

Next issue:
Saturday,
April 23

The Main Street WIRE™

31st year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



Bus Czar Starts Work

by Dick Lutz

Cyril Opperman is not just a New Yorker. Cyril (“but call me Cy”) Opperman is a *Noo Yawka*. And proud to be. And now, he’s RIOC’s new Red Bus guy – the man on the spot as the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation tries to get the kinks out of the current bus scheduling and routing. If you’ve never met a real *Noo Yawka*, you have the chance now. He started on Monday, and last week – dropping in even before on the payroll – told a

meeting of the RIOC Board’s Operations Committee that he expects to be on the street at the stops, on the buses, getting the lay of the land, and fine-tuning system performance first-hand. Opperman worked as a bus driver with the MTA 30 years ago, rose through the ranks and retired, recently, as general supervisor for buses. Along the way, he trained dispatchers, worked on safety, and had not one day out sick. “I’m a fourth-generation New Yorker,” he told Board members. See **Red Bus**, page 6

NYC to Have Many Options in Choosing the Developer for Island’s Goldwater Property

by David Stone

Community interest in Stanford University’s proposal to build a research facility on Roosevelt Island has created a spike of activity. Both the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) and the Roosevelt Island Operation Corporation (RIOC) have moved into action in response to the proposal and its potential for the Island. Stanford, recognized as one of the top research universities in the world, responded affirmatively to a request from the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) with detailed plans for

building their first-ever remote campus where Goldwater Hospital now stands. EDC had asked for expressions of interest from universities here and abroad. Four locations owned by the City, including the Goldwater property, were offered. Stanford pounced, submitting a detailed plan that envisioned a campus with over 2,000 students, built in three phases over 20 years. In its press release, EDC spoke extensively about only Stanford’s proposal, one among 18 expres-

sions of interest from a combined 27 universities, without explaining why it was being highlighted. It may be that Stanford’s was the only response with so much detail, or it may be that they wanted to set an example for what they hope to see when final proposals are solicited this summer. Any conclusions about a preference for Stanford’s proposal would seem premature. Such a preference would dilute the interest and commitment of other bidders still in the See **Goldwater**, page 6

Briefly...

There are **Subway disruptions** this weekend and in two weeks. See RIOC Column, page 10. The **Rivercross ground lease** has been extended to 2068. Report on page 10. Wednesday night’s **RIRA meeting** produced a pitched verbal battle. Report on page 10. The WIRE’s Roosevelt Island **Short Story Contest** ends Wednesday. Last call for entries, page 12. Roosevelt Island’s member of the New York City Council, **Jessica Lappin**, has just given birth to a second child, another son.

Southpoint Vision of a Disabled FDR Debuts Tonight at RIVAA

Tonight at 6:00 p.m., the only full-body sculpture of President Franklin D. Roosevelt that will appear at Southpoint Park will be unveiled at Gallery RIVAA. It’s the work of Sculptor Meredith Bergmann, who has been selected for creation of the sculpture and the site set aside to honor FDR as a polio victim who overcame the resulting disability to become the country’s longest-serving president. The portrayal will show FDR in a wheelchair, interacting with a disabled child. It’s the FDR Hope Memorial, the product of an effort by a subcommittee of the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association (RIDA), See **FDR Hope**, page 12



An Absence of Snow From a Roosevelt Landings roof, Paul Katz captured this sweeping view looking north, with Big Allis on the right, Rivercross on the left, Good Shepherd in shadow, and a bright canopy over a building entrance in a Roosevelt Landings courtyard. For Katz’s equally striking view in the opposite direction, go to *Website NYC10044* at nyc10044.com.

RIRA – The Marvel And the Mess

It's a marvel to see the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association at its best.

It's discouraging to see it at its worst.

On Wednesday night, observers saw both.

At its best, the Common Council is a vibrant collection of dynamic people of all ages who have actively decided that they will carve out a chunk of time to serve their community. If you read *The RIRA Column* in this issue of *The WIRE*, including Lynne Shinozaki's report of the plans being made by RIRA's **Social, Cultural, and Educational Committee** (SC&E), you'll find rich hints of what such an organization can do to create positive movement in a community.

Of course, the SC&E plans are not the full story on RIRA and its active committees. While SC&E's efforts are *out there* and, intentionally, highly visible, a lot of RIRA's work is done behind the scenes. To get a sense of that, you have to read the reports of the committee and subcommittee meetings that occur in the intervals between the monthly first-Wednesday full-Council sessions.

You'll find the **Public Safety Committee** holding the Public Safety Department's feet to the fire on building patrols, traffic management, parking enforcement. You'll hear PSD Chief Keith Guerra alerting these concerned citizens to the hints of increased gang recruitment and graffiti activity, and you'll understand the challenge of manpower management when a major crisis hits and there are only five officers to deal with it.

You'll discover a **Planning Committee** that worries about crisis-management planning, park development, making sure residents get a chance for input on development of Main Street retail, and watching out to make sure the City's waterfront development plans include Roosevelt Island.

You'll also see an instant organizing effort to get residents a voice in the institutional development of the Goldwater Hospital site – and to encourage a project that could be transformative for the Island.

You'll find the **Island Services Committee** calling attention to a genuine deficiency in the renovations of the Roosevelt Island Bridge, and insisting on actions to cure it.

In short, you'll find a resident organization truly engaged in addressing Island needs, problems, and opportunities.

But, at its worst...

Well, democracy can get messy. Messy, indeed.

There was a knock-down, drag-out at Wednesday night's meeting, as we are sad to report on page 10. We have to ask how an organization can be effective when a small number of its elected members try to shout each other down, speak out of turn, ignore the chair's imprecations to behave, and refuse to allow a subject to be closed so that the organization can move on. Whatever the merit of a cause embraced, the organization and the community as a whole are of greater importance, and they are served only when there is mutual respect, deference to an elected chair, and a willingness to place the good of the whole above individual ax-grinding.

Briefly, the *Friday Night Fights* came to the RIRA Common Council on Wednesday night. We have to hope it's the last time.

There is so much good in RIRA and its efforts. That good is what deserves the focus, and, as titillating as a good ol' heated-up argument can be, there comes a moment when enough is *enough*.

Focus on the good.

DL

Attention – Island Organizations & Businesses:

The WIRE is currently updating the Island CONTACTS LIST, preparing for a reprinting. Please check your listing at nyc10044.com/contacts.htm and supply any corrections or changes (or additions) to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net. Thanks.

Letters

To the Editor:

Nurit and Steve Marcus have said everything that needs to be said in their letter to RIOC (March 12 *WIRE*) regarding the Hudson & Related Company's leasing contract for properties on Main Street. The State's refusal to make the storefront leasing easily accessible apparently leaves an outside contractor as the only viable alternative. It is imperative that its leasing terms and practices be done in full consultation with the community that will have to live with the outcome of its decisions.

For years, Roosevelt Island has been the poster child for a poorly governed community and the victim of predatory real-estate development practices. What was once a beautiful concept for a planned "utopian" community, which started its history as a wonderful place for middle-income residents, has turned into a privatization extravaganza. Unless well supervised, the Hudson & Related contract could be just one more insult. Edward Logue must be turning over in his grave.

Gilda Hannah

To the Editor:

After my letter appeared in the March 12 issue of *The WIRE* regarding pool membership at Sportspark, [RIOC Vice President] Fernando Martinez e-mailed me. However, this is the response I received: *We are currently working on a membership fee for the Sportspark facility.*

I appreciate him getting back to me, but this still leaves the frequent swimmers of Sportspark in the same "nowhere land" that we've been in for years. I emailed him again, asking for details of when we can expect to see a membership option, and he did not respond. I then e-mailed [RIOC President] Leslie Torres, inquiring on the specifics of where they are in the process, and she still has not responded.

So I ask again, will someone at RIOC please get this done? Please finish the discussions, put an end to the delays, and offer Sportspark pool membership! Also, keeping us informed would be appreciated!

