

Holiday issue
in 3 weeks:
Saturday,
December 11

The Main Street WIRE™

31st year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



Tram Lettering Debuts Approaching a possible late-November resumption of service, the new Tram cabins have acquired this lettering – already the subject of criticism on at least one blog. Inset shows lettering as it appeared on the old cabins. More photos, pages 10-11.

Overdue By 81 Days, Tram Coming “Soon”

Representatives of the State Department of Labor were on-scene at the Tramway this week, checking out the work of POMA in preparation for clearing the conveyance for service.

Cabins newly labeled **ROOSEVELT ISLAND** were in the air over the East River during the week.

The start of service, now anticipated for Tuesday, November 30 (with, perhaps, an 11:00 a.m. ceremony), will be just short of three months past the original target date of September 1. The system has been down since Monday, March 1, on a project that was timelined at six months.

The major difference in the renovated Tramway is that the cabins now move independently. Indeed, this week, the cabins were briefly side-by-side not where they formerly passed each other, just west of the middle tower, but over the river (photo layout, pages 10-11). In the old system, technically called jigback but functionally a clothesline on a pulley, the cabins had to move simultaneously in opposite directions. In discussing the plans originally, RIOC and POMA touted this system as providing a much lower proportion of downtime (essentially none) because repairs to one side would not require the other side to be idle.

This system is also “wide-track,” a change that should mean the cabins will sway less, left to right, and be less susceptible to the East River’s corridor of wind.

The *WIRE* will send an e-mail bulletin when an actual restart date is confirmed. To subscribe to the bulletins, send an *AddMe* message to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net.

With Former Islander’s Help, PBS’s *Frontline* Will Examine *Facing Death*

by Dick Lutz

“We must ask, *Are we preserving life or prolonging death?*”

Dr. Keren Osman, born in Israel and the product of a Roosevelt Island upbringing and its PS 217 minischools of the ‘70s and ‘80s, *lives* with that question. It’s the subject of a *Frontline* documentary, *Facing Death*, that will air Tuesday night at 9:00 on Channel 13. Osman appears on the program.

Trained at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Osman is a hematologist, oncologist, and bone-marrow-transplant physician. She saves lives.

“I take care of patients with blood cancers – leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma – and often they come to see me and the physicians in my team because they need a transplant, or have an aggressive type of leukemia, or have a lymphoma that has come back.”

But not every life can be saved, so Osman is often

present at the moment when patients and their families face life’s most difficult question: how to die.

“*Frontline* wanted to do a program on how people grapple with the issues of death, given how high-tech

medicine is now trying to get into the issue of what prolongs life and what extends the death process. They were looking at the American take on death and dying.”

As Osman faces these questions with her patients, the decisions are deeply personal. Yet the gathered total body of these decisions made each year has a profound impact on the cost of medical care in the United States.

Facts:

- Patients with chronic illness in their last two years of life account for almost one-third of Medi-

care spending.

- Medicare pays for one-third of the cost of treating cancer in the final year.

- Almost 80% of that spending occurs in the last month of life.

See **Osman**, page 9



With the West Service Road now one-way north, a worker laid down lines delineating new parking spaces last week.

RIOC Prepares Test of an Advanced Parking System

RIOC is in the process of deploying a smart parking system on the West Service Road near the subway station.

The system, a product of San Francisco-based Streetline, Inc., will monitor the status of each parking spot – some 30 in this initial test – and provide advisories to dynamic street signs that will help drivers know what parking spaces are available. Potentially, the system can save fuel and reduce pollution by eliminating circular hunting by drivers seeking to park.

Information will also flow from the system to law enforcement, can be used to time use of spaces, and will be able to provide information directly to websites and to handheld devices like smart mobile phones.

RIOC Vice President Fernando Martinez says that a successful test could lead to Island-wide deployment. The City is also interested in systems of this kind, in part for future implementation of demand-based pricing.

The Child School Gets a New Executive Director

by Jim Baehler

“Superman is here!” confidently states Sal Ferrera, referring to the recent documentary movie about the problems faced by inner-city students in our public schools. “He’s here in every school in the U.S. but it’s not a person, it’s a learning community that includes the teachers, the school staff, and the parents. Working together with high expectations and a passion for the work, the learning community can achieve miracles.”

Mr. Ferrera knows whereof he speaks. At Xaverian High School in Brooklyn, he began a program for students with learning disabilities that resulted in a 100% college acceptance rate for those students.

After 16 years at Xaverian, Sal decided to take some time off to reassess himself and his life. After only three weeks at home, he began consulting for educational companies and was ready for a new challenge. When a head-hunter called about the open position as Executive Director of the Child School/Legacy School here, he was open to the idea. A series of interviews was followed by a job offer, and he assumed his new duties at the beginning of the current school year.

As unassuming as he is committed to his students, Dr. Salvatore Ferrera (PhD in education from Fordham) insists that everyone call him Sal. He describes his present

position in glowing terms. “I’m working in the Garden of Eden. The facilities of our four separate schools are so beautiful. We have views of the river, interior gardens, plazas and patios for use as classrooms or recreation, and an overall ambiance that captured me from the first moment I came here.” The K-5 classes are located in the old Westview school, grade 6 is in the old Eastwood school, grades 7-8 in the Rivercross school, and grades 9-12 in the Island House school.

Sal’s present responsibility involves the education of 230 students with learning problems. They come from all over New York City, and from Westchester and

Nassau counties. The students are bused in by private bus companies, with a matron on each bus. The learning difficulties include autism, dyslexia, language processing, deciphering visual images, ADHD, and graphomotor problems, which Sal describes as “trying to write while wearing mittens.”

Class sizes range from a low of six in grades K-1 to 12 in grades 6 to 12, with a teacher’s assistant in each classroom to help provide individual instruction. “It is the individual instruction we can provide that accounts for much of the success of our programs.” The State of New York provides all funding.

See **Child School**, page 12



Thanksgiving

We are struck by a communication from Mary-Jo Knight, who is moving away and writes that she will miss her Island home. “Roosevelt Island has been one of the most special places I’ve lived... Those who get to live here are indeed blessed...”

We’ll save the rest for publication, with two of her favorite Island photographs, in the December 11 holiday issue.

We know that Mary-Jo’s love of this Island as a place to live and grow is replicated many times over among today’s residents, people who spent childhood here, and so many others who have been touched by the nature of this very special place. In some families, we have a third generation of Islanders, with a fourth to come.

With the holiday of gratitude ahead in the coming week, it’s a good time to pause and contemplate the blessings that Roosevelt Island bestows, but there is no need to list them here. That’s because each of us has his/her particular list, and anyway, it may vary with the seasons of the year and the seasons of life.

And even while we recognize that perfection is elusive and there is always a panoply of opportunity for enhancement, there’s a long list of those who should be thanked at least this one time each year:

- The RIOC staff, for the ongoing effort
- Public Safety, for vigilance and order
- Our elected officials, who attend to our needs

They deserve our appreciation, whether spoken or silent.

But even more than these, we have our fellow residents to thank. Whether they are hard workers for the Island and its organizations or seldom-active participants in a diorama of diversity, each plays a role here. There are those who, for a time, can make something of an obsession of trying to change something for the better or bring something new to the Island. Their enthusiasms may change or wane, their frustrations may be legion, but, as a body social and politic, they keep at it and, on balance, their strides are great on our behalf.

The word that works is embodied in the name of next week’s holiday:

Thanks.

DL

Letters deadline for Dec. 11 holiday issue: Tues., Dec. 7, noon

Errors & Omissions:

Paul Katz, who took a significant number of the photographs used in the Halloween photo layout in the November 6 *WIRE*, was not credited. *The WIRE* regrets the omission. The RIRA election tally reported for **Romano Reid** (Roosevelt Landings) was incorrect. He came in sixth, with 100 votes.



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Letters

To the Editor:

As a poll worker, I was sorry a voter did not find his voting experience easier [letter, November 6]. He arrived at the polling place at 5:00 p.m. All poll workers started at 5:00 a.m. They get one hour for lunch and one hour for dinner. They must be back at work by 6:00 p.m.

Signing in voters seems easy. You have hundreds of strangers come in front of you with names to spell, bad vision, poor hearing, and being in a great rush. Then you try to find their name in the register. People register under their married or was it maiden name? The poll workers try to find the names, record the voter number, issue the card, issue the ballot, record another stub number, put it all in a privacy sleeve.

Then they go to the privacy booth. The small print made it hard to read the ballot and people took a long time to fill out the ballots. The pens disappear, even though they are attached by a plastic coil.

The voter comes to the scanner station and we have one poll worker per scanner. If a ballot jams the scanner, it will be down until the repair person arrives. To prevent jams, just wait a few extra minutes to get your time at the scanner. Remember, hand in the white card to the poll worker and insert your ballot. We have to stand away from the machine so you have privacy.

After every voter left at 9:00 p.m., we start closing the site, tallying the vote, and recording on master sheets the vote. By then, we had been at work 16 hours.

At 11:00 p.m., we left the school, having tallied the votes of over 1,500 voters by hand, in triplicate, at four election districts [at PS/IS 217].

