive.com.

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

Queensboro Bridge Photo Exhibit, May 31-Jul 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 will be closed. Viewing from Roosevelt Island promenades, Gantry Park, Queens, other locations. Free.

– Continuing Events –

The Queensboro Bridge at 100 show at Gallery RIVAA, thru Jun 28, co-sponsored by RIVAA and the Historical Society. Gallery hours Sat-Sun 11am-5pm, Wed & Fri 6-9pm.

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 –

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, 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.

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.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed Jun 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.

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COMING UP from page 2

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 7.)

Roosevelt Island Day, **Sat Jun 6**. (Ad, page 7.)

Living Library Planting, **Sat Jun 6**, as part of Roosevelt Island Day, 9am-1pm, PS/IS 217 school yard.

Queensboro Bridge Centennial walking tour with Richard Melnick, **Sat Jun 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 Jun 6**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

— Future Weeks —

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

Democratic candidates for Public Advocate at Roosevelt Island Democratic Club, **Tue Jun 9**, 7pm, Good Shepherd Community Center. Information: **212-308-1366**. (Ad, page 6.)

The Main Street WIRE — Next issue **Sat Jun 13**. **Advertising Deadlines:** Ads in the paper, Wed Jun 3; decision date on circulars/inserts, Tue Jun 9; they are due Thu Jun 11. **Additional issues in 2009:** Jun 27 (Fourth of July issue); Jul 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, *Leah Siegel* (singer-songwriter), **Sat Jun 13**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

Water Tunnel #3 lecture/slideshow, **Tue Jun 16**, 7pm, St Jean Baptiste Community Center, 184 E 76 (@Lex), with Scott Chesman, PhD. (Water tunnel #3 runs under Roosevelt Island.) \$10 suggested donation. RSVP to mm1566@nyu.edu.

Book Discussion — In Cold Blood by Truman Capote, **Thu Jun 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 Jun 20**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

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

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

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

Preserving Ellis Island, **Tue Jul 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 Jul 11**, 4pm, Riverwalk Commons (between 425 and 455 Main Street). Free.

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

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

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

Outdoor Film, **Mon Jul 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 L'ive / 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.



The RIRA Column

1. RIOC Board Nominee Elections. Congratulations to Margie Smith and Michael Shinozaki in the elections. Thank you to Lee Edelman and Tammy Jackson for participating in the election process.

2. Progress on RIOC-RIRA collaboration on red bus schedule. Because of some scheduling anomalies during the week of May 22, we decided to postpone the red bus schedule experiment to the week of June 1. In short, this experiment applies only to segment #2: late morning, approximately 9:50-12:00 noon. Although the experimental schedule for the Octagon local is for buses to leave at 9:55, 10:10, 10:25, 10:40, 10:55, 11:10, and 11:25, I recommend that you arrive 5 minutes early during this test. The goal is to see whether we can have a reliable bus schedule that also connects with departing trams.

3. RIOC wants your input on the new Blackwell Park. RIOC architects to hear from residents on Blackwell Park at June 17 RIRA Town Hall meeting.

May 29, 2009

1. Board of Directors: Howard Polivy's appointment by the governor and Senate confirmation completed. 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 has produced candidates whose names are now in the pipeline.

2. Southpoint: A press event commemorating the completion of the preservation of the Renwick Ruin and the start of Green Rooms/Wild Gardens was held 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 is doing rough grading, paths, and stone walls. Phase 2 will be to 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, Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, etc. FERI has delivered its environmental analysis to RIOC as lead agency as part of the SEQRA environmental review process. The environmental analysis has been posted on our web site and disseminated to *The WIRE* and the blogs. A public meeting was held on May 27, where the FERI group again presented their project and answered questions. If all the deliverables required under the conditional designation agreement are in hand, the board could make its final determination at the June 25 meeting. RIOC has been in consultation with the state's Division of the Budget and 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. At this writing, many details remain to be finalized.

3. Tram: The 30th birthday of the tram was celebrated on Monday afternoon, May 18. Cake was served and a videographer interviewed residents for tram stories. The kids did their own signboard birthday card.