Roberta Kleiman

To the Editor:

The members of the RIRA Public Safety Committee wish to thank Officer Evelio Fernandez for the years of service that he has provided to our community. His kindness toward our senior citizens will be missed. We regret that his departure will create a temporary void in the policing here. We wish him success in his new assignment.

In the past, when our community did not feel that we had an adequate NYPD presence, we joined together and advocated on our own behalf to strengthen it. With this struggle in mind, we have always tried to maintain a positive relationship with the NYPD officers who have been assigned to patrol Roosevelt Island. We recognize that these officers are immensely important to the safety of our community, and that their support is essential to the Public Safety Department's team. Therefore, we will continue to support their efforts, and look forward to working with the next NYPD officer assigned here.

As it is the responsibility of the RIRA Public Safety Committee to address any law enforcement concerns voiced by the Roosevelt Island residents to RIOC's Public Safety Department and to the NYPD, we will continue to do so, and welcome the input of all interested parties within the community to assist us.

Erin Feely-Nahem, Chair
RIRA Public Safety Committee

To the Editor:

With regard to Ms. Torres's comments about the greening of the Island, it is nice to read about all the programs – but it would be even nicer if RIOC would discourage parking on the Island, rather than encouraging it with moves like the new parking spaces on the West Road, which eliminate any plans for a continuous promenade along the river for bicyclists and pedestrians.

RIOC should also try to limit the timing and sizes of trucks that suppliers can use to deliver on the Island. (The 28-ton weight limitation has proven too high.)

Mogens Peterson

To the Editor:

In his letter (*The WIRE*, March 26), Officer Evelio Fernandez nailed on the head the events that complicated his continuance on Roosevelt Island. As a member of RIRA's Public Safety Committee, I was truly dismayed by the behavior I've seen, and the stress on writing a response to his letter that carefully avoids taking responsibility. I've lost respect for the members who were involved in this fiasco.

The people referred to in his letter not only made it difficult for him to continue in his chosen role, serving the residents of the community, but they also gave no forethought to the void that their undeserved actions would create in police protection for Roosevelt Island. Their phone calls were made despite the fact that there was not a single report of wrongdoing ever presented to the committee, there was no inquiry, and there was no investigation.

I applaud Officer Fernandez for his many years of service, and for the times he put his safety on the line to protect our residents and support our Public Safety officers, and wish him the best of luck in his new position. The 114th Precinct's gain is our loss.

Joyce Mincheff

To the Editor:

With the likelihood of an institution of higher learning eventually acquiring the Goldwater site, some conditions must be included in any plan approved.

The university should house a number of their faculty, students, and/or staff in existing Roosevelt Island buildings. The Island has suffered social isolation from the buildings owned and operated by medical facilities. There is little interaction between those residents and the rest of the community.

Any new university that would move a campus onto the Island should have to rent a number of units in existing buildings. This would motivate the residents to become part of the community.

The last thing that the Island needs is another 250-unit apartment house for only staff, students, and faculty. Part of education is living in a community (not a glorified dormitory).

Perhaps whatever university is chosen will also undertake the complete upgrade of the Coler campus and stabilization of the Smallpox Hospital. These would be a great "give-back" to the Island.

Let's talk and discuss our input before others decide for us.

Judith 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 handwritten 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.

Letters deadline for April 23
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...and the students of Legacy High School; Hassan Wazani and students from the PS/IS 217 Beacon.

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

Unveiling of the FDR Hope Memorial Sculpture Design, tonight (**Sat Apr 9**), 6-7pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Open to public; light refreshments. (Story, page 1.)

Vernissage 10, the 10th-anniversary exhibit of the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association (RIVAA), closes **tomorrow (Sun Apr 10)**. Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun**, 11am-5pm; **Wed & Fri**, 6-9pm.

Magnolia Blossom Walk, **Sun Apr 10**, 11am, starting from The Octagon, 888 Main St., sponsored by the Historical Society and led by Judy Berdy. \$5 donation.

— Coming Week & Next Weekend —

English as a Second Language class (for all adult ages) starts **Tue Apr 12**, 10-12am, Youth Center, 506 Main Street. RIYP/Beacon program sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Adult Education. Free. To sign up, just show up.

PS/IS 217 PTA School Tour, **Wed Apr 13**, 8:45am. RSVP required to **212-980-0294**, ext 1010 or LRademaker@schools.nyc.gov. Additional tours May 18 and Jun 1 (both Wed, 8:45am). (Ad, page 4.)

Submission deadline for *The WIRE's Short-Story Contest*, **Wed Apr 13**, 5pm. (Details, page 12.)

Computer Orientation – Microsoft Word, **Thu Apr 14**, 10:30am, Library. Free. Limit of 10 students; sign up in advance at the NYPL branch.

Community Board 8 meets on Roosevelt Island, **Thu Apr 14**, 6:30pm, Good Shepherd Community Center.

R&R Concert, **Bach's Goldberg Variations**, **Thu Apr 14**, 7:30pm, Good Shepherd Center. Salley Koo, violin; Ralph Allen, viola; Iris Jortner, cello. Free; donations accepted. (Ad, page 9.)

Works on Paper by Annette R. Hochberg exhibition, **Sat Apr 16** thru **Sun May 29**, The Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St. **Opening Reception** on **Sun Apr 17**, 2-5pm. Gallery hours 9am-8pm daily.

Tennis Club Opening Day, **Sat Apr 16**, 10am, at the Octagon Courts, sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Tennis Association. (Story, page 14.)

Author Reading by Islander Fred Phillips from his newly published book of poetry, *From the Cauldron*, **Sat Apr 16**, 1pm, Library. Free.

Opening Reception for *Blanket of Ash and Lapilli*, an exhibition of art by Ioan Popoiu, **Sat Apr 16**, 6-9pm, Gallery RIVAA. Gallery hours Sat-Sun 11am-5pm, Wed & Fri 6-9pm. Continues through May 22.



— Continuing —

Wheelchair Basketball, **Sat**, 10am-1pm, Sportspark.

Open-Rec Basketball, **Sat**, 2-6pm, Sportspark. All ages; free.

Swimming at Sportspark, **Mon-Fri** 6-10am, **Mon Wed Fri** 7:30-10:30pm, **Thu** 6-9pm, **Sat-Sun** 12-3pm. **Adults** (18-up) **Tue** 6-9pm, **Sat-Sun** 4-7pm. **Adults** \$5, **children** 4-17 \$3, **free** for **seniors** 60+ and **infants** 3 and under. Schedule of classes and activities at nyc10044.com/z/0j.

Infant Lapsit, stories for ages 0-18 months, **Mon**, 10:30am, Library.

UNO for teens, **Mon**, 4pm, Library.

Toastmasters, 2nd and 4th **Mon**, 7:30pm. Info: **212-751-9577**.

Knitting & Crochet Group, **Tue**, 10am, Library. Adults.

Living Library After-School Program, **Tue, Wed, Thu**, 3-6pm, PS/IS 217 Beacon. Open to all. Information: 347-724-5529.

Ping Pong: Open Play, **Tue & Fri**, 6-9pm, Sportspark. **Class**, **Wed**, 6-9pm, Sportspark. All ages; free.

Sci-Fi Discussion Group, **first Tue** of month, 6:30pm, Library.

Poetry Hour (adults), **last Tue** of month, 6:30pm, Library.

Toddler Story Time (ages 18-36 months), **Wed**, 11am, Library.

RIOC's Community Office Hours, **Wed**, 3-5pm, 591 Main St.

Constituent Service Hours for State Senator Jose Serrano and/or staff, **first Wed** of each month, 4-7pm, RIOC offices, 591 Main St.

Island Office Hours for Assemblymember Micah Kellner and/or staff, **every Thu**, 3-7pm, RIOC offices, 591 Main St.

Game On @ Roosevelt Island for ages 13-18. **Thu**, 4pm, Library; Japanese comics/novels.