Almost all the voters left happy. A few even thanked poll workers. The Board of Elections always needs more poll workers. Here is the link for those inclined to not complain, but join the workers: <http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/pollworkers.html>.

And I am still waiting to go to dinner.

Judy Berdy

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters of local interest to the community, and to/from officials. Requests for a *Name Withheld* signature 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 MainStreetWIRE@usa.net 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 receive none, *resend* and call **212-826-9056** to alert us. **Alternatives:** Typed copy left at 531 Main Street; allow extra time for typesetting. Clearly hand-written letters will be considered, if brief. We are not able to take telephone dictation of letters. **All letters are 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.

Waiting for Main Street retail to be transformed? How long can you hold your breath?

Jones Lang LaSalle has produced a Request for Proposals (RFP) that looks, to an experienced commercial real-estate eye, as though it was designed to fail. That starts with this wording (section V):

Through this RFP, RIOC is seeking a qualified investor with the capital commitment, expertise, and track record to turn around underperforming assets in a market with high demand for community-based retail and services. It is anticipated that the investor will have the resource and creativity to improve the vibrance and appearance of the Main Street corridor and have the management skills to maintain and enforce a high quality design and operating standards of its subtenant.

Wonderful prose. But to make the investment called for with this language, a developer normally wants ownership – not possible in this situation – or assured long-term control with a minimized downside risk and considerable upside potential. But putting long-term control in the hands of a developer turns this into a risky experiment that could take a long time to stutter, sputter, and fail – with, perhaps, a litigious outcome that could delay the future of Main Street development even further.

When there’s a bird in the hand...

I am convinced that this RFP is onerous to the point of being unrealistic. Load up a developer with the kinds of costs suggested in this RFP, and you may get a developer too inexperienced to make things work – and the danger of quick discouragement and a long unwinding of the commitment. This RFP is setting up a future developer who is going to demand a very long lease and leave RIOC with nothing to show for their effort.

Meantime, what happens with our cadre of loyal existing merchants? Are they to be put in the hands of a developer whose economic motive could easily trump this community’s needs? RIOC’s assumption of enforcement roles normally left to FDNY and the EPA suggest that the interests of existing merchants

To the RIOC Board:

I can’t help noticing the lack of a real skate park for Island youth. I have noticed young people trying to practice that sport on stairs, ramps, or even discarded wooden boxes in the vicinity of Motorgate and the bridge. When I asked some skateboarders if they would be interested in having a skate park here, a resounding yes was their answer.

I believe that at least two locations could be considered: near the water tunnel gate northwest of Octagon soccer field, and under the arrival deck on the east side just south of Gristedes.

Funding for such a project might be available from the State and City once a location is designated. I would be eager to become involved in such a project.

Laurence Brodsky

To Joyce Mincheff, President, Roosevelt Landings Residents Association:

I am a Landlord Assistance Program (LAP) tenant in Roosevelt Landings. It is my home and I respect it as such. I most certainly do not want to pay for heating my apartment through the winter. I did not need a sensor to turn off my [lighting] for the more than 15 years I’ve lived in my apartment, and do not need a sensor to continue to do so, at least for as long as I am able-bodied with all faculties.

While my inability to understand some of my neighbors’ toxic mix of misplaced entitlement and crass irresponsibility is purely subjective, and you and perhaps many others may deem it my own problem, I have a very concrete example that affects me in a purely objective way.

What would you say to a neighbor who has not switched off air conditioning since May? His unit rattles and wails in the dead of night, waking me several times every night. It’s been a fairly long stretch of overnight temperatures in the 40-50-degree range and, because the AC in question turns on at regular intervals, it’s apparent that the heat is also on. It bothers me at that subjective level of personal responsibility and just plain human decency, and it bothers me because I need to be able to go to work well-rested – just so I can pay my ever-increasing rent and the future electricity bills that our landlord is scheming [to transfer to us] with the help of a handful of perfectly able-bodied neighbors, who need sensors to switch off the lights behind them and who think it’s okay to have the AC on when everybody around them is fighting to keep the *heat* on, rightfully and lawfully free.

Adina Grunn

could be sacrificed to make a master-lease arrangement attractive enough for a developer, adding another layer of management between a retail operator and his ultimate landlord and his retail customers.

A practical approach to Main Street retail must start with an understanding of why Main Street between Blackwell House and PS/IS 217 is disadvantaged. There is the problem of lower economic demographics in the WIRE buildings, combined with the distance of Manhattan



Robert Liss
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Park from the retail core. Add in the fact that Octagon residents bus through (or walk or bike at water’s edge) as they move to and from the transportation hub, and that Southtown dwellers are already at the transportation hub and rarely constitute traffic for the core Main Street area, and you have a serious disincentive to shop Main Street for a significant portion of the Island population. While the basic needs of the WIRE buildings must be met in filling this retail, it would take non-basics to attract traffic north from Southtown, or stopover traffic among Octagon residents as they pass through.

One partial solution to that, given installation of a critical mass of stores, would be a free Red Bus service, or at least some free hop-on-hop-off provision once a commuter has paid his fare.

As things stand, this RFP is problematic for what it offers, and problematic for what it doesn’t offer.

As RFP responses are evaluated and the proposals within them considered, RIOC and the RIOC Board should be prepared to pull the plug on this effort, and open the gates to waiting individual store operators rather than persist in an approach that, as written, seems likely to crash and burn – but *very, very slowly*.

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

No listings provided.

— Coming Week & Next Weekend —

Toastmasters, Mon Nov 22, 8pm. Visitors welcome. Info **212-751-9577**. **Frontline: *Facing Death*** features Dr. Keren Osman, former Islander, **Tue Nov 23**, 9pm, Channel 13. (Article, page 1.)

— Continuing —

Gestures, a RIVAA group show, **daily**, 9am-8pm, through Jan 9, The Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St.
Open-Rec Basketball, Sat, 10am-1pm, 2-6pm, Sportspark. All ages; free.
Open Swim at Sportspark, **Sat-Fri**. For hours and fees, see ad, page 14.
Poetic Expressions, works by Georgette Sinclair and Toshiko Kitano Groner, through Dec 4, **Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St.
Renaissance painting group, **Sat** pm; oil/acrylic with mentor Art Zamora. Call **917-291-8799** for time, location, and fee information.
Reading Aloud for an audience of children, **Mon-Fri**, 3:30-4pm, at the Library.
Toastmasters, 2nd and last **Mon**, 8pm. Info: **212-669-1679**.
Knitting & Crochet Circle, Tue, 10am, Library. Adults.
Living Library After-School Program, Tue, Wed, Fri, 3-6pm, PS/IS 217 Beacon. Open to all.
Ping Pong: Open Play, Tue & Fri, 6-9pm, Sportspark. **Class, Wed**, 6-9pm, Sportspark. All ages; free.
Science-Fiction Discussion Group, first Tue of month, 6:30pm, Library.
Poetry Hour (adults), **last Tue** of month, 6:30pm, Library.
Picture-Book Bingo / Story Time for toddlers to pre-K, **Wed**, 10:30.
Picture Book Hour (age 4 and under), **Wed**, 11am, Library.
Nintendo Wii Play (kids), **Wed**, 3pm, Library.
Book Bingo for Kids 5-12 years old, **Thu**, 4pm, Library.
Robots for Kids ages 6-13, **Thu & Fri**, 6:30-8pm, Youth Program, 506 Main St., 2nd fl. Information: **917-751-2900**.

— Future Weeks —

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Dec 1**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at the beginning for resident comments/announcements.
Holiday Tree Lighting, Fri Dec 3, 7pm, Blackwell Plaza.
Public Menorah Lighting, Sat Dec 4, 6:30pm, Blackwell Plaza (Ad, page 16.)
R&R Concerts presents *Romantic Jewels*, with violinist Ralph Allen and pianist Geoffrey Duce, **Sat Dec 4**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Free; contributions welcome. (Ad, page 6; article, page 13.)
Island pianist Roy Eaton performs ragtime music for the cakewalk and two-step, with dancers Michael Jagger and Elyse Sparkes, **Sun Dec 5**, 2:30-5pm, in Family Day at the Morgan Library & Museum. Free for members. Information: nyc10044.com/z/02.
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation Board of Directors meeting, **Thu Dec 9**, 5:30pm, location to be announced. Public-comment period at beginning of meeting.
The Main Street WIRE — Holiday issue, Sat Dec 11. Note that this is a change from the schedule announced earlier this year. Advertising deadlines: Display ads, **Tue Nov 30**; decision date for circulars/inserts, **Tue Dec 7**; 5,500 copies due **Thu Dec 9**. **Issues in 2011:** Jan 15, 29; Feb 12, 26; Mar 12, 26; Apr 9, 23; May 7, 21; Jun 4, 18; Jul 2; Aug 27; Sep 10, 24; Oct 8, 22; Nov 5, 19; Dec 10. **News phone, 212-826-9056; urgent matters, 917-617-0449. Advertising, display and classified: 917-587-3278.**
Toastmasters, Mon Dec 13, 8pm. Visitors welcome. Info **212-751-9577**.
Book Discussion, *The Opposite of Fate* by Amy Tan, **Thu Dec 16**, 6:30pm, Library.
Book Discussion, *District and Circle* by Seamus Heaney, **Thu Jan 20**, 6:30pm, Library.
Book Discussion, *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell, **Thu Feb 17**, 6:30pm, Library.