Overhaul: The schedule for a July shutdown and December reopening seems to be shifting. The contractor, POMA, has requested sliding the window of closure to accommodate redesign changes in the structural elements, principally the tower heads and the necessary bracing. Design and fabrication of the various elements is well advanced. Spools of cable have been shipped from Europe. Final details of cabin design are completed and fabrication is under way. Scheduling of tower reinforcing and top replacement, cable pulling, street and park closures, crane locations, etc., with permitting for everything is ongoing, but is dependent on the schedule as established. My best guess is a shutdown in September and a reopening in February. Better coordination with architectural work at the two stations will result. I met again with Community Board 8 on May 5. Architectural work for tram stations is proceeding. A preliminary sketch of the Manhattan and Island stations will be posted, as it is an evolving concept.

4. 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, replace the façade at Sportspark, and make improvements to PSD. Public Safety has tem-

The RIOC Column

porarily relocated to 504 Main Street while the work is being done. Replacing the HVAC system for Good Shepherd, fire alarm system at Sportspark, swimming pool resurfacing, and architects for the new Tram Park all approved.

5. Bank: RIOC received advice from New York National Bank that it would close its branch at 615 Main Street on June 6, but due to the potential of Amalgamated, NYNB will stay open until July. 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. We have promised to maintain a substantial deposit with Amalgamated on the order of \$10 million, subject to an emergency.

6. Southtown: Buildings 5 and 6 moving toward completion. Landscaping being finished and reports of sales are positive. The roadway in front of the tram is paved, and the fountain in the turnaround will follow.

7. 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.

8. Bicycles: To clear what is becoming an increasing problem, the bike racks at the subway station and tram had 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 48 hours, the bikes will be donated. The purpose is to encourage bicycle riding by making sure there is space in the racks for commuters and not for long-term storage.

9. Fireworks: We are asked to host the fireworks to accompany the 100th birthday of the Queensboro Bridge on the evening of May 31 at 9:00. Southpoint Park will be closed, as that is where the fireworks will be staged, but good viewing should be available along the seawall.

10. Health & Fitness Day, Saturday, May 16: Commendation ceremony for Public Safety officers, basketball and ping pong tournaments, games and exhibitions, great weather, everyone seemed to have fun.

11. Red Bus: Our joint scheduling experiment with RIRA to see whether there is an improvement in service has been postponed, as the week of initial trial turned out to have the Child School closed because of a swine flu occurrence, and a short week followed. We are going to try, during the week of June 1, to schedule the three red buses on the route from approximately 10 to 11:30 so as to leave the Octagon at 9:55, 10:10, 10:25, 10:40, 10:55, 11:10, and 11:25. Each bus will wait at the tram to pick up the passengers and return northbound. A 45-minute loop is built in to account for unpredictable events along the way. Predictability should be enhanced, although waiting