Robots for Kids ages 6-13, **Thu**, 6:30-8pm, Youth Program, 506 Main St., 2nd fl. Information: **917-751-2900**.

— Future Weeks —

Computer Orientation – Excel Spreadsheets, **Thu Apr 21**, 10:30am, Library. Free. Limit of 10 students; sign up in advance at the NYPL branch.

Book Discussion, *Life Is Short But Wide* by J. California Cooper, **Thu Apr 21**, 6:30pm, Library.

The Main Street WIRE – **Sat April 23**. **Advertising deadlines**: Display ads, **Wed Apr 13**; decision date for circulars/inserts, **Tue Apr 19**; 5,500 copies due **Thu Apr 21**. **Additional issues in 2011**: May 7, 21; Jun 4, 18; Jul 2; Aug 27; Sep 10, 24; Oct 8, 22; Nov 5, 19; Dec 10. Dates for **2012** listed online in the *WIRE* archive on *Website NYC10044.com* at nyc10044.com/z/0r. **News phone**, **212-826-9056**; **urgent matters**, **917-617-0449**. Press releases by e-mail to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net. **Advertising** (display and classified): **917-587-3278**.

Registration starts for Roosevelt Island Day Nursery's full-day infant and toddler programs, **Wed Apr 27**, at the Day Nursery, 4 River Road. Information: **212-935-3747** or ridn.org. (Ad, page 8.)

Computer Orientation – Internet, **Thu Apr 28**, 10:30am, Library. Free. Limit of 10 students; sign up in advance at the NYPL branch.

Cherry Blossom Festival, **Sat Apr 30**, time to be announced. Japanese music and food in solidarity with earthquake/tsunami victims.

Cherry Blossom Walk, **Sun May 1**, 11am, starting at the visitor kiosk at the Tram station. Sponsored by the Historical Society and led by Judy Berdy. \$5 donation. More **ComingUp** on page 14

A couple of Saturdays ago, I had the great pleasure of presenting some songs, some schmoozing, and some guitar-picking at Gallery RIVAA to a packed audience. Again, I want to thank the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association and its president, Tad Sudol, for inviting me. I had a ball and, as no one threw ripe tomatoes at me, I'm assuming that my performance was not judged too painful. My wife (and RIRA Secretary) Sherie Helstien, who is a classically trained singer, and I performed a little Brazilian number as an encore. This was a special joy, as we have never found music to do together and so, this was a first on any stage! Sherie has performed operatic roles, lieder, and art songs, and I was tickled to accompany her on music within my capacity to play.

The RIRA Column

Upcoming RIRA Events

The RIRA Social, Cultural and Educational Services Committee has been hard at work planning some amazing programs. I'll let the chair, Lynne Shinozaki, tell you about them:

Exciting times are coming to Roosevelt Island. Here is just a taste of what we have in store for you! In the next few months, we are co-sponsoring one event a month. Starting us off will be the **First Annual Cherry Blossom Festival**, Saturday, April 30. This year, we will dedicate a grove of cherry trees to the

people of Japan and our Japanese neighbors in an act of solidarity with those affected by the earthquake and tsunami. You will have the opportunity to give directly to Japan relief organizations and know that the dollars raised that day will go to organizations that are supporting relief efforts. There will be traditional music and demonstrations, Japanese foods, and, we hope, tastings to make this a really special event.

The next event planned is **Roosevelt Island Skate Experience** on Health and Fitness Day, Saturday, May 14. We will co-sponsor the event as a fundraiser for RIRA. It will be held at the Child School on Main Street, and is supported by the building management companies of Roosevelt Island.

Following that will be an opportunity for you to meet your neighbors and get to know more about RIRA at a **Networking Breakfast**. These will be held

See **RIRA**, page 13



Matthew Katz, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
e-mail: MatthewKatz@verizon.net

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.

It's been a busy couple of weeks, with good news to report on the Commercial Space Master Lease, the Red Bus system, a new pool-membership structure for Sportspark, and the Good Shepherd Community Center.

Retail Space Master Lease

I am pleased to announce that we have come to tentative terms on the Commercial Space Master Lease. All the necessary requirements under the Public Authorities Law should be completed in time for the May 23 Board meeting. We look forward to working with a master lessee to upgrade the Island's commercial corridor.

Red Bus Management

I know many of you have expressed concern about the Red Bus schedule and stops. It is an issue we are concerned about, too. Getting it right is one of our top priorities.

To that end, I am happy to report that we have hired Cyril "Cy" Opperman, a bus operations expert with over 31 years of experience. Cy comes to us from the New York City Transit Authority, where he worked his way up from bus operator to General Superintendent of the West Farms Depot. I know he'll be a great asset to the Red Bus operations.

Cy's priorities are safety and the schedule. He's a hands-on manager, and has been riding the buses for a few weeks prior to his official start. So, if you see Cy on the bus, say hello. I know he's eager to hear from residents about their Red Bus experience.

Sportspark Pool Membership

Beginning in May, RIOC will be offering discounted pool memberships. For more information on the membership program, please visit www.RIOC.ny.gov.

Good Shepherd Renovations

Every day, Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation

staff is busy making repairs and working on construction projects big and small. One of our current large projects is the renovation of Good Shepherd Community Center.

The community center was built as a church in 1889 to serve the residents of the many almshouses that were constructed on Welfare Island, as Roosevelt Island was then known. The structure was landmarked in 1975.

Over the years, it has continued to serve religious purposes, but also became the site of numerous community meetings, concerts, and other events. You can find more information on the center's website at www.goodshepherdchapel.net.

RIOC has been working to make much-needed repairs to the Center, and over the next several months we'll embark on a complete renovation of the Center's plaza. Our overall goal is to maintain or restore the original look and feel of the Center and plaza.

As I mentioned in a recent column, we have already begun, and in some cases completed, work on the Center's interior. We've replaced the floor and doors in the downstairs community room, and are now working on replacing the heating, ventilation, and cooling system. We'll also replace the fire-alarm and fire-suppression systems, now nearly 30 years old.

The Center's red doors and the wood church floor are also in a state of great disrepair. We believe that

See **RIOC**, page 10



Leslie Torres, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
e-mail: LTorres@RIOC.com

Senior Center

Monday

9:30 **Ballroom Dancing**
11:00 **Tai Chi**
2:00 **Dance & Drama**
6:00 **Yoga with Nurit**

Tuesday

9am-1pm **Tax Help** (last day 4/12)
9:30 **Chinese Massage**
10:20 **Shoppers' Bus**
11:00 **Blood Pressure**
2:00 **Paint & Sculpt**
7:30 **Games** (RISA)

Wednesday

9:30 **Yoga Stretch** (except 4/20)
10:20 **Shoppers' Bus**
10:30 **Computers**
10:30 **Spanish**

Thursday

9:30 **Stronger Bones**
10:45 **Ping Pong**
12:30 **Movie**

Friday

Office closed April 22
9:30 **Yoga Stretch** (except 4/22)
10:30 **English as 2nd Language**
10:30 **Ballroom Dancing**
11:15 **Nutrition Lecutre** (4/22)
1:00 **Korean Games**
6:00 **Ballroom Dancing** (last Fri each month)
7:00 **Games** (RISA)

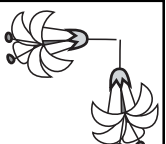
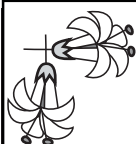
Special Events

Atlantic City trip, today (Sat Apr 9), 9am
Last Day for Tax Help, Tue Apr 12, 9am-1pm..
Play reading, Fri Apr 15, 7:30pm
Safety Workshop presented by the Department of Transportation, Wed Apr 27, 10:45am

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

There is no charge to list Island events here. E-mail information to editor@MainStreetWIRE.com or leave it at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*.