Senior Center

Monday
9:30 **Ballroom Dancing**
11:00 **Tai Chi**
6:00 **Yoga with Nurit** (resumes Dec 13)

Tuesday
9:30 **Chinese Massage**
10:20 **Shoppers' Bus**
10:30 **Ping Pong**
11:00 **Blood Pressure**
2:00 **Paint & Sculpt**
7:30 **Games (RISA)**

Wednesday
9:30 **Yoga with Irene**
10:20 **Shoppers' Bus**
10:30 **Computers**
10:30 **Spanish**

Thursday
Closed Nov 25
9:30 **Stronger Bones**
10:45 **Ping Pong**
12:30 **Movie**

Friday
9:30 **Yoga with Irene**
10:30 **Ballroom Dancing**
10:30 **English as 2nd Language**
1:30 **Korean Games**
6:00 **Ballroom Dancing** (last Fri each month)
7:00 **Games (RISA)**

Special Events

RISA Annual Dinner, today (Sat Nov 20), 6pm.
Closed, Thu Nov 25 (Thanksgiving)
Office Closed, Fri Nov 26 (lunch and classes as normal)

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

It finally looks like autumn on Roosevelt Island. The foliage is now a mosaic of orange, yellow, and red, and preparations are being made for the approaching holidays. I have been fortunate enough to see the fallen leaves in our soon-to-open Southpoint Park, due early spring 2011, as well as the FDR Memorial, currently under construction. The views and natural environment in those parks are magnificent, and they will be a wonderful resource for residents in the near future.

Next door to the upcoming parks, the Aerial Tram's beautiful new cabins now wear Roosevelt Island's name. They have been running to Manhattan and back as the New York State Department of Labor completes final testing and inspection this week. Feedback from licensing agencies has been very positive, and all parties involved hope for passengers to be shuttling across the East River soon after Thanksgiving.

This season will have lots to celebrate. The Annual RIOC Tree Lighting at Blackwell House Plaza is Friday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome; bring an appetite for holiday treats and warm up with hot chocolate and cider. Also, be ready for a photo with Santa, who may drop by with little gifts for all kids.

Best wishes to all our Roosevelt Island family. I wish you all happiness and health while you enjoy your visits with family and friends. Happy Thanksgiving!

Projects Under Way:

Good Shepherd side-door replacement and stained-glass repairs — The side entrance door has been replaced, making general access to the building easier and safer. The current gray-primer color will be returned to Roosevelt-Island-red glory shortly. Access policies and procedures have not changed. We also removed two stained-glass side windows in the Chapel for repair; they have since been reinstalled.

The RIOC Column

The WIRE publishes The RIOC Column and The RIRA Column as a service to RIOC, RIRA, and the community, and does not control or censor either.

The new Common Council is starting to coalesce around the interests of its new representatives. Several savvy delegates with professional experience in information technology are examining the RIRA communication networks with the intention of bringing us into the modern world. I still prefer parchment and quill pen, and so I'm watching with awe. The potential for new approaches along these lines beggars my imagination and, with the help of a new Communications Committee, I hope to address the Council telepathically before long!

Our primary business at the December 1 meeting will be to reformulate the RIRA committees and to elect new committee chairs. Delegates must work within at least one committee, but any RIRA member (that is, any resident) may join a committee. I hope you will take advantage of this provision and offer your skills, your smarts, and your time for the betterment of our Island.

RIOC

RIOC President Leslie Torres was good enough to meet with me over coffee last week. She is working hard to climb the steep learning curve that her job requires. My first question was, of course, when the Tram would return to service. Leslie is estimating November 30 as T-Day, but that depends on the New York State Department of Labor to issue the final permits. It seems likely that the penalties that RIOC negotiated for a tardy return will apply, given the three-month delay, but to what extent still must be decided, perhaps through the courts.

I asked if I could count on RIOC's continuing support of the RIOC Board elections that have recommended six of the nine current Directors to the Governor for his appointment. Leslie confirmed that support, and we intend to test it in 2012 when we mount the next election.

We discussed the potential for a new branch library, to be built at 504 Main Street with a possible meeting facility on the second floor. Our City Council Member, Jessica Lappin, has provided the first \$500 thousand of a possible \$10 million price tag for a state-of-the-art facility. The question, as always, is where this kind of dough will come from. The only thing that is clear is that the present library is entirely inadequate.

We talked about the interior renovation of Blackwell House. I remember when the old farmhouse was used for Island events, and I'd love to see that day return. The work is being supervised by the Roosevelt Is-

The RIRA Column

Main Street parking — Thirty-four new parking spaces have been added to Main Street next to the subway station as part of a pilot parking program to test electronic devices that monitor parking spaces and relay availability information. Data is then transmitted wirelessly in real-time to smart-phones, dynamic street signs, websites, or handhelds. Using this information, drivers are led directly to available parking. If the pilot is successful, the system may be applied throughout the Island. Main Street's West Road along the southern Promenade has been routed to accommodate the additions so that traffic is one-way northbound. Installation of electronic sensors began November 17.

Motorgate refurbishing — As of yesterday (Friday, November 19), the entire seventh floor is available for parking, to be followed by rooftop parking access next week.

Octagon Field border landscaping — The trees removed during the soccer field restoration have been replaced by ADM Landscaping. They include five honey locusts, five white fringetrees, three sweetgums, six red oaks, three golden rain trees, eight panicle hydrangeas, and one flowering crabapple.

Public Safety HVAC roof equipment sound attenuation — An acoustic enclosure has been designed and bid. RIOC will bring a recommendation to the Board for approval in December to proceed with this project.

Z-brick resetting — Between September 1 and See **RIOC Column**, page 8



Leslie Torres, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
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land Historical Society under the jurisdiction of the City's Cultural Affairs Office. I believe that the only way to ensure the responsible use of this landmark is to make one organization the lead group, able to rent the venue out for community use. Many questions remain, such as whether RIOC should offer a long-term or short-term renewable lease. I understand that the Board will vote to approve these renovations at their next meeting.

I mentioned the spiffy pedestrian and bicycle paths that the City has carved out of 17th Street at Union Square. I discussed this with Manhattan Department of Transportation Commissioner Margaret Forgione, who noted that the City would not provide this amenity to State-controlled Roosevelt Island, but could offer information and advice. I would love to see a similar pathway on our West Channel Promenade. We shall see.

Finally, we discussed our Governor-elect, Andrew Cuomo. New York's governors appoint both RIOC presidents and DHCR commissioners. Governors like to appoint people they know or who are beholden to them. What this means regarding Commissioner Lawlor and President Torres remains to be seen. Both came to us with sterling reputations and have yet to be tested by Island issues. Your guess is as good as mine.

RIOC Kiosks

Did you know that the signage on the Main Street kiosks is now removed on a specific schedule? Yup, we arranged with RIOC Vice President Fernando Martinez to clear those pillars on the 1st and 15th of each month. Of course, if these dates fall on a weekend or a rainy day, this will be modified. And thanks, Fernando, for holding off until after Election Day Tuesday, so that candidates could derive the most benefit from their campaign posters.

Island Culture

I am often blown away by the quantity and quality of the artistic offerings on our little Island. In just the See **RIRA**, page 8



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Hello, Roosevelt Islanders... I'm Jennifer Dorfmann, a neighbor and real-estate broker with ModernSpaces. I've happily called this island home for many years. My area of focus has been Long Island City for the past five years, where I have enjoyed great success as sales director of two of the area's premier condominiums.

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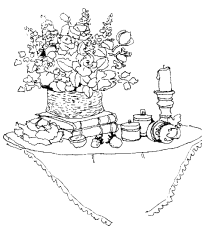
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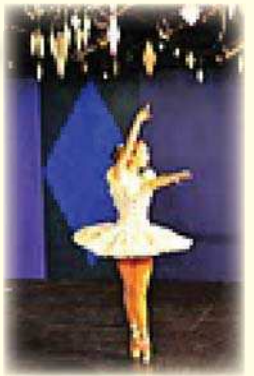