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



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

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**
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**
1:00, **Bridge**
1:30, **Korean Games**
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Saturday
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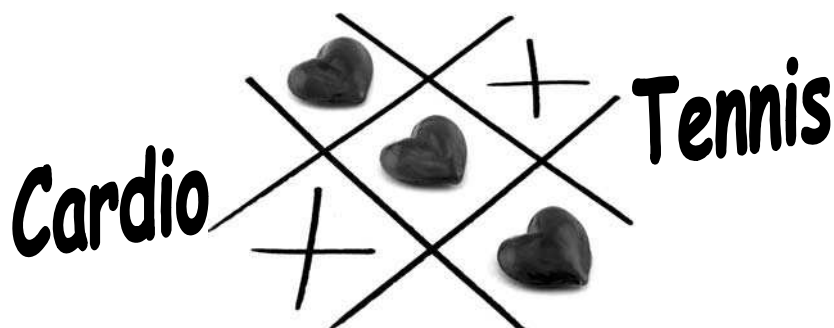
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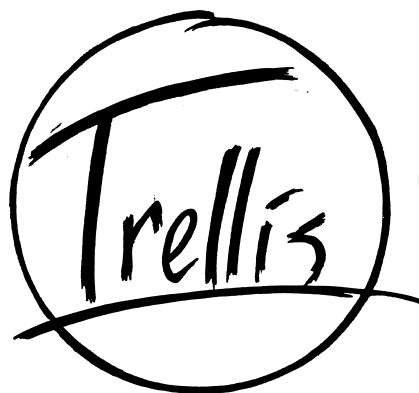
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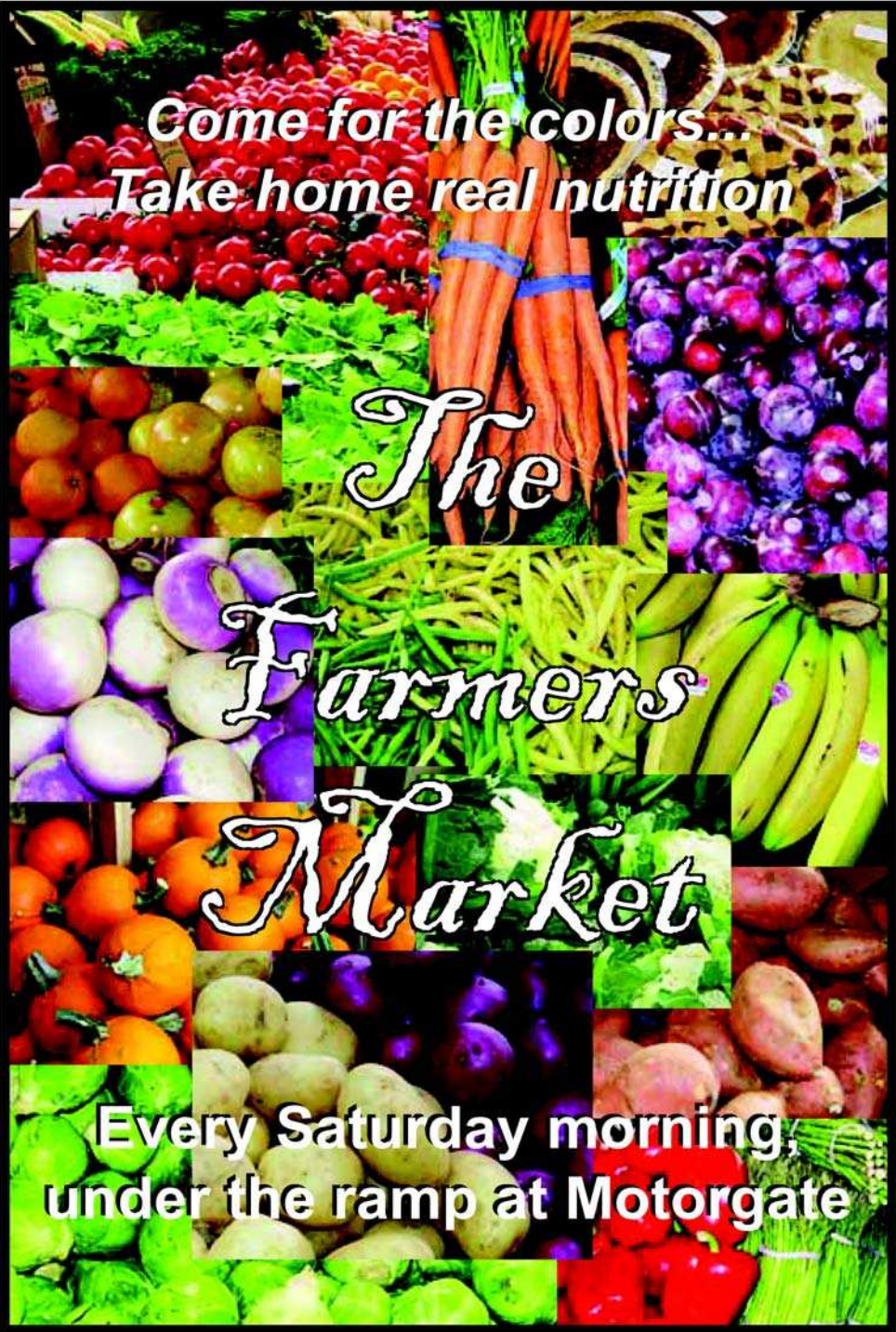
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FDR Park from page 1

ability was fairly hidden in those days.”

Resident after resident then hammered away at the “insult” – lamenting the failure to acknowledge Roosevelt’s disability with a view of him in a wheelchair.

Sally Minard, president and CEO of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park, responded to most of these comments by pointing out that showing Roosevelt as a disabled person “is not the purpose of this park.” She emphasized repeatedly that the park’s specific purpose is to celebrate Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms. “There are other ways and other places in the park where it can be very clear that Roosevelt was crippled and never could stand or walk alone. We are not ignoring or blind to the significance of his situation. When they renamed Welfare Island to Roosevelt Island, it was a celebration of FDR’s vision for the world. Our point of view is that there are other places and other ways [to recognize his physical limitations] than the single depiction that we plan in the park.”