The WIRE



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Easter Services

April 17 **Palm Sunday** 10:00 am

April 20 **Holy Wednesday** Agape Supper 6:30 pm

April 21 **Maundy Thursday** Holy Eucharist with
Foot Washing 7:00 pm
(The church will be open until 12 am for private vigil)

April 22 **Good Friday** Liturgy noon
Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm

April 23 **Holy Saturday**, Easter Vigil 8:00 pm

April 24 **Easter Day** Festive Choral Eucharist 10:00 am

Every Sunday, Choral Eucharist, 10:am

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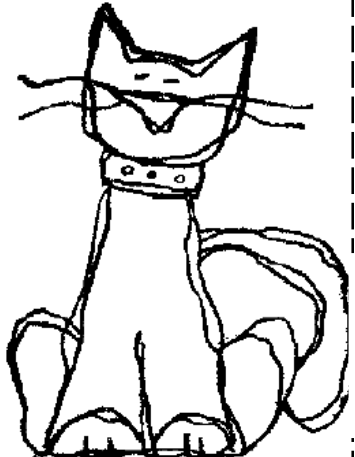
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Early one recent morning, a Red Bus loaded passengers at the subway station. For a majority of Roosevelt Islanders who commute, the Red Bus is their most frequent contact with the services of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.

Red Bus from page 1

“Am I a New Yorker? One hundred percent.”

Asked how he would go about rating his staff of drivers, Opperman said, “I’ll ride the buses. You’ve got to get *on* it.”

Operations Committee Chair Jonathan Kalkin told Opperman that he sees the NextBus system, based on Global Positioning System (GPS) transmitters on every

happening on Roosevelt Island, but he was suggesting that not all drivers are happy with real-time electronic reporting of their performance.

Opperman chatted with members of the Operations Committee and visitors for about a half hour. “The secret is headway,” he said, meaning the intervals between buses. “You don’t maintain bus



Opperman, right, was introduced to members of the RIOC Board’s Operations Advisory Committee and guests last week. Clockwise from left: RIOC Board member Michael Shinozaki, RIOC Controller Steve Chironis, RIOC Vice President Fernando Martinez (to whom Opperman will report), RIOC Boad member Howard Polivy, RIRA President Matthew Katz, and committee chair Jonathan Kalkin.

bus, as an important tool. But he echoed two problems voiced by RIOC Vice President Fernando Martinez (*The WIRE*, March 26): “The drivers have got to turn it on, and they’ve got to enter the right job number.” Otherwise, the system can’t generate meaningful reports. Later, someone mentioned that the drivers also need to turn the system *off* when they park the buses; otherwise, someone waiting for a Red Bus at 40 River Road, checking NextBus readout on a mobile device, could get the wrong idea – that a bus is just a minute away, while it’s actually parked in the yard behind Motorgate. “At this point,” Kalkin said, “we don’t have the data and can’t rely on the system.”

Responding, Opperman said that City bus operators sometimes fouled the system by putting tinfoil around the transmitter antennas. He wasn’t suggesting that’s

spacing, you get bunching.” A Residents Association (RIRA) Common Councilor, Aaron Hamburger, said, “The most important goal is a reliable and predictable schedule.”

Indeed, rider complaints received at a RIRA e-mail address have centered on the dependability of the system – concern that arriving Trams are not being met by buses during non-rush hours and during the homebound rush, and that scheduling is not reliable during the morning rush, leading to uncertainty and delays for riders.

“Look at the geography of the Island,” Opperman said. “God forbid somebody gets a flat!”

Martinez said RIOC still plans a community meeting, to talk about bus service, for late April. “I know we have problems,” he said, then added that hiring Opperman means that “we’re addressing the management issues. I feel very excited about having him on board.”

Kalkin said, “In its own way, this is probably the most important job on the Island.”

“I’ll be on the buses Monday morning,” Opperman said. He was.

Goldwater from page 1

running. And as Stanford’s spokesperson, Lisa Lapin, told *The WIRE* regarding the university’s next steps, “There are still many outstanding questions about how the City plans to proceed.”

Among local candidates, Columbia University scientists, critical of the solicitation by EDC, sounded off in the campus publication, *The Spectator*. Physics department chair William Zajc said bluntly that Mayor Bloomberg should spend “more time exploring the great resource that is Columbia.”

Even so, Columbia is a participant in two separate proposals to EDC, one for a joint research center with the City University of New York and the other for a genomics research facility in conjunction with New York University, the New York Genome Center, and six other institutions. Locations indicated in their proposals, if any, were not disclosed.

“Obviously it’s going to be extremely competitive, and we hope that we’re chosen as one of the finalists,” said Tom Maniatis, chair of Columbia’s department of biochemistry and molecular biophysics.

President Nam-Pyo Ush of Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), a Korean University mentioned prominently by EDC in its press release, included a curious statement in his annual message: “Recently, New York City of the United States invited KAIST to establish a campus in New York City with their ‘significant commitment in the form of capital and City-controlled land. [G]iven KAIST’s outstanding reputation in the academic and research community, we would be excited for you to work with us on this initiative. As we learn more about your vision for a presence in New York, we will work closely with you to ensure the optimal degree of support [to] achieve your ambitions and priorities,’” seeming to indicate a commitment of some kind already in place. Another possible implication is that multiple research facilities might be built with City support and as a result of the EDC request.

The possibility of more than a single proposal being accepted was part of the discussion when resident RIOC director Jonathan Kalkin discussed the subject of Stanford’s proposal in the public portion of a meeting of the Real Estate Development Advisory Committee, which he heads. Kalkin advised the committee that he has already taken steps toward engaging with both EDC and Stanford.

“I’d like to get us to be part of the conversation,” Kalkin asserted.

The Institutions and Partners Interested in City’s Offer of Properties

- According to the New York City EDC, the following universities and other entities have responded with interest in building a science and research center in New York in response to their request. In addition to Roosevelt Island, sites on Governor’s Island and in Brooklyn are being offered.
- Åbo Akadmi University, Finland
 - Amity University, India
 - Carnegie Mellon University with Steiner Studios
 - Cornell University
 - Columbia University and the City University of New York
 - The Cooper Union
 - École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
 - Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, India
 - Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Korea
 - New York University, Carnegie Mellon, the City University of New York, the University of Toronto, and IBM
 - The New York Genome Center, with Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Columbia University Medical Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York University, Rockefeller University, and the Jackson Laboratory
 - Purdue University
 - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 - Stanford University
 - The Stevens Institute of Technology
 - Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Israel
 - The University of Chicago
 - The University of Warwick, United Kingdom

“When we met with EDC, they said they were interested in community reaction. So, I would like to have formal statements of interest so that when they [the universities] make their final proposals, they think of the community, not just about building on the southern end of the Island and not how they are going to add to the community.”

“We’re not going away,” added RIOC president Leslie Torres. “We’re here.”

Kalkin strongly recommended an alliance between RIOC and the community, represented by RIRA, in a show of unity. Initial steps have been taken. He introduced Denise Shull, a RIRA representative from The Octagon, and read a letter she has drafted that would invite all of the universities engaged in the proposal process to launch a mutually supportive relationship with the community.

Shull told *the WIRE* that Frank Farance, chair of RIRA’s Planning committee, “is going to put a motion forward to form the subcommittee tomorrow night [April 6].” The subcommittee would focus attention specifically on the EDC proposals.

RIOC resident Board members

present (Kalkin, Margie Smith, Kathie Grimm, Fay Christian, and Howard Polivy) agreed that Island residents were uniformly positive about Stanford’s proposal, with only a single negative comment reported.

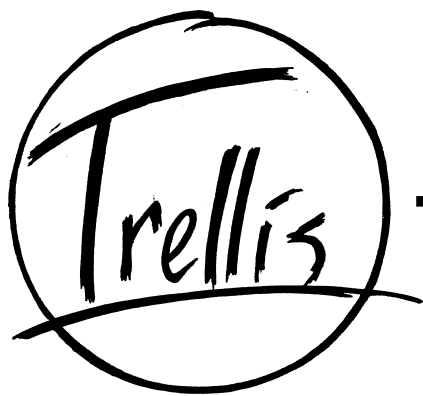
Both RIOC and RIRA will be actively engaging with EDC and, very likely, its list of interested university partners, although specific actions remain in the formative stages. With final proposals expected this summer and the designation of a winner by the end of the year, the coming months may critically change the community environment on Roosevelt Island, a fact about which those involved are mindful.