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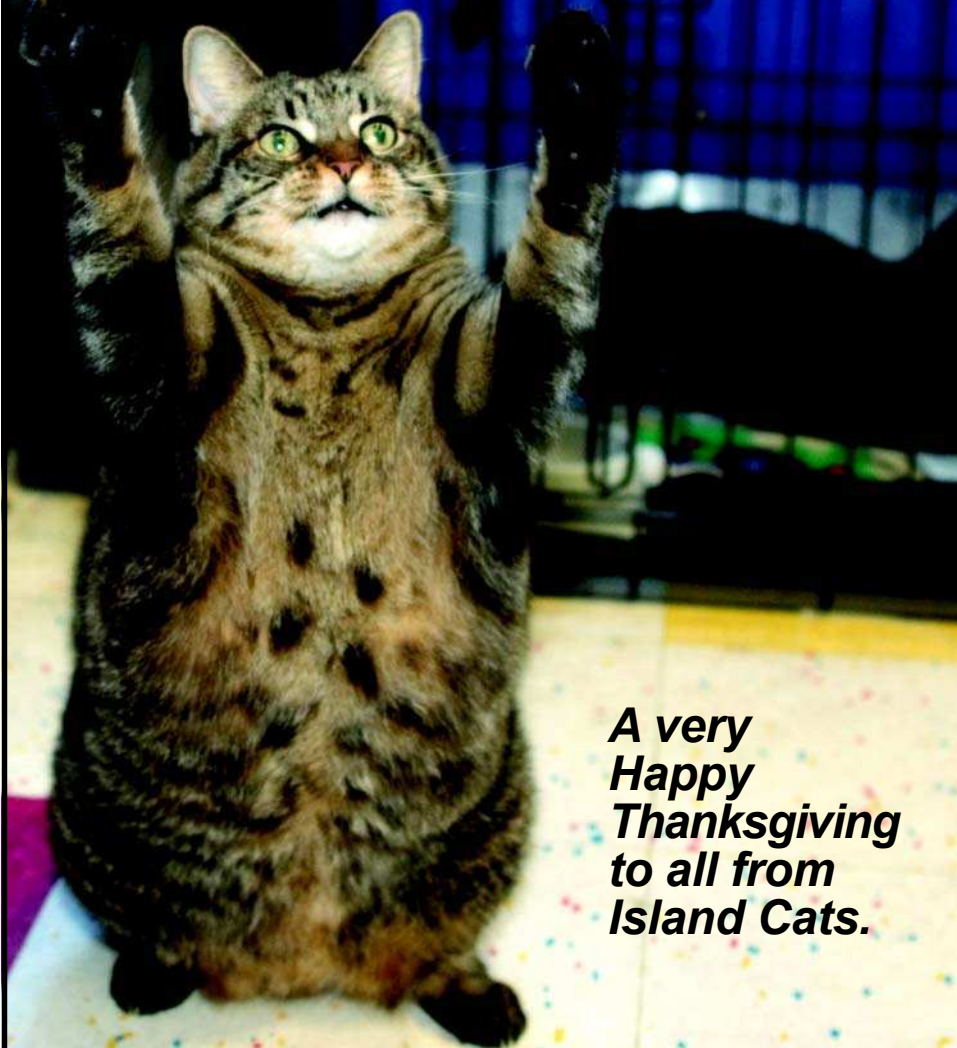
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AT THE RED AWNING ACROSS FROM THE HISTORIC CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

ISLAND CATS thanks the wonderful people of Roosevelt Island who have donated to the organization over the year, whether food or money to pay for food, shelter and veterinary bills. Thanks also to Janne Andersen and Sean Hilden, Lore and Vini Fortuna, Colleen Kennedy, RIOC, Public Safety, *The WIRE* and City Critters. Most of all, though, we thank those who have given so much time and devotion to caring for cats forced to live outdoors. They are Kyoko Abe, Sue and Jake Bolton, Rasha El Mouatassim Bih, Briggs Elwell, Jennifer and Jim Flak, Lisa and Chris Forsee, Gabi Garcia, Megan Honkanen, Maria Jain, Jamey Johnston, Margaret Konopka, Francine Lange, Darius Mallat, Francesca Mazzoni, Joan Ogden, Amy Richmond, Tales Riedel, David and Teresa Sands, Michelle Seaberg, Bob Specker, Akiko Tamura, Cat Thompson, Liv Tigerstedt, Ann Toia, Mariam Vahradyan, and Alexandra, Zara and Maryam Shingaly.



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RIRA from page 3

last two weeks, we have been graced by world-class concerts presented by the two (yes, two!) musical series that call the Good Shepherd Center their home. The R & R Concert series, named after Rosemarie and Robin Russell, offered an evening of chamber music, featuring works by Mozart, Beethoven, and Haydn, on November 6. The latest showing of the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association opened that same evening at their Gallery at 529 Main Street, and you should make it your business to drop in. This past weekend, the Church of the Good Shepherd Sunday Concert Series presented *Amor & Psyche*, a “pasticcio” of baroque music wrapped around a hilarious mythological plot devised by the Opera Feroce (a/k/a “Opera That Bites”). While the action was farcical, the voices and instrumentalists were first-rate and breathtakingly beautiful.

RIRA has its share of performers, too. We have produced concerts as fundraisers and as gifts to the community, and I wouldn’t be surprised if a few of your elected representatives (including me) didn’t present something tasty over the next few months.

Veterans Day

I did something unusual for me this past Veterans Day; I marched, and with an organization I belong to, Veterans for Peace. It was an extraordinary experience for me. I met many bearded old fogies who looked a lot like me, and we traded stories of our military experiences over the three hours we spent, standing on 27th Street, waiting for our turn to march up Fifth Avenue. I left the Army 40 years ago this December, at a time when military service was considered tantamount to baby-killing. I never fired a weapon in anger during my three years in uniform, but never discussed those years much, especially during the generation and more it took for service folks to regain the respect of much of the American people, and for a separation to be recognized between the sacrifices of those who served and the political decisions that often put my comrades in harm’s way.

We were carrying our signs and our flags and chanting, “Honor the troops, bring them home,” “Remember Viet Nam,” “Love the warrior, hate the war,” and similar slogans. I don’t know what I expected from the crowds lining the street, but I was bowled over. We were greeted with cheers, peace signs, pumped fists, and smiles. When I saw the signs saying, “Thank you for your service,” I lost it. It was the first time in 40 years that someone thanked me for my three years of Army service. I came home while my mother was in the hospital with a life-threatening condition and, given the times, it just never occurred to friends and family to welcome me home or acknowledge my time in uniform. This November 11 offered me a catharsis two-score years deferred. Thanks, New York, I needed that.

Thanksgiving

As we descend into the holiday season, I’m looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with three generations of my family, as I’ve done for well over a half-century. I’m grateful for my life here on Roosevelt Island and for the opportunities I’ve had to serve this community. Best wishes to all of you.



Second Annual PSD-Youth Center Connect Game

Public Safety and the Youth Center played their Connect game on Veterans Day last week at Sportspark, with some of the Island’s most talented players joining in. Participants from PSD and the Youth Center were merged into two mixed teams. Gray won, 62-59, over Blue.

The Island on the Web

compiled by Rick O’Conor – rooseveltislander.blogspot.com

Roosevelt Islander – PSD/Youth Center Game – tinyurl.com/3x4pgpk
G&T Class Blog – PS 217 Art Residency Program – tinyurl.com/3ygm1a4
RIOC – Audio – Real Estate Committee Meeting – tinyurl.com/mff36v
RIOC – Community Outreach Basketball Game – tinyurl.com/yfcnqlm
RIOC – Organizational Chart – tinyurl.com/2v297es
RIOC – Director Terms & Bios – tinyurl.com/336duas
Click Fix – Reporting System Welcomes Island – tinyurl.com/2v25tkk
RI360 – Can Giants Settle on Island? – tinyurl.com/22wovg2
Picasa – Youth Program at Big Apple Circus – tinyurl.com/28t44hd
Judith’s Gallery – Tram Photos Marathon Sunday – tinyurl.com/2cnope9
Curbed – Tram Cabin Lettering Font – tinyurl.com/2dbvrxp
NY Times City Room Blog – Ride on New Tram – tinyurl.com/2a48ebs
Gothamist – Tram Cabins Passing Over East River – tinyurl.com/29zqodh
Curbed – Music Video – Roosevelt Island Tram – tinyurl.com/24lus6z
Heavy Lift – FDR Memorial Blocks Get Lifted – tinyurl.com/244op3f
A Girl Bakes – Farmers Market Cupcakes – tinyurl.com/2uy57am
Minneapolis Star Tribune – Planned Community? – tinyurl.com/2a8hpa5
Innovations Harvard – Island Parking Sensors – tinyurl.com/2bvt6ak
Elephant Journal – Football Lessons of Dalai Lama – tinyurl.com/2fvts9r
Nation Of Moms – Teacher Plays Children’s Music – tinyurl.com/2cqssfu
Queens Crapper – RIOC Still Needed? – tinyurl.com/2ckkb39
PM Forum – Poma Works on Tram – tinyurl.com/23gyovx

Island history on line,
with *WIRE* back issues:
nyc10044.com

RIOC Column from page 3

November 15, approximately 7,200 square feet of z-brick pavers on Main Street were reset, thus helping to eliminate pot holes and low spots that were a hazard to vehicles and pedestrians. We plan to ask the Board for approval of additional funds to continue these efforts in the early spring.

Projects in the Pipeline:

AVAC underground piping – During inspection of the system piping, the “moles” from ENVAC (Swedish AVAC manufacturer) discovered seriously worn areas in the 20-inch diameter piping under Gristedes and in the east-west run between Roosevelt Landings and Capobianco Field. RIOC has received a proposal from ENVAC to protect the wear areas by welding steel plates inside the piping. Excavation and pipeline replacement in those areas would be far more expensive and disruptive. RIOC will be making a recommendation to the Board in December to proceed with the ENVAC proposal.

Events, Recreation, & Community:

Roosevelt Island 311 e-mail

complaint system – We have now implemented a new e-mail comment service, Roosevelt Island 311, which will allow residents to contact RIOC on any Island-related issue. Whether it is a question, complaint, or hazard that you may see while walking down Main Street, we advise everyone to e-mail us at RI311@rioc.com so that we can address your issue in a timely manner.