“It was never our intention to show a full figure of Roosevelt when the Four Freedoms Park was designed,” Minard said, speaking of the design by the late Louis Kahn. “It was not to focus on that aspect of his life, but to celebrate his vision for the world and the promise of the Four Freedoms... *Freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of expression, and freedom of religion.* Those are the words that will be engraved in the room [at the southern tip of the is-



Members of the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association want FDR depicted in a wheelchair in the planned park.

land]. It’s his vision of the world that we were fighting for [in World War II] that is the purpose of the park.” Minard pointed out that the park has a view of the United Nations, and that FDR was instrumental in its creation.

“The choice of the bust by sculptor Joe Davidson was made at the time the park was designed [in the ’70s], and it was approved by the Roosevelt family, and by the



Dr. Jack Resnick

Roosevelt Institute. It was chosen because it was everyone’s favorite, and it belonged to FDR, Jr. It never was our intention to show a full figure.”

Minard continued, “We also have a very strong respect for Roosevelt’s own strong preference. He lived the most public of lives but he chose throughout his life to keep his disability private.”

“It was a different time,” responded one of the disabled residents holding a protest sign.

Resnick responded, “That you could come to this room with these people and say such a thing in the 21st century is beyond belief.” He was then interrupted by RIOC President Steve Shane, who asked him not to be argumentative.

The residents there to speak on behalf of the disabled weren’t satisfied.

Historical Society President Judith Berdy joined those calling for some representation of the physical difficulties FDR overcame. “When I was a student, in 1966, I came here, to Goldwater. Goldwater had open wards of young people, some of whom are in this room, living in iron lungs. Our history of this island has always shunted off the disabled, the prison, the almshouse, the poor. It’s been put away, put on the side. It’s true. It’s time that we reflect more on FDR and his disability.” Berdy observed that in the ’20s and ’30s, concealing a disability was

common, suggesting that times have changed.

“I feel it is time for reconsidering some of the aspects of this memorial to make it more accessible, and perhaps changing some of the depictions of FDR. Showcase his disability. That will show this island’s history of caring for people – taking those no one cared about and taking care of them and making them at home here.” She said the park should celebrate the whole man, including his disabilities and abilities.

“There are other ways and other places in the park where it can be very clear that Roosevelt was a man who was crippled and never could stand or walk alone,” Minard responded. “No one is trying to



Donna Cusano

avoid talking about it or writing about it.”

But nothing Minard or others said satisfied those speaking for the disabled community, and subsequent speakers suggested the FERI representatives were deliberately “not hearing” the disabled point of view. The unspoken theme appeared to be that FERI intends to stick closely to the Louis Kahn design, which has led critics to suggest the park is more a monument to Kahn’s architecture than to Roosevelt or the Four Freedoms.

Donna Cusano, a Manhattan Park resident, agreed with Resnick, but also said she didn’t like Louis Kahn’s design. “I am one of a normally silent group of people who have thought from the beginning that the revival of the Kahn project was a very poor idea. Why? The usage of public funds at a time and place where it is inappropriate, [and] the memorial itself is sterile, and has absolutely no context for the Four Freedoms.”

“At Hyde Park, there is no shrinking from the fact that Roosevelt was disabled... Part of what FDR did was to bring polio to the forefront so that the search for a cure [could be energized].

“I believe [the park] it is going to be nothing but a defacement. The allee of trees remains as ugly as before. We have lost the open space at the south end of the island



Sally Minard

to this park... “Rethink this. It’s just a wall of trees. The feeling up in Hyde Park is anything but that. You guys are off-mission. You haven’t rethought the mission in terms of the 21st century.

This is not a memorial to Louis Kahn. If you want to make this meaningful for FDR’s life, make it really emblematic of the Four Freedoms. Open this up. Put it in context. If you’re going to be spending public money, rethink it.” But the park had its supporters among those who spoke. Mary Camper-Titsingh said, “I would not be here except for Roosevelt because I was living in England when the bombs were dropping, and he brought people here to safety. I was one of them.