As for Stanford, Lapin told *the WIRE* that “on-campus conversations continue. The Stanford Board of Trustees held another discussion this week and President Hennessy will discuss it at his annual address to the Academic Council next week, and will be joined in that conversation by Jim Plummer, dean of the School of Engineering, and Bob Reidy, our vice president for land, buildings, and real estate. Beyond that, we are waiting for further word and direction from NYC EDC.”



Wednesday night, the RIRA Common Council chose Denise Shull to chair a subcommittee that will seek a role for the community in the way the Goldwater property is used.

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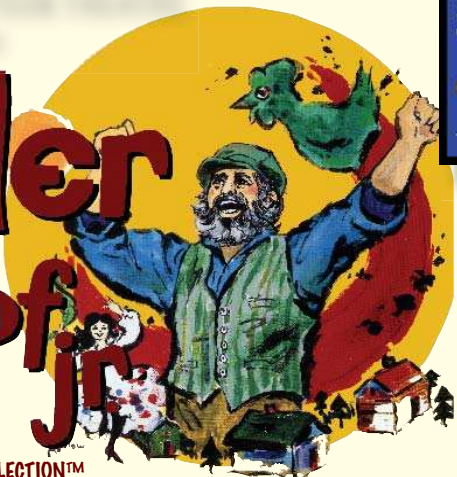
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Housing

Ground Lease Extension To 2068 for Rivercross

The Rivercross ground lease has been extended.

Under the deal that became final on March 29, the extension will run to 2068, when New York City will resume control of Roosevelt Island.

A memo to shareholders of the co-operative said, “With an extension of the ground lease in place, we are working on refinancing Rivercross’s present mortgage with a view toward borrowing the additional funds required to undertake the capital improvements that would be necessary to make the building more energy-efficient and improve the heating (replacement of all windows and replacement and insulation of all heating units).”

The memo said the cost of the anticipated work is estimated at \$15 million. “At today’s market interest rates, it is our expectation that a refinancing and additional borrowing can be accomplished without any further increase in maintenance beyond the 5% already scheduled for September 2011.”

The memo goes on to address the question of “privatization,” which has become the catch-word for removing New York State and Mitchell-Lama regulations from the building’s management, saying the lease extension and refinancing leaves “completion of tax arrangements with ESDC (Empire State Development Corporation) as the primary outstanding item that needs to be accomplished in order to implement the affordability plan that we worked out with DHCR (the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal) in 2009 for

taking Rivercross out of the Mitchell-Lama program.”

The Rivercross board of directors has, in the past, indicated that a favorable tax arrangement with ESDC is critical to keeping the building affordable. A two-thirds vote of shareholders will ultimately be required to complete a departure from State control. Depending on the final structure of a Mitchell-Lama-exit package, shareholders will be able to sell their apartments at a considerable markup over pricing under Mitchell-Lama; however, the plan will include “flip-taxes,” or transfer fees, to divert a chunk of such profits into the building’s treasury.

Within the building, there have been three sources of opposition to a departure from Mitchell-Lama. One is the conviction held by some residents that others, in the future, should have the same chance at low-cost acquisition of an apartment that they had when they bought in. Another is a contention that small apartments effectively subsidize the larger apartments because of the original apportioning of shares; the building’s board of directors has disputed that view. A third is anxiety about sustaining long-term affordability of shareholders’ monthly maintenance costs.

Rivercross became eligible for privatization over 10 years ago, but it was hampered in earlier efforts by management changes at RIOC (whose Board of Directors had to approve the ground-lease extension) and by the complexity of devising a plan acceptable to all interested governmental parties.

Two other buildings, Island House and Westview, are anticipating some form of “privatization,” a term of art in real estate that means relinquishing a State-backed mortgage, but has been extended in common use to mean departure from all State control. Roosevelt Landings (Eastwood) has already been removed from the system, though it still has some federal and New York State controls under its departure plan.

The WIRE seeks righters who no how to spel and rite sentenses good.

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(seriously)

RIOC from page 3

the doors and floor are original to the building – making them more than 120 years old. We are looking to replace them and are also exploring replacing the current asphalt roof shingles with slate, which was the material originally used for the roof.

The bigger renovations are the ones we’ll make to the Center’s plaza, including fixing the poor drainage, uneven pavement, cracked pavers, and poor lighting in the area.

Here is a brief run-down of the work that will begin shortly. We hope to have repairs completed by July. During the first phase or renovations, visitors will be able to access the Center via the north side. During the second phase, access will be available through the west entrance. We will have access for the disabled at all times.

Plaza Floor: Many of the current pavers are cracked and broken. We will replace all the pavers with ones that are twice as thick, while maintaining the current plaza design. We’ll also put in new trench drains.

Sidewalk: The z-brick sidewalk will be replaced with concrete. We understand residents’ desire to keep the beautiful z-bricks. We, too, would like to keep them, but there are no more z-brick manufacturers from whom we can buy them.

Lighting: The lights will be replaced with the same light poles and fixtures installed on Main Street.

Benches: We will replace the current benches with ones that better fit with the look of the Center. We are considering adding additional benches, and welcome input from the community. If you have suggestions, please e-mail them to GSChapelproject@rioc.com or call us at **212-832-4540**, ext. 327.

You can get more information about the Center and plaza reconstruction by viewing the presentation on our website at rioc.ny.gov/pdf/GSChapelProject.pdf.

F-Line Disruptions

I want to alert you to planned service disruptions on the F Line. This weekend (April 9-11) and on the weekend of April 23-25, there will be no northbound (Queens-bound) F train service at the Roosevelt Island Station. RIOC will provide Tram service throughout the service disruption. For more information, please refer to www.MTA.info or www.RIOC.ny.gov.

RIRA

Departure of Community Policing Officer Results in an Angry Exchange

Wednesday night’s meeting of the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) briefly became a pitched verbal brawl over events surrounding the reassignment of NYPD officer Evelio Fernandez, who had been the 114th Precinct’s presence here and, earlier, an officer in the Island’s Public Safety Department. It took RIRA President

of the 114th precinct during a brief community-relations visit to the meeting. He said that Fernandez’s performance on Roosevelt Island had earned an advancement, and that he had not been reassigned as a result of any phone calls. But, during the later argument, Mincheff expressed her belief that the commander would not have been aware of the proximate



Early in Wednesday night’s argument, Erin Feely-Nahem read her letter to *The WIRE* to her fellow Common Council members...

Matthew Katz over 10 minutes to restore order as the dispute raged.

The continuing disagreement centers on events that followed phone calls made by two members of RIRA’s Public Safety Committee, which they contend were innocent queries about procedures for securing the assignment of a different officer to the Roosevelt Island post, known as Sector Robert. Longtime RIRA Councilor Joyce Mincheff, who is a member of the committee and also serves as the president of the Roosevelt Landings Residents Association, contends that the calls effectively “defamed” Fernandez and caused him to be removed from the Island beat. She said that Roosevelt Landings is the building in greatest need of an NYPD presence, shouting, “You have put my building at risk.” She said Fernandez himself had said as much in a March 26 letter published in *The WIRE*, writing, “It is not likely that my position here will be filled... So, to those who made the phone calls, I say, ‘Your malicious attempts to taint an officer’s career ended up doing a disservice to the community you were supposedly serving.’”

Supporting that contention, Mincheff argued that a letter from the RIRA Public Safety Committee published in this issue of *The WIRE* (page 2) should have been an apology, “not a attempt to whitewash what you did to this man.”