RIOC community office hours – Residents are invited to come to the RIOC office at 591 Main Street on Wednesdays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. to bring any concern or issue to our RIOC representative. For more information, please call **212-832-4540**.

Parks and recreation – RIOC has implemented a new hotline for general parks and recreation information, which can be reached by calling the general RIOC line (**212-832-4540** ext. 504). It includes updated info on the tennis courts, Sportspark programs, special schedules for holidays, field rental procedures, and guidance for filming, photography, and special-event permitting. As always, you can continue to check the website for last-minute changes to expanded pool, ping pong, and basketball hours at Sportspark. Also, check out the exhibit in Sportspark that traces Roosevelt Island’s founding and development. The exhibit was curated by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society using materials from the RIOC archive.

Island’s Marathon Finishers

Position	Time	Bib#	First name	Last name	Age	Team
1395	3:06:58	5184	GORDON	ROBLE	M 33	New York Flyers
3337	3:22:16	7570	WILS	CAIN	M 38	
5637	3:32:58	1497	SPENCER	MCCORMICK	M 24	
9349	3:46:21	15437	AMADO	DIAZ	M 44	
14251	3:59:10	5277	SEAN	HALPIN	M 28	
15741	4:03:02	22513	JULIE	WHITE	F 43	New York Flyers
16419	4:05:10	53810	LAURA	HOYT	F 31	
17780	4:08:55	54063	MARC	GREENBERG	M 31	
18804	4:11:44	7700	IAN	FULLER	M 47	New York Flyers
26320	4:32:00	41892	PRABODHIKA	MALLIKARATCHY	F 36	New York Flyers
27915	4:37:02	29737	JAIME	CHARD	M 41	
28390	4:38:32	38654	TOMAS	HART	M 39	
32654	4:53:33	31698	CONALL	MCGONAGLE	M 32	
33953	4:58:13	52711	ANN	BIDDLECOM	F 43	
37616	5:17:27	43621	RACHEL	REKHTER	F 27	
39454	5:30:06	52110	MELIDA	APONTE	F 43	Dashing Whippets
40264	5:37:39	44357	JONICE	THOMPSON	F 30	
42393	6:03:57	63431	HILLARY	BEVERIDGE	F 40	Robin Hood Foundation

Running the NYC
Marathon in 2011?

Have a friend send a
photo to *The WIRE*.
MainStreetWIRE@usa.net

With Patients, Dr. Keren Osman Faces Death Often. Now, She Helps PBS’s Frontline Take a Hard Look at this Difficult Subject

Osman from page 1

Priority

For Osman, the first priority is the patient’s life. “First, we try to find a [bone-marrow] match, and then the patient must be healthy enough to go through the process.”

Facts:

- More than 100 diseases can potentially be treated with blood stem-cell transplants.
- Transplant treatments have helped to increase the survival rate for many diseases, in some cases dramatically. The two-year survival rate for severe aplastic anemia has nearly doubled in just 10 years. As a result, the number of transplants for severe aplastic anemia from unrelated donors has increased more than 20-fold in 20 years.
- While transplant centers generally place limits on the age of patients to whom they will give transplants, the number of patients over age 55 receiving transplants has increased substantially in the past 10 years. In 2000, just 8 percent of the initial transplants facilitated by the National Marrow Donor Program were for patients 55 and older. By 2005, 21% of transplant recipients were 55 and older.
- Bone-marrow transplants cost \$1.3 billion in 2007. Between 2004 and 2007, the procedure had one of the largest increases in hospital costs – 95% percent – of any medical procedure.

Hard Facts, Hard Questions

These facts put Osman at the fulcrum of a balance scale that American society and its medical system has difficulty considering. It is hard to ask the question, *What is one more day of life worth?* It is hard to ask the question, *When should we give up?* The questions bear on the nature of our humanity, and it is difficult to reframe those questions in financial terms. Nonetheless, costs must be faced, and consideration given to how available medical-care dollars should be used.

Asked about that during an extended interview with *Frontline*, Osman had this to say:

“I don’t give a damn about what anything costs. I don’t concern myself with that in the least. I don’t know what things cost, and on one level, I believe that that shouldn’t be how I choose medicines or treatments for my patients. Whether it costs \$5 or \$50,000, whichever one I believe is best, and if the best one is the \$5 one or the best one is the \$50,000 one, I don’t care – on one level.

“I think it’s problematic when doctors begin to practice medicine based on [financial concerns], because then there come all kinds of layers of justifications, which are slightly worrisome to me in terms of, if your job is to make sure that you choose the best thing for your patient in that moment, and that’s what the patient is asking you to do, you shouldn’t have also in your mind money as a consideration.

“However, I do live in this world and not in some fake bubble, so of course it concerns me that those things cost a lot of money. I don’t really know who’s paying for those things, but it bothers me that we have a system in which somebody can have several bone-marrow transplants or several liver transplants, and yet there are children who can’t be immunized, or there isn’t enough shelter to house people, or there aren’t effective ways to get preventive care to people who need it; that there’s major disparities in the way care is delivered among races; and that people who have money get more and better care than people who don’t have money; and people who are black or obese or don’t speak the language don’t get good care. ...

“But is that directly tied to the cost of a bone-marrow transplant? I’m not completely sure. ... I never want to practice my medicine based on *This is too expensive for my patient*, because I believe that what makes it expensive may be the profit of the drug companies. I think it’s much more complex than that, and I don’t think my role should be to save money for the hospital or the government or something like that, because there are many things that people spend money on that I don’t think they should be spending money on. So I can’t really function that way.

“You can say it’s ridiculous to spend \$20,000 on somebody’s medication, but it’s not ridiculous to give a five-billion-dollar bonus to somebody on [Wall Street]? Money is a big problem. But equitable distribution of money is a much bigger problem than health care, much bigger. Enormous.”

As troublesome as the relationship between money and life itself is in making medical decisions, there are questions that must be faced. Osman deals with them at the most human level. In her interview with *The WIRE*, she continues, “If the disease is aggressive and we can’t do a transplant, then we have to shift course and talk about palliative care and the quality of the death process.



At Mount Sinai’s Bone-Marrow Transplant Unit, Dr. Keren Osman discusses treatment with a patient who has leukemia.

Fact:

- One large-scale study of cancer patients found that costs were about a third less for patients who had end-of-life discussions than for those who didn’t.

Preparing Patients

“We begin to prepare them, but that’s the sticky part. You can begin to prepare people, but sometimes they don’t want to hear it. And even when they are very ill, they still might make it. You don’t want them to feel you’re giving up on them or not fighting all the way to the end. You say, *We’re going to try this, but it doesn’t have a high chance of working*, so you prepare them for what might happen – along with their families.

“I don’t do that alone with the patient. The patient usually has friends, family, and a support network that will help guide them. Sometimes that’s all happening in the hospital, because sometimes it happens quickly, and sometimes the patient may choose to go home or to hospice when a trans-

plant has failed. But patients are hesitant to give up and might want further therapy even if it’s not going to cure them or change the prognosis – but might prolong life a bit.”

Facts:

- Seven of 10 Americans say they would prefer to die at home.
- Only one in four actually dies at home.
- Nearly half of all Americans die in a hospital.
- More than 80 percent of patients with chronic diseases say they want to avoid hospitalization and intensive care when they are dying.
- Hospitalizations during the last six months of life are rising. In the nine years from 1996 to 2005, the number of hospital admissions of Medicare recipients rose 11%.

Staying Positive

For Keren Osman, it is probably important that she is insistently upbeat. Being interviewed, she laughs a lot. But there is no getting away from the difficulty of a profession and specialty that make her part of the lives of very ill people whose conditions mean they face death,

even when their instinct is to turn away from it.

“I love this job because it’s intellectually very challenging... But it is very hard. There’s no denying that there are days when it gets me down and I’m very, very sad. I’m always aware that I could be on the other side of this.”

Osman also finds strength in her patients. As she told *Frontline*, “The patients are kind of like – they’re heroes. They put up with so much. When I look at them and what they’re willing to endure, I have enormous admiration for them. ... Ultimately, it becomes a very intimate relationship, because what they’re facing is much more challenging than hypertension or the average kind of problem, so you have to rise to that level of expectation.”

Osman finds comfort and joy in the family that she has created with her college sweetheart, John Krinsky, who is the chair of political science at City College. They have a daughter, Maya, who is 11, and a son, Adam, who is almost eight. “My daughter wants to be a writer.” Osman laughs. “My son may grow up to be a *cartoon*.”