“I like the idea of a bust,” Camper-Titsingh said. “He always avoided being shown that way [as disabled]. We would be not very nice to his memory if we didn’t honor his preference. That doesn’t mean I don’t have sympathy with people in wheelchairs. I can see why they would want this. But this man was bigger than just this one thing. He was just a giant. We are so lucky to have a famous architect design this park. Europe has many such parks honoring their people. We don’t have so many. We should have one. I am grateful for your efforts.”

Longtime resident Ivens Stanton called the park “an excellent gift to the island, to the nation, and to the world.”

People in the audience of about 90 responded with applause to most resident comments.

The technical description of the construction process made it clear that FERI plans to start construction in July, and projects a completion in December, 2011, making it a two-and-a-half year build. Though it is divided into three phases, Gina Pollara of FERI said that division was primarily for fundraising purposes when working with the annual budgets of legislators and government enti-

Continues next page

Election from page 1

Association and the residents who voted. “I extend thanks to all the folks in RIRA for working diligently over the years to make this electoral process a reality – and the many volunteers who worked to make it happen. Following what I hope will be a smooth appointment and confirmation process, I look forward to working with Margie and the other board members on many issues facing Roosevelt Island.” Depending on the speed of the appointments process, Shinozaki could resume a place on the RIOC Board after missing only one or two of its monthly meetings.

Edelman thanked “all those who encouraged me to run.” Tammy Jackson said she is “looking forward to return again for the 3rd time this coming November,” apparently anticipating another election then, though none has been scheduled. (None is likely unless there are unexpected departures from the RIOC Board.)

Analysis

The voting suggests that residents who cast ballots on the 19th, taken as a whole, were keenly aware of the candidates’ levels of involvement in the community. Smith has a strong record of service in the Residents Association. She’s on the Rivercross Board of Directors, has been involved in staging movie showings at Southpoint, and has a decade of involvement with the Maple Tree Group (MTG), which has been working for nearly 12 years to democratize the governance of Roosevelt Island.

Shinozaki’s service to the island has been focused on parent activities, but his record on the RIOC Board has been one of questioning management decisions and bringing the perspective of an analytical engineer to the board’s decision-making processes.

Lee Edelman, whose vote count fell only 31 votes short of tying Shinozaki, has been involved with MTG from time to time and has been an outspoken public critic of the RIOC Board. In

his Candidates’ Night appearance during the run-up to the voting, he lambasted the board for too often simply going along with the agenda advanced by RIOC’s paid staff – in particular, its appointed president.

Tammy Jackson, probably best known for having tried in 2008 for a community nomination to the RIOC Board, also came in last in the earlier contest, in which 10 candidates ran.

How soon the governor will act to replace RIOC Board members whose terms have expired is unknown. While he acted reasonably quickly on three of the four nominees (Kathie Grimm, Jonathan Kalkin, Fay Chistian) chosen on February 5, 2008, some 15 months passed before Howard Polivy was seated.

Charlee Miller, a board member since late 2006, has decided to leave her seat when her term ends in June. Patrick Stewart’s appointed term expired several years ago. Under the law, board members serve until replaced.

				Vote breakdown by development/building						
	Total votes	% of votes	% of ballots	Ewd	IH	Ww	Riv	MP	Str	Oct
Smith	578	42.4	75.3	127	62	50	162	60	72	45
Shinozaki	318	23.2	41.4	77	31	31	69	31	59	20
Edelman	287	20.9	37.4	34	36	22	66	31	60	38
Jackson	187	13.6	24.3	58	19	13	27	33	22	15
Votes	1370			296	148	116	324	155	213	118
Ballots			766	182	80	62	197	86	112	7
Ballot count as % of apts in bldg				18.1	20.2	17.5	54.0	7.8	8.9	3.4

Note: 162 voters voted for only one candidate rather than the possible two.

Queensboro Centennial Gets the Bridge Its Own RIVAA Show

review by David Stone

Which Queensboro Bridge do you see? Like most prominent objects on the New York City skyline, the bridge being celebrated this year on the 100th anniversary of its completion is controversial. (Most would be surprised to hear that another historic landmark was once widely known as the Empty State Building.) My home is a good example.