Her remarks were directed to the committee chair, Erin Feely-Nahem, and a committee member, Romano Reid. But they cited a statement by the commander

cause of the Fernandez reassignment. Her letter on the matter also appears in this issue along with Feely-Nahem’s, but neither letter suggests the vehemence of Mincheff’s denunciation of the Reid and Feely-Nahem calls, or the intensity of Reid’s and Feely-Nahem’s denial that their calls had done harm to anyone.

The disagreement, which has simmered for a few months, was also fueled by the public release of a report of the RIRA Public Safety Committee in which officer Fernandez’s name appeared. The report was then posted on an internet blog and tempers flared when the blogger refused, for a period, to redact Fernandez’s name. (He ultimately did.)

In his presentation at the start of Wednesday night’s meeting, the commander of the 114th said that no replacement has been assigned to Sector Robert, added that Fernandez’s transfer to the 113th Precinct was a reward for good performance on the Island, and repeated a number of times, “I am not saying I *won’t* assign someone here, but there are cutbacks and we



...as Roosevelt Landings representative Joyce Mincheff paused in her challenge blasting actions of the Public Safety Committee that Feely-Nahem chairs

are short of manpower.” Citing this statement, Mincheff later contended, “You won’t get an officer assigned here until you apologize.”

Repeatedly ruled out of order by Katz, Mincheff left the meeting. By then, at least a third of the 37 Common Council members who had been present at the start of the session had left – some before the argument erupted, but several who left as it continued well past, and through, Katz’s attempts to impose order.



Thirty-seven Common Councilors representing the Island’s residents were at Wednesday night’s meeting. The sessions are held at the Good Shepherd Community Center, lower level, at 8:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.

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Wednesday Is Deadline in WIRE’s Roosevelt Island Short Fiction Competition

It’s get-to-the-keyboard time as time dwindles to enter *The WIRE*’s short-story contest. At press time, just one entry had been received, so the competition is wide open. Rules are below, and there are no age limits – but take special note of a key requirement: Story entries must involve the Island.

The Main Street WIRE’s first annual Roosevelt Island Short Story Contest

[Contest announced in The WIRE February 26]

Eligibility

- Anyone living or working on Roosevelt Island is eligible.
- Stories previously published are not eligible; you will retain rights for future publication elsewhere.
- You can enter up to three stories, each separately.
- This is a one-size-fits-all competition. If response is good, we may have age divisions next year.

Publication

- *The Main Street WIRE* reserves the right to publish any, all, or none of the entries received, both in *The WIRE* and on *Website NYC10044*. We hope that more than one short story will seem likely to be of interest to our readers.

Story Length

- Because winning stories will probably be published in *The WIRE*, there is a practical limit on length of about 4,500 words.

Story Content

- *Make Roosevelt Island part of your story.* The more cleverly, the better. Because this is fiction, if you use real persons, provide their complete contact information on a separate sheet of paper; we will need to verify their assent to inclusion in what we publish. For that reason, we recommend that you verify it in advance.
- Story must be suitable for the eyes of the young.
- Your story can take place in the past, present, or future, or any combination thereof, though most short stories involve one short span of time and occur in one place.

The Prize

- Publication, of course, but this is art for art’s sake. On the other hand, we’re likely to come up with some genuinely trivial prize (in addition to publication) that you can put on a bookshelf.

Submission Format

- Judging, by best-selling novelist and Roosevelt Islander Gwynne Forster, will be blind. Therefore, submit your story with a cover sheet that identifies you (name, phone number, e-mail address, street address, and story title). If you are under 21, provide your age; if you are under 18, provide a parent’s or guardian’s name and phone number. Include your story on **separate pages** without any personal identification on those pages. (We will code the entry to your top sheet before judging.)
- Submit your entry in digital form, using common wordprocessing software like MSWord or WordPerfect. (If using an Apple product, please provide your story in a form compatible with a PC – and call if you have any concerns about how to do that.) Send it to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net with the subject **Short-story entry**. Your e-mail will be acknowledged; if you don’t receive an acknowledgment, please call **212-826-9056**. If not submitting by e-mail, call to discuss specific arrangements.
- If you submit on paper, do not submit handwritten material. It must be typed, double-spaced.

Submission Deadline

- Wednesday, April 13, 5:00 p.m.

Results Announced

- When we get to it; likely to be no later than mid-June.

Other Provisos

- We don’t guarantee there will be a winner, though we will be eager to have one. We reserve the right to publish any, all, or none of the stories received. Hey – *take a shot*.
- By submitting an entry, you certify that the writing is your original work, and that you will indemnify *The WIRE* against any and all claims of copyright violation or infringement.
- If you use foreign words and/or phrases, identify the language and provide a translation (we’ll check it).

Questions?

- Call the *WIRE* editor at **212-826-9056** or send an e-mail to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net. To cover all the bases, include your e-mail address in your phone message, or your phone number in your e-mail message.

The WIRE may need distribution help in your building.
MainStreetWIRE@usa.net

Plan for Island Retail Is On Track With Hudson-Related, Jon Kalkin Reports

Main Street’s retail corridor is headed for a bright new day, according to the chair of the Real Estate Development Advisory Committee of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation’s Board of Directors, Jonathan Kalkin.

“We’ve picked a partner – Hudson-Related,” Kalkin told his fellow RIOC Board members Wednesday evening in a meeting held at the Manhattan Park Theater Club. “They are interested in

helping out with the streetscape and in talking with the community. They’re interested in finding out what the community wants.”

Hudson-Related was the only proposer with an interest in all of Main Street’s retail. Rivercross had submitted a proposal limited to the retail space within that building, seeking to gain control over the kinds of businesses renting within the Rivercross footprint.

Kalkin said that, under the plan put forward by Hudson-Related, RIOC will continue to receive its present level of income from the existing Main Street shops, with the potential for more income as empty storefronts are rented. “So, we’re not loosing any revenue,” Kalkin said.

No vote was taken Wednesday. Kalkin promised to bring a specific proposal before the Board soon. “I’m excited,” he said.

FDR Hope from page 1

intended to memorialize Roosevelt as an inspiration “for all who strive to overcome challenges,” according to a press release provided by the subcommittee.

“Roosevelt Island was so named to reflect a commitment to an integrated community where the disabled move freely, live independently, and develop to their fullest potential,” says the group’s mission statement. “The FDR Hope Memorial will educate future generations about FDR and about Roosevelt Island, a vital community of ‘enabled’ residents.”

Jim Bates, President of the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association, said the memorial will be “a place of comfort, hope, understanding, and inspiration.”

Dr. Jack Resnick, internist on Roosevelt Island and a member of the subcommittee, notes that “Roosevelt spent much of his adult life in a wheelchair. The polio virus, which infected him in 1921 at the age of 39, left him with almost no use of his legs. Twelve years later, following a term as Governor of New York, he became President of the United States and went on to save the country from economic calamity – and [to save] the world from Hitler.”

Meredith Bergmann is a New York-based artist. Her public works include a portrayal of singer Marian Anderson and, in Boston, the Women’s Memorial. Committee members were impressed with Bergmann’s “potential to develop and communicate the mission of the FDR Hope Memorial [that] will help to bring about a work of art that will inspire generations,” according to their press release.

Bergmann points out that the nearby Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park, designed in 1974 by

architect Louis Kahn, and now under construction just to the south of the memorial’s future site, will include only a sculpted head of FDR. “Four Freedoms Park will be both beautiful and contemplative, but because of its idiom and the era of its design it will not depict the human body, and the human body is an important part of our subject,” she said. “Until the 20th century, sculptors routinely turned to the human body when they wanted to evoke inspiration. Here, in the Hope Memorial, we are not only allowed to use the human body to inspire, we are joyfully required to do so.

“For me, an artist who believes in the power of figurative sculpture to represent people as well as abstractions, it is inspiring to sculpt a leader who was so inspiring. FDR never wanted his disability to have a place in his presidency, but he led our nation into some of the most important reforms ever enacted – reforms that allowed us as a community to benefit from what the vulnerable members of our community have to offer.”