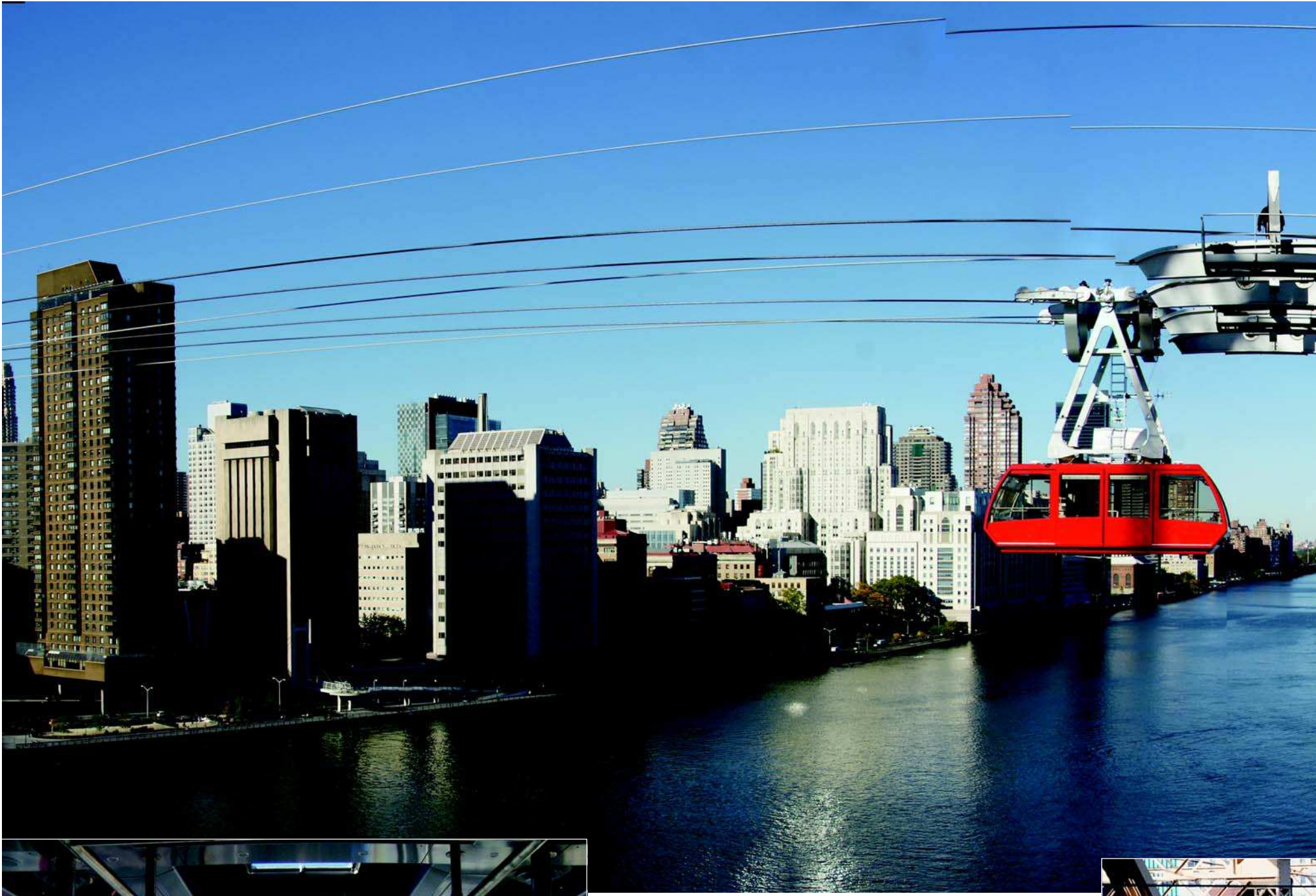
Osman’s children love Roosevelt Island. “They think Roosevelt Island is heaven on earth – all the freedom when we visit my parents, who are Rivercross residents. They love it. They can walk around outside. It’s our ‘country place.’”

Frontline: Facing Death airs Tuesday night (November 23) at 9:00 on Channel 13.

Note: Facts cited in this article were assembled by the *Frontline* production team. Sources are documented on *Frontline’s* website for this program, available via nyc10044.com/z/z. A transcript of Keren Osman’s extended interview with *Frontline* is available via nyc10044.com/z/00 [two zeroes]. *Frontline’s* overall website for the program is available via nyc10044.com/z/01.



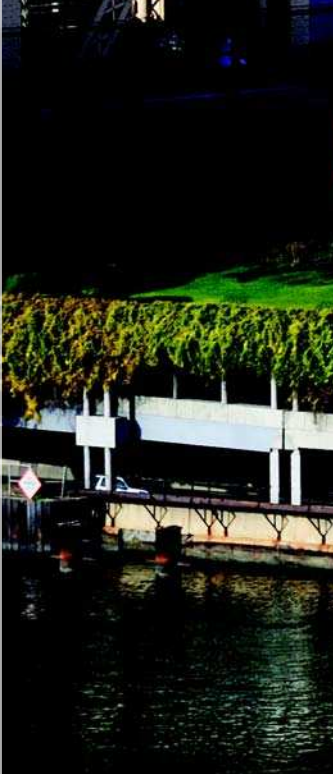
In a scene from *Frontline: Facing Death*, the Laureville family visits with 86-year-old mother and grandmother Marthe, moments after doctors took her off a respirator.



Tram to Return Soon

(story on page 1)

Photos, clockwise from left:
Cabin interior (Poma)
View from Queensboro Bridge (*Website NYC10044.com*)
New cabins against bridge (Duc Le)
Tram passing Island tower (Duc Le)
Inset: Overhead view (Duc Le)





The F line is the longest in the New York City subway system, linking far Queens with far Brooklyn, and expanding the Roosevelt Island “neighborhood” to one of fascinating variety. This series looks at what’s...

Out There on the Bryant Park

by Andrew Gordon

If you want to listen to some of the best songs from the best Broadway musicals sung by the original cast members, if you want to hear up-and-coming opera stars sing classic and modern opera, if you like any type of music from funk to classical, and you want to hear it all for free, is there any place you can go? There is one place in New York where you can not only do all this, but also see free movies, play chess and ping pong, and read newspapers, magazines, and books – even ice skate. That place is Bryant Park, and it is only four stops from Roosevelt Island on the F train.

If you had been at the park one day in August, you would have seen a temporary stage at the western end of the lawn. Hundreds of chairs filled half the green. Most were occupied a half-hour before the performance. The weather was drizzly, so many people had brought umbrellas. When the rain came down intermittently, first some and then all the umbrellas would open. As it lessened, first some and then all the umbrellas would close. The people were expectant.

“I can’t wait to see *American Idiot*,” gushed a young woman to her girlfriend. “Greenday’s songs are so cool.” “I’ve seen *Mamma Mia* three times, but I can’t wait to



hear the cast again,” replied her companion.

As the cast of *American Idiot* took the stage, the men roared and the women screamed. The rain decided to stop. By the end of the four-song performance, everyone was animated. “Now we don’t have to pay to see it,” one man said to his girlfriend. “Don’t be such a cheapskate,” she replied.

During the cast’s performance of songs from *Mamma Mia*, many couples were holding hands. For the performance of *Avenue Q*, the puppeteers sang for their *Sesame Street*-style puppets.

On another day, in September, you would have seen a larger temporary stage behind the main branch of the New York Public Library. No umbrellas were needed that day. A smaller but respectful audience listened to rising opera stars. Soprano Joyce El-Khoury, tenor Alexander Lewis, and baritone Elliot Madore belted out, separately and together, show tunes as well as opera. One woman said, “Joyce will be the next Beverly Sills.”

Not all performances are sanctioned by the Bryant Park Corporation. On an October Saturday, you would have heard happy screaming and roaring across the street from the park. Then, five minutes later, a thousand young people invaded the park, all wearing headphones and listening to the same instructions. At first, they all dropped down and pretended to hide. Then they charged the central lawn area, defying signs that read, “Stay off the grass. The lawn is recovering from a major event.” The few policemen there had no idea what was happening; nor did the people enjoying the park. By-

RFP on Main Street Retail Gets Just Two Responses

RIOC has received only two responses to its Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a developer to assume responsibility for the Main Street retail strip.

The subject was scheduled for consideration Wednesday evening by the Board’s Real Estate Advisory Committee, which resulted in attendance of more than a dozen Islanders, including at least one merchant, eager to hear what the retail future might hold. But the committee went into executive session, citing a potential “competitive disadvantage” if details of the two bids were to become public.

The two bidders are believed to be The Related Companies, co-developer of Southtown, and the Rivercross Tenants’ Corporation, which has long wanted to acquire control of the retail spaces in its building.

Whether RIOC will extend the RFP to seek additional bidders is not known. Presumably, all the qualified and potentially interested commercial property developers have been aware of the RFP, suggesting that the potential for further interest is limited. (A related commentary, prepared before Wednesday’s committee meeting, appears on page 2.)

Before he was fired by the RIOC Board, former RIOC President Steve Shane made it clear that he considered the prospects for a successful outcome from the RFP that was then in preparation to be very limited, because of the small amount of retail space available for a developer to market. The Related Companies have an interest because of their existing properties on the Island, and the desire to make the Island as attractive as possible for potential renters and buyers. It appears that Becker and Becker, the developer of The Octagon, did not express interest.

In a separate matter, the Real Estate committee heard from Trellis proprietor Kaie Razaghi, who seeks extension of his lease, which has two years remaining, in order to invest in a renovation of the restaurant. The committee, primarily through chair Jonathan Kalkin, told Razaghi that he must produce proof that certain work was done on his ventilation system before the committee will authorize further negotiations on a lease extension.

standers were climbing onto chairs to get a better view, and some were snapping pictures of the event on cell phones or digital cameras. One elderly gentleman kept asking, “What’s going on? What’s going on?” None of the participants would tell him. One young woman eventually murmured, “It’s a secret.”