My wife enthusiastically photographs the bridge from all angles and in all kinds of weather. She *raves* about its beauty. And I see, well, a bigger-than-it-needs-to-be edifice serving a utilitarian purpose and suffering esthetically from decades of neglected maintenance. The dichotomy of opinions is not unusual, but judging by the current show being mounted in a joint effort by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society and the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association at its gallery at 527 Main Street, our local artists side with the original designers, Leffert L. Buck and Henry Hornboste, working with then Commissioner of the Department of Bridges, Gustav Lindenthal, that “the design for any structure should be a fusion of art and engineering.”

Spelled or misspelled (take your pick) as The Queensborough or The Queensboro, the span sinking its foundations into our island is a double cantilever bridge with a total length between anchorages of 3,724 feet. Approaches nearly double that distance. Before opening to the public March 20, 1909, it took six years, \$18 million, and over 50 lives that were lost during construction. As a reflection of the changes a century can bring, the still incomplete reconstruction has gone on for 22 years at a cost approaching 20 times the original. Happily, today’s officials would never countenance the loss of 50 lives in the making of any bridge.

Moreover, like today, the bridge’s building was rife with controversy. Mayor George McClellan, the son of the man who failed both as civil war general and as presidential candidate against Abraham Lincoln, inherited the construction from Mayor Seth Low and promptly removed Lindenthal as Commissioner. Disputes over the design of the bridge, already partially built, erupted among business leaders, and labor disputes slowed

things down. The Pennsylvania Steel Company was caught adding tons of extra steel which had to be removed before outside engineers finally certified the spans safe for public use.

When you wander the Internet in search of comments on the bridge, the spread of opinion is great, and gets greater every time our local governments conjure ideas about tolls for crossing. Although the same can’t be said about Paul Simon’s song using the 59th Street Bridge as its title, nobody hates the bridge itself. At worst, it serves its utilitarian purpose.

A visit to *Connecting Islands and Generations – The Queensboro Bridge at 100* may well cause you to see the Queensboro (as the city now officially calls it) in a way you never have before.

Anchoring the exhibit space is a collection of images provided by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society. These focus on physical aspects of the

bridge, either in progress or in views that show how it has affected its surroundings over time. There’s a fetching winter view along the shore of the island, with the bridge seeming a shadow across the skyline. Contributing to the “bridge

is beautiful” opinion is a pastel by Leonard Slonevsky, *View From Our Window*, that is one of the highlights of the show, along with an oil copy of one of Edward Hopper’s chimera-like paintings from his perch in Manhattan.

Contributing photographer Richard Bachmann’s *59th Street Bridge* dramatically demonstrates how the bridge can fill the night with shimmering light, shot from a bird’s eye view north and west. Alexander Movshovich’s *From Below* celebrates the opposite perspective, showing a structure soaring powerfully out of a ghostlike background. *East River Pigeon*, Bernard Ente’s delightful black and white photograph, shows an actual bird posed as a lord surveying his Roosevelt Island kingdom, bridge and all, from an imaginary estate to the south.

Esther Piaskowski Cohen adds an electric touch in a series of photographic images that see the bridge with a painterly perspective. *On the Other Side* is an image of fleeting

spectral beauty, while *Queens Side Bridge I* and *II* show us a bridge ignited with colorful energies. Nearby, Deborah Julian sees a lyrical and complex flow of life passing in *Queensboro Bridge, 1:00 P.M.* and poses it next to her *River Crossing*, a poetic tribute to the marriage of tram, bridge, river, and the lands connected. These are joined by Akira Ruiz’s original *View of 59th St. Bridge*.

Among the paintings, Bonnie Goodman’s *After the Rain* is an evanescent island view seen through water. Georgette Sinclair’s pastels always stop a viewer in his or her tracks, and five presented here, two borrowed from private collections, are no exception. *Smoke Over The Bridge* will encourage you to see an industrial scene as you may never have seen one before. Bonnie Goodman’s whimsical photographs of Chinese figures posing with the bridge offer a light note.

One of the most beautiful and sentimental images I’ve seen here or anywhere else is Ioan Popolu’s stunning *Reflection 2*, a peaceful meditation on how nature and industry can coexist. Astonishingly, this photograph was topped for me by *Reflection 1*, a rust and gray image in which a miniature world is swept away in an uneven flow of time. Both are unforgettable.