Bergmann’s design will be presented publicly for the first time tonight at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main Street, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Initial funding for the FDR Hope Memorial comes from a generous grant from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park, a special project of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. The FDR Hope Memorial committee is planning activities to raise additional funds. There’s additional information and an opportunity to make a donation on the website, accessible via nyc10044.com/z/23.



This Roosevelt family photo is said to be the inspiration for the FDR Hope Memorial

RIRA from page 3

in the lobbies of the residential buildings. The first is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. If you miss the first one, please take heart; we will be coming back in the fall on October 15, so you will have plenty of time to include that date in your things-to-do list.

Next, we will see you on **Roosevelt Island Day**, Saturday, June 11. Come out, have a bagel with us, help beautify your neighborhood, and buy a Tram-logo cap or visor from us to bring some shade to your gardening work.

Our goal, to make Roosevelt Island the best neighborhood in America, will take everyone's help. We would like to establish youth programs that give support, fun, and assistance to our terrific kids. To that end, we are planning a basketball program called **Bounce** for the late-teen to young-adult community that will be supported by an NBA team or player. If you would like to work on this project, our committee is forming now. We also are reaching out to Islanders for development of a music program called **Garage-bandNYC**. We envision this as an opportunity to work with kids in contemporary music by engaging some of the talented music professionals who live in the City. This committee is also forming, and we look forward to you Island musicians stepping up to help us. We always need volunteers, so please contact us at contact@riraonline.com if I have motivated you to get involved. We look forward to incorporating your gifts in this community of incredible people.

Community Board 8

Roosevelt Island is politically a part of Manhattan and is included in CB8. The community boards are the lowest level of municipal government in New York City. Ours has been a valuable asset in reinforcing our efforts, especially by passing resolutions (unanimously, I might add) to introduce MetroCard service on the Tram and to move up planned renovation of the Roosevelt Island Bridge from a 2012 start date to 2006. In fact, that five-year project concludes this year.

The Manhattan community board appointments have been announced, and I have that list. This year, CB8 will include five Roosevelt Islanders among its total number, and they will constitute the Roosevelt Island Committee. Larry Parnes and Deirdre Breslin (former RIRA councilors) were reappointed last year. Current reappointments are former RIRA president/former RIOC director Patrick Stewart and current RIRA vice president Ellen Polivy. Joining them as a new Jessica Lappin appointment is a first-term RIRA councilor, Jeff Escobar. We wish them well and look forward to learning of their service to our Island.

Blood

This Roosevelt Island Day, June 11, will mark the 10th year of RIRA blood drives. On September 11, 2001, I started planning for a response to that disaster, resulting in 67 pints of badly needed blood for the New York Blood Center. We fixed on Roosevelt Island Day as an opportunity to solicit donations in more clement weather, and have been producing drives annually, on that special day, ever since.

Soliciting blood donors is a hard sell in the City in general, and especially on Roosevelt Island. With our unique population of seniors, the disabled, and United Nations workers and diplomats, many of us

are unable to give. For this reason, we will again have a table at the Farmers Market on four consecutive Saturdays, starting May 21, where volunteers, mostly RIRA representatives, will ask for, plead for, cajole, and demand a pint of your good stuff. This effort will culminate on June 11, when those who have signed up will converge on the Senior Center, 546 Main Street, where the New York Blood Center will greet you from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Sign up early and get your choice of time!

So why am I telling you this so early (I hear you ask)? Well, you can donate whole blood once every eight weeks. Many folks have opportunities to give blood through their jobs, their schools, or nearby hospitals. I'm asking you to space your donations so that you can participate in our drive. In other words, please don't donate after Palm Sunday, April 17. Save it for us!

Welcome, Cy!

As promised, RIOC has hired a transportation expert, Cyril Opperman, whose title is General Manager for Bus Operations. I think of him as our bus *czar*. Cy comes to us after 30 years with the MTA, which, if memory serves, runs a somewhat larger fleet of buses and routes. The good news is that much of that fleet is the same make and model as our Orion buses. Before his first official day on the job, Cy had already identified some of the impediments to an efficient operation. The RIRA Island Services and Planning committees have been working to coordinate the Red Bus and Tram schedules since before the return of Tram service last November, and once Cy has had some time to learn the ropes, we will meet again to ensure that we are getting the best from our Island transportation systems.

RIDA

The Roosevelt Island Disabled Association represents the interests of our large disabled community, and its president, Jim Bates, is my colleague on RIRA. Jim is the force behind the FDR Hope Memorial, an adjunct to the Four Freedoms Park memorial, located on the southernmost three acres of Roosevelt Island. He has created a separate site, not on the property controlled by FERI (the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute), that will include a representation of the former president in a wheelchair. How appropriate for this community!

RIDA will present an exhibit, to include sculptor Meredith Bergmann, tonight (Saturday, April 9) at 6:00 p.m. at Gallery RIVAA, located at 527 Main Street. Please come out and support a neighbor who is truly a force of nature.



ESL Grads Get Certificates



Last week, these Islanders completed a course in English as a Second Language (ESL) offered at the Youth Center by the Beacon Program and sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Adult Education. A new course starts Tuesday (April 12) at 10:00 a.m. and runs through May 24, two hours every Tuesday. To sign up, just show up. It's free.

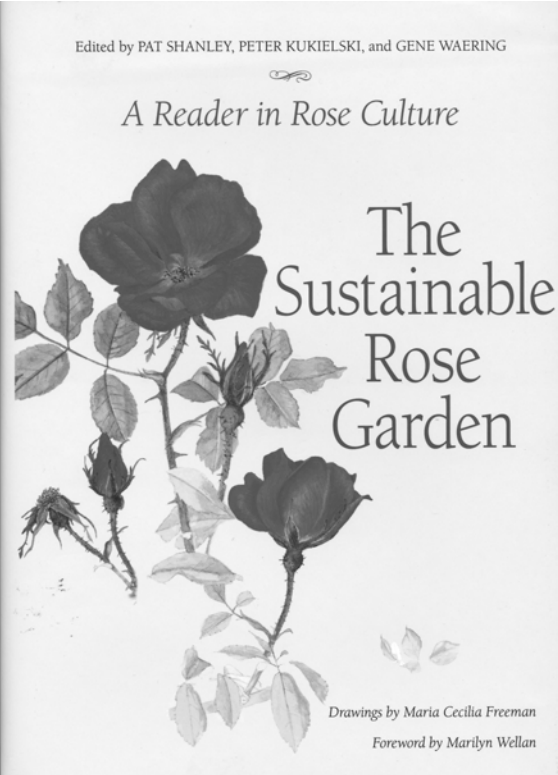


Essie Owens Exhibits in Florida



Island resident and visual artist Essie D. Owens (left) exhibited her work last month with the Marina Grande Artists Guild in Riviera Beach, Florida. Internationally renowned painter Edna Hibbel (center) and visual artist Pilar Micheli (right) were among her fans.

Roosevelt Island's Community Gardens get a mention and a color plate in this newly published book (Newberry Press, \$34.95, ISBN number 976-1-935149-16-3).



Nine-year-old Ben Behar made this photo with a little help from Marilyn Atkins's cell phone.

SPORTSWIRE

TENNIS The Roosevelt Island Tennis Association (RITA) will hold its official opening day event on Saturday, April 16. All interested players are welcome. To access the courts, players need a permit from the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC). Information about the permits is available online at RIOC.com.

The Tennis Association’s officers and executive board will welcome players starting at 10:00 a.m. on the 16th, and explain the programs that RITA offers and the schedule for the season. Annual dues of \$20 will be collected, trophies will be given out to the 2010 winners and finalists who were unable to attend the awards dinner last fall, and there will be a few rounds of informal doubles play for all.