For 20 minutes, the participants shouted in unison. They waved their arms. They threw confetti. They raised signs. They yelled. Finally, they left.

Sometimes you can tell what’s going on in Bryant Park. Sometimes you can’t. But if you want to have free fun, Bryant Park can surprise you.

Child School from page 1

“Aside from the learning difficulties,” Sal says, “we have to overcome the negative self-image that our students have. Much of our classroom time is devoted to drill and practice, so the students can see themselves mastering our subject matter. With that mastery comes a positive self-image.” When a child is experiencing difficulties, a conference is held to discuss ways of helping that child. “The conference includes the entire teaching staff, all the administration members, and all the office staff. Everyone is involved in finding answers and recommending procedures that will help a child adjust to the school and to learn better.”

Sal is proud of the technology that he immediately brought to the classrooms. “We have smartboards in every classroom, only we call them ‘Promethean Boards.’” The boards are large, approximately four feet wide and three feet tall. Each is connected to the internet, so that any topic the class is discussing can instantly be accessed with illustrations, diagrams, photos, and other visual aids to enhance understanding. The boards even have a Skype connection, allowing the viewing of classes transmitted from anywhere else in the world that has a Skype connection and a smartboard.

Sal is one educator who embraces change, “Schools are constantly evolving, and we must be ready to change.” He is looking into the field of neuro-feedback, using the study of brain waves to help determine the best ways to teach his students. He’s also planning a nutrition program to help them understand the importance of proper diet and the advantages of regular exercise.

And he is especially proud of his teaching staff. “They are incredibly devoted to helping their students achieve. Three or more days a week, you will find them here until five or six o’clock in the evening, working to find ways to improve their instruction.”

Sal Ferrera was born on the Lower East Side but grew up in Brooklyn, where he attended St. Athanasius elementary school. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School and then earned a B.S. in Education from Manhattan College. He began teaching in 1971, became interested in administration, and moved up to become an assistant principal and later principal of PS 204, Vince Lombardi School. Early on, he focused on children with learning disabilities, whom he saw as being neglected by both the Catholic and the public school systems. He insists that, “These children have high I.Q’s. They just have difficulty in utilizing the intelligence they possess.”

Sal attributes much of the success he later achieved at Xaverian High School to the fact that he insisted that his students have full participation in all school activities, including sports and other extra-curricular activities. He follows the same principle in his present situation, “except that I don’t call them extra-curricular activities, I call them *co*-curricular activities, because I consider them just as important as classroom work.” Sal’s current students engage in all the usual after-school programs, including some not typically available, such as fencing. With the help of the New York Rowing Association, Sal plans on creating crew teams in the near future.

In an especially adventurous move, Sal is working with the Lantern Foundation to turn a two-acre plot near the Octagon Building into an indoor arena for horseback riding. “There is considerable evidence that children with learning disabilities respond exceptionally well to equestrian training. This is especially true in terms of their self-image.” At the present time, the State Department of Environmental Protection has some unused equipment stored on the site, and Sal is working with them to have the equipment removed and the plot made available for the proposed indoor arena. “The facility would be open to the public,” Sal says, “with the payment of fees to help cover some of the costs of maintenance.”

The students at the Child School/Legacy High School have enjoyed trips to other countries as part of their educational experience. They have lived for two weeks in cities located in Spain, France, Morocco, Panama, and Costa Rica. The students who participated in these excursions range in age from eight to 17. For this school year, Sal Ferrera is planning something more adventurous. As part of a literature program studying the works of Agatha Christie, Sal intends to have his students travel on the Orient Express through southern Europe and into the Balkans. As usual, some of their teachers will accompany the students as chaperones. Funding for foreign ventures must be provided by the parents of the children involved, and they have various fund-raising activities for that purpose.

Sal sums up his view of the school this way: “We are a country day school.” By that he means that all the advantages normally accruing to children attending private country day schools should be made available to his students. If energy, dedication, and enthusiasm for a task are all that is required for success, then Sal Ferrera’s expectations for his schools and his students will surely be met.

R&R Concerts – Steady Growth Over Three Years

by **Sandra Zwerling**

Shouts of *Bravo!*, multiple curtain calls, a happy audience, and joyful musicians mark the end of each R&R concert in the Good Shepherd Community Center. "Robin is dancing in heaven," said Ralph Allen, a musician and a prime enabler of the wonderful concerts.

Rosemarie and Robin Russell had the dream. They brought their musician friends, including the Guarneri Quartet, pianist Ruth Laredo, and guitarist Eliot Fisk to perform on Roosevelt Island, hoping to establish an ongoing series of concerts here. When Rosemarie died, Robin continued the mission. He wanted to combine concerts and music education, and founded the Island Arts Music School, of which he was the director, accountant, and secretary – as well as a teacher. His sudden death in February 2007 was a tremendous loss to the community. That year, the students and teachers who had worked with Robin in the school organized three events to honor him – a concert, a final student recital, and a holiday concert, presented by the musicians as a gift to the community. Islanders responded with great warmth and appreciation.

To ensure that what the Russells began would continue, the Rosemarie and Robin Russell Family Concert Series was founded in 2008. There were four concerts that year, five in 2009, and the total for 2010 will be 10 by year's end. The members of the R&R board of directors – Ralph Allen, Iris Jortner, and Marc Diamond – produce the concerts.

The concerts are programmed by Ralph, a violinist and violist, and Iris, a cellist – both fine musicians and performers, and teachers in Robin's Island Arts Music School.

They play in many of the concerts, and say they greatly enjoy performing here – with people they respect and love, in what they consider a perfect performance space, and with a wonderful audience. Both have performed throughout the world, and they have a vast array of contacts among classical musicians, who for the past year have been volunteering their time to play in the R&R concerts. Iris, Executive and Artistic Director of R&R Concerts and Ralph's wife, is a native of Israel who has lived in New York for eight years. She and Ralph met at Tanglewood in 1996. They moved to Amsterdam, where they lived for four years. Iris was a member of the Aviv Quartet from 1997 to 2002. Some of the musician friends from their years in the Netherlands were in New York last August, and gave us a memorable concert.

Marc Diamond and Marianne Lau have been crucial in putting the concerts together. Roosevelt Island residents for more than 20 years, they are architects and married to each other. Marianne, also a cellist, studied with Jortner. She secured the initial funding to get the concert series started. Marc continues the work of seeking funding and organizing/expediting the events, and is responsible for

the website (rrconcerts.org), which lists programs, information about them, and coming events.

When R&R concerts began, they were funded by several City and State agencies under the umbrella of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association. The Historical Society, *The Main Street WIRE*, RIOC, and the Visual Art Association have been supportive in a variety of ways. For the past year, the artists have donated their time. Many of them have said that they feel well repaid by the warm response and appreciation of Roosevelt Island audiences, and they love the superb acoustics and the beautiful atmosphere of Good Shepherd. The concerts are free, but Roosevelt Islanders have contributed generously. The hope is that soon the artists will be paid appropriately for their work.

This fall, the R&R Concerts board of directors applied to the

IRS for recognition of the organization's non-profit status. That designation will make R&R eligible for grants, and also make contributions tax-deductible.

The artists who have performed here live the vast, varied lives of classical musicians. They have studied all over the world, working with the leading artists of our time. Among the artists who have come to Roosevelt Island are The Spinoza Ensemble from Holland, including American violist Richard Wolfe, who is part of the Spinoza String Quartet. He teaches in the Utrecht and Amsterdam Conservatories. In August, the Spinoza Ensemble gave a stunning performance of two Bach Brandenburg Concerti and the Mendelssohn Octet.

Israeli artists, including violinist/violist Yonah Zur, clarinetist Gilel Harel, and pianist Benjamin Hochman, have performed here.

At a November 5 concert, pianist Byron Schenkman, formerly with the Mira Trio, and harpsichordist and artistic director of the Seattle Baroque Orchestra, was joined by Amherst violinist Colleen Jennings, Tawnya Popoff, principal violist of the Vancouver Opera, and Iris Jortner in a program of music from the classical period by Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven. A wonderful June program for children included lullabies from around the world arranged for string quartet and voice: Brahms songs for mezzo-soprano, viola, and piano; a set of songs by Clyde Watson called *Father Fox's Feast of Songs*; a popular Spanish song by Manuel de Falla; and a Sephardic song from the 12th century. Argentine soprano Malena Dayan, performing with Ralph Allen, Paul Vasile, Amie Weiss, Miranda Sielaff, and Jane O'Hara,

enthralled the audience.

In April, a magnificent program included a Haydn trio for flute, cello, and piano. Roberta Michel, who recently won the Artists International Special Presentation Award and gave a much-heralded debut recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, was the flautist. The program concluded with a quintet by Johann Christian Bach, performed by violinist Ralph Allen, cellist Iris Jortner, oboist Kathy Halvorson, and pianist Byron Schenkman. Prior to the performance, Ralph Allen gave the audience a little musicological background, including how this youngest son of the great Johann Sebastian was, at the time, held in greater esteem than his father, a tidbit the audience enjoyed hearing.