Leading the charge for those who see the bridge as wonderful combination of function and elegance are the large photos of Tad Sudol and the mixed/acrylics of Chris Wiseman, examples of which can be seen from the street-

facing side. In his *QB, Enduring Strength*, Sudol demonstrates an architect’s eye for the powerful attributes of design, while his tri-perspective *QB100, Triptych* brings out the personal characteristics of the structure from an admiring friend’s view. Wiseman loves the bridge’s

soaring steel infrastructure, as perspectives dance and flow in luxurious harmony. His *Queensboro Bridge* series tilts your appreciation for design on the side of poetry.

Last but not least is the work of up-and-coming artist Laura Claire Dutilloy. Her mixed media *Penny Bridge* is delightfully playful and full of youthful celebration, not to mention a natural skill that should serve her well in years to come. Another youngster, Robert Simmons, contributed his acrylic, *59th Street Bridge*.

These and other valued works too numerous to mention here will be on view at RIVAA through June 28. An official opening was scheduled for May 28.



“Improv” Crowd Rallies Here, Following Recorded iPod Instructions

by Marianne Lau

People are simply fun to watch. And “improv” is a fascinating form of spontaneity where one never knows what will happen next.

Last Saturday, *Improv Everywhere* (improveverywhere.com) staged one of its events here, starting on the plaza over the subway tunnel.

Never mind the historic or social significance of the land where this took place (although this is a good way to get some perspective on the awesome phenomenon of Roosevelt Island history). People came to Roosevelt Island for this event to be surprised and to participate. Like kids opening presents on Christmas Day, everyone waited in cheerful anticipation.

When it got under way, it involved reaching out to strangers with high fives, handshakes, several naptimes, square dancing, a 20-minute walk to Southpoint Park while being told the story of *Peters and the Wolves*, and, finally, a mock battle at Southpoint Park where, in the end, participants stripped themselves of their colored overshirts and collectively fought against the last evil Wolf.

All this was orchestrated by participants’ listening to “Steve, the Omnipotent Voice,” and the stories he told – including some fictional Roosevelt Island history. The downloaded iPod recording was funny enough to deserve another, later hearing. But watching people as they listened and, en masse, followed Steve’s instructions, was even more entertaining.

It was an inviting and joyful way to kick off Riverwalk’s *Roosevelt Live* roster of events (see *ComingUp*, page 3, and rooseveltlive.com). It was colorful, invigorating, and, actually, inspiring.



FDR Park from page 8; starts on page 1

ties. She said that the intent is to make a seamless transition from one construction phase into another. Work would start with the “room” at the island’s tip, and would involve barging 36-ton blocks of granite to the site, where a 330-ton crane (also barged in) would place them to create the room. They will be six feet by six feet, and 12 feet tall, and inscribed with the Four Freedoms. Work would then begin on the periphery of the site, progressing toward the centerline. The architect who has taken over the execution of Louis Kahn’s design, Paul Broches, said that trees

have already been chosen and planted elsewhere to grow and be ready to form the allees lining the sloping grassy area that narrows as it approaches the room.

Half of the \$45 million cost is to be raised by FERI. The other half is to be split between city and state government, with the federal government contributing at least a small portion. Representative Carolyn Maloney is seeking federal funds for work on the promenades that will flank the site.

Residents remained concerned that, once the tribute room is built, fundraising will stall and the park will never be finished, or will be

delayed for years. Former Residents Association President Matthew Katz (now chair of RIRA’s Planning Committee) gave a statement to *The WIRE* after the meeting: “Only \$18.5 million, the cost of phase 1, have been raised for this \$45 million project. When I asked where the remaining \$26 million might be found in this economic climate, the answer was couched in rosy but, to my mind, unrealistic projections. It is likely that construction will dry up after phase 1, the actual memorial ‘box,’ is completed, as the monies so far earmarked for phases 2 and 3 are grossly inadequate and the poten-

tial for further fundraising is problematic.” Katz went on to point out that although FERI is a private foundation, the park is “essentially a public works project being built with major infusions of public money and on public land. When the RIOC board meets on June 25, I hope they will ask the hard questions involving the desire of this community to honor Roosevelt the paraplegic, and to ascertain the availability of the funds required to complete the full project. After all, the RIOC board doesn’t represent FERI, the Roosevelt family, the successors to Louis Kahn’s architecture firm,

the world architecture community, or the potential visitors to Southpoint Park. They represent us.”

In the meeting, FERI representatives sought to reassure residents that they “have no interest in not completing the park.” If there’s a delay after phase 1, they said, residents would have a passable regraded path, a reseeded lawn, and the removal of invasive vegetation.