Winners and finalists from last fall:

- Women’s Doubles Winners – Akiko Shimomura and Atsumi Kolba
- Women’s Doubles Finalists – Maria Vologodskaia and Maki Chono
- Men’s Doubles Winners – Brendan Clarke and Jeff Menaker
- Men’s Doubles Finalists – John Dougherty and Atul Gokhale
- Mixed Doubles Winners – Denise Gibson and Jeff Menaker
- Mixed Doubles Finalists – Isadora Braune and Carlos Braune
- Women’s Singles Winner – Rebeca Dain
- Women’s Singles Finalist – Akiko Shimomura
- Men’s Singles Winner – Rafel Szczurowski
- Men’s Singles Finalist – Carlos Braune

COMING UP

from page 3

Gaelic for Beginners, Wed May 4, 4pm, Library. Ages 13-18.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed May 4,** 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center. Public session at beginning for resident comments/announcements.

Fiddler on the Roof, Jr., Fri May 6, 8pm, **Sat May 7,** 2pm & 8pm, **Sun May 8,** 7pm, Main Street Theatre. (Ad, page 9.)

Gaelic for Beginners, Wed May 11, 4pm, Library. Ages 13-18.

Health and Fitness Day, Sat May 14.

GMC Rocks Rosey, Sat May 14, 1-6pm, Riverwalk Commons. Performance of a rock band from the Gowanus Music Club. Free. Information at nyc10044.com/z/20 and nyc10044.com/z/21.

Irish Folk-Dancing, Wed May 18, 4pm, Library. Ages 13-18.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Wed May 18,** 5:30pm; location to be announced. Public comment period, starting at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

Child School / Legacy High School Founder’s Award Benefit Dinner, a tribute to Maari de Souza, **Thu May 19,** 6pm, Downtown Association, 60 Pine St., Manhattan. Details to be provided later.

Book Discussion, Tales by H.P. Lovecraft, **Thu May 19,** 6:30pm, Library

R&R Concert, Provocative Masterworks, Thu May 19, 7:30pm, Good Shepherd Center. Ralph Allen, violin; Jonah Chung, viola; Iris Jortner, cello; Jean Schneider, piano. Program to be announced.

Once on This Island, Jr., Fri-Mon May 20-23, Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance. (Ad, page 9.)

RIRA Networking Breakfast, Sat May 21, 9am-12noon, residential lobbies.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Jun 1,** 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center. Public session at beginning for resident comments/announcements.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), Fri-Sun Jun 3-5, Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance. (Ad, page 9.)

Sunday Concert Series – Ann Panagulias, Soprano, Sun Jun 5, 2:30pm, Good Shepherd Center. French and American songs, with pianist Richard Pearson Thomas. Free. Donations support the food program.

Roosevelt Island Day, Sat Jun 11.

Blood Drive, Sat Jun 11, as part of Roosevelt Island Day. (See *RIRA Column* continuation, page 13.)

Book Discussion, Love is a Dog from Hell by Charles Bukowski, **Thu Jun 16,** 6:30pm, Library.

R&R Concert, Sat Jun 25, 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Ralph Allen, violin; Iris Jortner, cello; Jean Schneider, piano. Program to be announced.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Wed Jun 29,** 5:30pm; location to be announced. Public comment period, starting at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

R&R Concert, Fri Jul 1, 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Ralph Allen, violin; Iris Jortner, cello; Jean Schneider, piano. Program and additional players to be announced.

Book Discussion, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas by Hunter S. Thompson, **Thu Jul 21,** 6:30pm, Library.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Wed Aug 3,** 5:30pm; location to be announced. Public comment period, starting at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

Book Discussion, The Collected Stories of Chester Himes by Chester Himes, **Thu Aug 18,** 6:30pm, Library.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Sep 7,** 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center. Public session at beginning for resident comments/announcements.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Wed Sep 21,** 5:30pm; location to be announced. Public comment period, starting at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Oct 5,** 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center. Public session at beginning for resident comments/announcements.

RIRA Networking Breakfast, Sat Oct 15, residential lobbies.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Nov 2,** 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center. Public session at beginning for resident comments/announcements.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Wed Nov 9,** 5:30pm; location to be announced. Public comment period, starting at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Dec 7,** 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center. Public session at beginning for resident comments/announcements.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Wed Dec 14,** 5:30pm; location to be announced. Public comment period, starting at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

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Please see *ComingUp*, page 3, for other advertising deadlines

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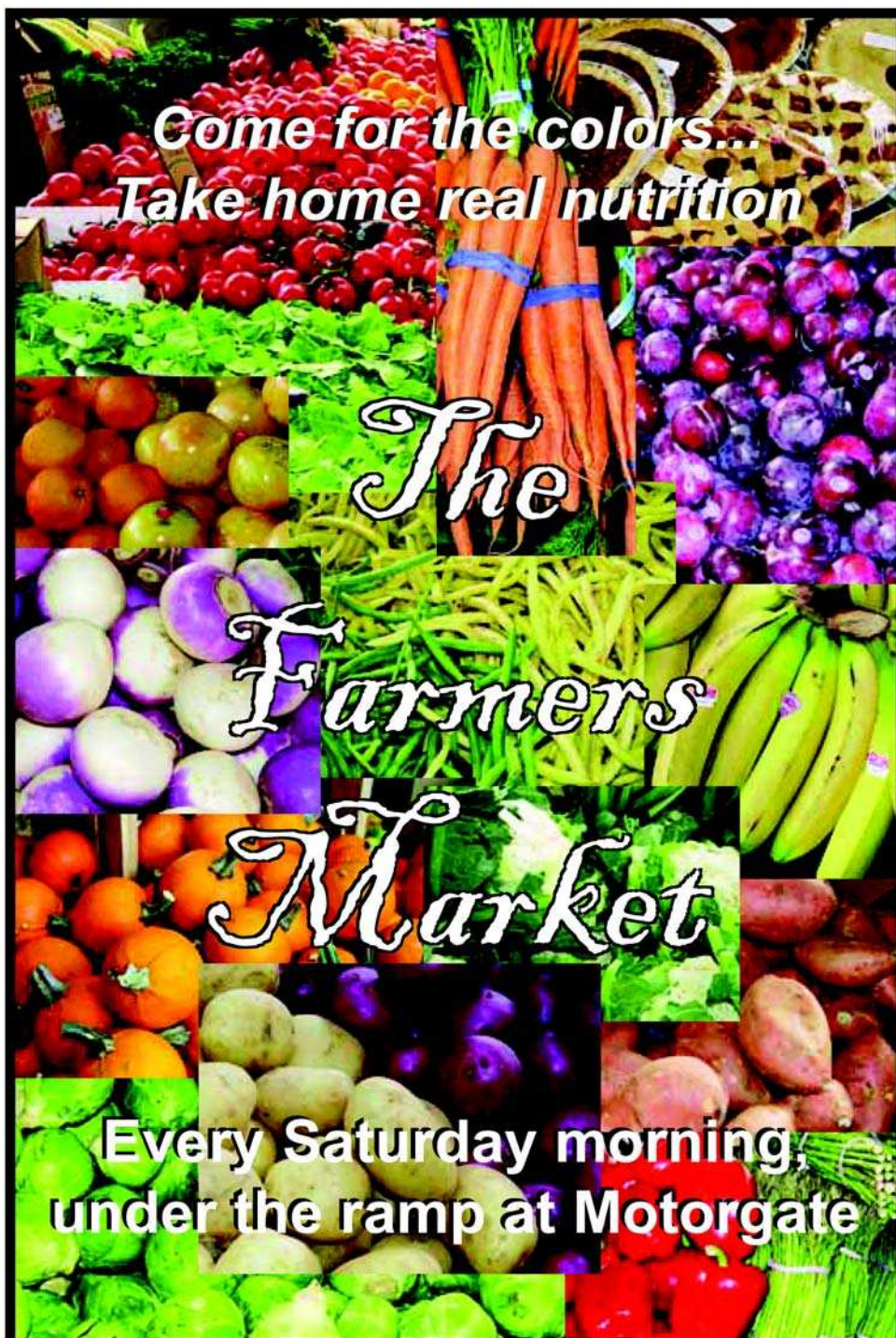
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