In the weeks before the concerts, the musicians go to Coler and Goldwater Hospitals to play for the residents. This gives Islanders who may not be able to get to the concerts in the church an opportunity to talk with the musicians and to listen to the music. Musicians and audiences value these community-outreach programs highly, and they will continue.

On Saturday, December 4, there will be a concert consisting of short pieces for piano and violin by Beethoven, Schumann, Prokofiev, and Messiaen. [See ad, page 6.] The last concert of the year, on December 18, will be holiday-themed; the program has not yet been set. For the past three years, the December holiday programs have been all Bach. In 2007, Ralph Allen, Iris Jortner, and Richard Wolfe played the Bach Goldberg Variations arranged for string trio.

Rosemarie and Robin Russell's vision of bringing wonderful music to Roosevelt Island is realized in these concerts.



SOCCKER This was a great season. The coaches worked hard, the staff of the Roosevelt Island Youth Program and our soccer coordinator, James Herlihy, were up to the task, and we gave out 325 trophies, 460 hot dogs, 2000 chicken nuggets, and over 600 drinks to players and their families – and while food is always important to kids, soccer was utmost on their minds.

SPORTSWIRE

The season came to a close on an outstanding day with picture-perfect weather on a perfect field. We could not have asked for a better day to play soccer; the great weather all season long helped make this one of our best. Most important, we had a great group of over 30 volunteers, whose time and commitment made our program a great success. The Roosevelt Island Youth Program, Executive Director Charles DeFino, RIYP’s Board of Directors, soccer coordinator James Herlihy, and the parents of the 265 youth who played want to thank all of the volunteers for your commitment.

Senior Division – Light Blue Tsunami produced an undefeated season. Tied (4 times) but never beaten, they played great soccer and were a pleasure to watch, but had their hands full with an always-improving Grey team – crisp passes, new plays every week, and a team that definitely took on the personalities of their coaches. The consolation game was also a great game to watch; the teams played their hearts out! The Royal team won in the second shootout 1-0.

Juniors – Royal team won in double-overtime, beating Red in an awesome match that had it all – bouncing goals, headers, and some dead-on shots. A truly classic moment came when, after a hard-fought game, the Enama twins embraced each other, a sign that these kids get what the league is trying to teach. This sportsmanship was shown throughout the day – even at awards ceremony, when sportsmanship and most valuable awards were given out. The consolation game, Grey over Light Blue, was also a tight match, with some very good passing and scoring. Grey got the win after going the entire season without a victory. Great coaching job, keeping these kids’ spirits up all season.

Minors – Royal Blue beat Light Blue. Both teams had rookie coaches who did a great job. It was a hard-fought game that ended in a shootout, with Royal coming out on top. The consolation game, Grey vs Red, was won in the second overtime by Grey, so we had a shoot-out and a double-overtime win. Not bad at all.

We hope all our new coaches got bitten by the bug and will come back next year. Your enthusiasm and hard work showed all season in the way your teams played.

All our volunteers did an outstanding job, and the foundation laid by the coaches in both the minor and junior divisions will only enhance the level of play in the future.



See page 8 for Island’s Marathoners and the PSD Connect basketball game

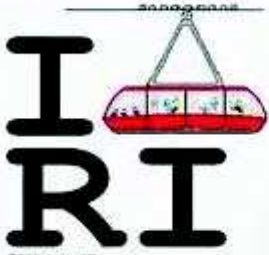


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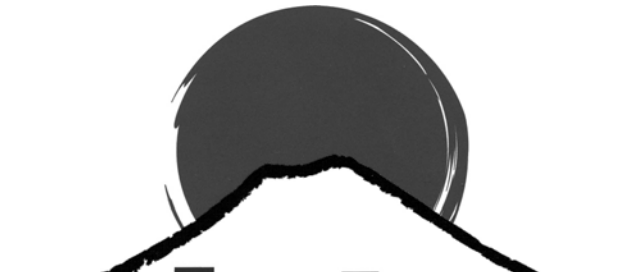
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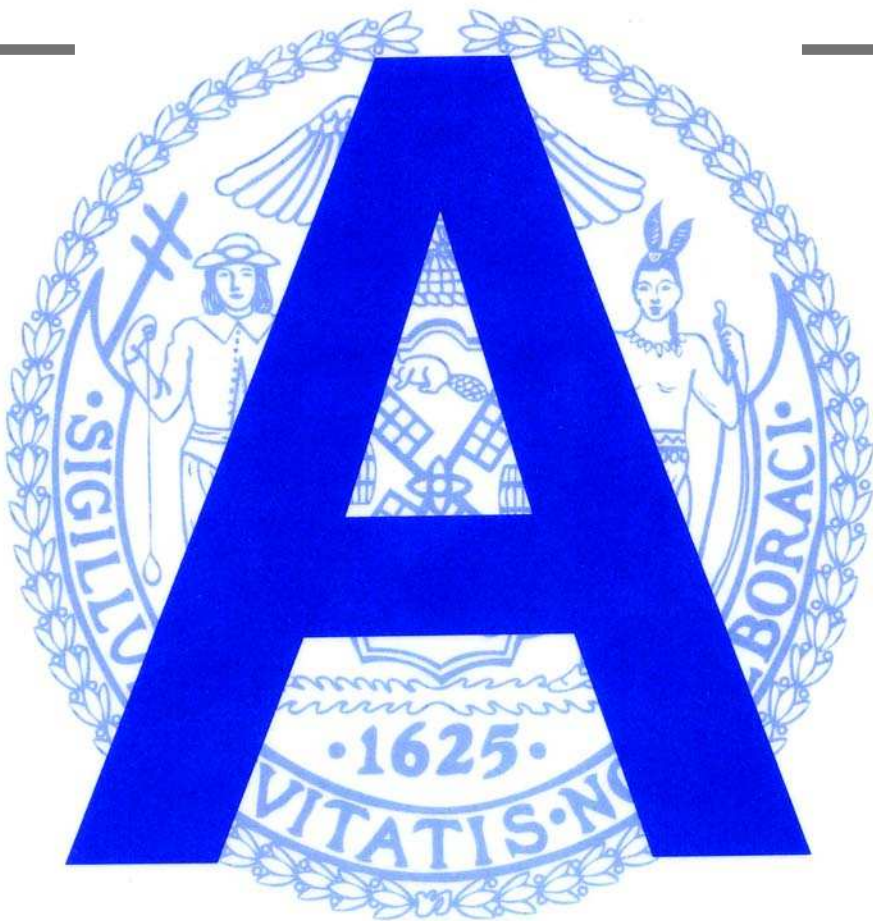
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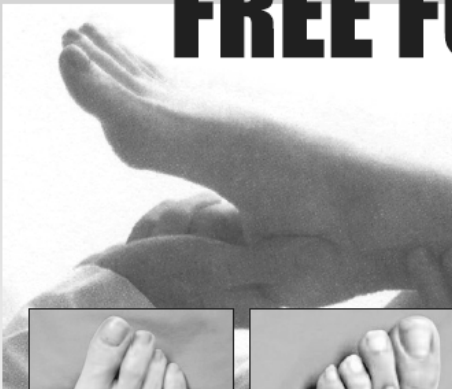
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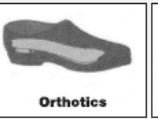
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Are You Paying Too Much For Your Medications

**Save Up to 85% Off Retail Prices Without The Dangers of
Buying Counterfeit Medicines Overseas**

<http://consults.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/19/the-dangers-of-buying-medicines-overseas/>
<http://www.bidmc.org/YourHealth/HolisticHealth/HealthcareCenter.aspx?ChunkID=23984>

We are a participating pharmacy in the NYCRx non-profit organization network. NYCRx is a New York City based non-profit organization founded by NYC’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that has partnered with health centers and hospitals in the New York City area to make medications available at the lowest possible cost to all New Yorkers. Simply get a prescription from a doctor at a participating health center or clinic. Then fill it at our pharmacy. You pay the discounted price (or your copay). That’s all. No enrollment necessary. No residency requirements. No income requirements. No paperwork. And no membership fees.

Plavix 75mg 30 tablets Retail Price \$194 Our Price \$64	Nexium 40mg 30 caps Retail Price \$195 Our Price \$39	Lipitor 10mg 30 tablets Retail Price \$107 Our Price \$42
Ventolin Inhaler 1 unit Retail Price \$37 Our Price \$13	Viagra 100mg 6 tablets Retail Price \$120 Our Price \$65	Actos 15mg 30 tabs Retail Price \$173 Our Price \$9
Lidoderm 5% patch 30 Retail Price \$238 Our Price \$90	Novolog Flexpen 3x5ml Retail Price \$249 Our Price \$9	Advair 250/50 diskus Retail Price \$235 Our Price \$90
Celebrex 100mg 30 cap Retail Price \$81 Our Price \$37	Seroquel 100mg 30 tab Retail Price \$168 Our Price \$45	Singulair 10mg 30 tabs Retail Price \$145 Our Price \$53

Retail prices listed obtained from taking the average of price quotes of several local pharmacies. Prescription price comparison above is valid as of November 12, 2010. Call to find out how much you can save with other medications not listed.