Past *WIRE* coverage, available on *Website NYC10044* at nyc10044.com, has provided full descriptions and visual representations of the park, which have not changed in any substantial way.

The Island on the Web

Compiled by Rick O’Conor
rooseveltislander.blogspot.com

New York One – Renwick Ruin at Southpoint Park – tinyurl.com/SptPark
Roosevelt Islander – FDR Memorial Honors Whom? – tinyurl.com/otsusp
Roosevelt Islander – Summer Jobs for Students – tinyurl.com/q5nsbr
Roosevelt Island 360 – Happy 30th Birthday to the Tram – tinyurl.com/q2fh26
Coler-Goldwater – Executive Director on FDR Memorial – tinyurl.com/pdncsv
Roosevelt Island Dogs – Animal Rescue Site Needs Food – tinyurl.com/oxwrhx
NBC NY – Lappin on What’s The Deal with Roosevelt Island? – tinyurl.com/r9le8l
Gothamist – MTA’s Worst Escalators – tinyurl.com/og8jcl
Streetsblog – No More Overnight Storage at Bike Racks – tinyurl.com/py74he
Budget Travel – Weird Fun on Roosevelt Island – tinyurl.com/oj4o7a
Daily News – Queensboro Bridge Birthday Bash – tinyurl.com/q9fbpz
Gizmodo – Vertical Farm Proposed for Southpoint Park – tinyurl.com/pmc6sr
Fryers Club – Says Goodbye, Misses Roosevelt Island – tinyurl.com/qknvo8
Greenville Online – Ex-Residents Happy In North Carolina – tinyurl.com/pd6gbt
Scienceline – TB Researcher Inspired By Smallpox Hospital – tinyurl.com/qtb2v5
WABC – Swine Flu Case Closes RI Child School – tinyurl.com/oodouh
S & W Marathon Training – Running Roosevelt Island – tinyurl.com/ryz8th
Improv Everywhere – MP3 Experiment Comes to the Island – tinyurl.com/qrmfpc
Megan Kalmoe – Recaps RI MP3 Experiment – tinyurl.com/opao4d
Chronicles of Chris – What Happened at RI MP 3 Experiment – tinyurl.com/p9qfyo
You Tube – Improv Everywhere At Southpoint Park – tinyurl.com/p2wkwl
You Tube – Wolf Gets Beat At Improv Everywhere – tinyurl.com/oyotg6
Trust Movies – A Necessary Music at Film Archive – tinyurl.com/qukerf
Mr. NYC – Takes The Roosevelt Island Tram – tinyurl.com/qghduu
WELS Missions – NY Amazing Race Ends at Lighthouse Park – tinyurl.com/orenhr
Robertsphotosnyc – Resident Photo Album of the Island – tinyurl.com/pkb2se

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June	15	16 M	17	18	19	20	21	July
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	29	30 M	1 M	2 M	3	4	5	
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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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RIOC Column from page 3

times may suffer as the buses will be held out of service to meet the schedule.

12. **Octagon Field Restroom Facilities:** Because of the cut in the sewer line at the water tunnel, the facility is out of service. The recently installed facility at the north end of the Goldwater parking lot may be used, and a porta-san is in place until the repair work is completed (requiring coordination between DEP and The Octagon). Sorry for the inconvenience.

13. **Water Ferry to Octagon:** Nothing new to report except that it is extremely unlikely that the city will get the design, permitting, route, and construction done this season. Coordination among federal, city, state, and private sources is a real problem that RIOC has nothing to do with.

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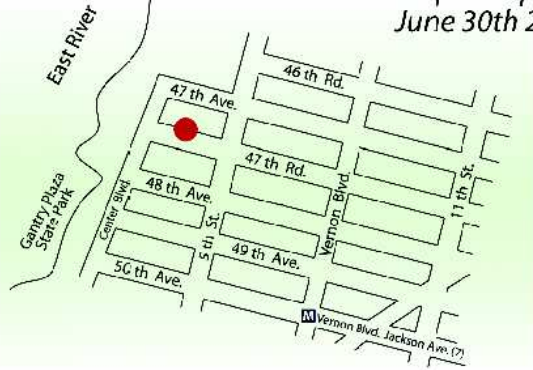
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