



The Main Street WIRE

February 11, 2012

32:11

Election workers waited for an announcement of results by election organizer Ashton Barfield (seated) Tuesday night. Below, winners Jonathan Kalkin, Howard Polivy, and Fay Christian as they spoke last week at Candidates' Night. Their names will now be presented to the governor and mayor as the community's nominees to seats on the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.



Islander's New Book Considers Role Of Emotion in *Market Mind Games*

by Janet Falk

Octagon resident Denise Shull has a new book out, and she'll discuss it in a session tomorrow (Sunday) at Gallery RIVAA. According to Shull, emotions color your view of the world, including the buying and selling of stocks and bonds, and other financial transactions. She says it is now a proven fact that you must have emotion to make any decision; therefore, she considers emotional data as yet another piece of information to be incorporated into the process of *PJDA: perception, judgment, decision, and action*.

But sometimes we sense things about a situation that make us wary or impair our judgment. Do you go with your gut or do you try to maintain your focus only on the perceived facts?

Shull is recognized internationally



as a pioneer in the new psychology of risk and uncertainty. She uses her theory of social-emotional context, plus neuroeconomics, behavioral finance, and emotion science, when guiding her clients – financial executives and athletes – to achieve superior performance and competitive advantage.

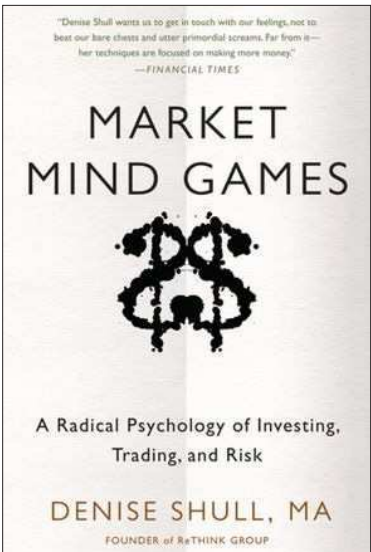
Her new book, *Market Mind Games – A Radical Psychology of Investing, Trading, and Risk* (McGraw-Hill), reveals that, in grappling with uncertainty, traders will grasp at news to provide more certainty, even though that strategy has repeatedly proven wrong in the past. Instead, Denise trains traders to recognize that their brain will see uncertainty in terms of context and past experience, and therefore they must be alert to the intuitive readings and guidance it will provide.

"It's not enough to recognize that uncertainty and anxiety might color your next trade. You have to take a stand that you will make better decisions by embracing uncertainty and outlining scenarios, in terms of the motivations of the other key players," Shull said.

Shull earned her master's degree in neuroscience from The University of Chicago, and is a graduate of Harvard's executive program in Investment Decisions and Behavioral Finance. She traded financial commodities on the Chicago Board of Trade for several years. Shull founded The Rethink Group in 2003, and serves as its CEO. The ReThink Group is the parent company of TraderPsyches and SportsPsyches, which provide counsel to traders and athletes on performance improvements.

For Shull, "We need emotion to be rational, and much of our apparent irrationality stems from the attempt to circumvent emotion, as opposed to experiencing and analyzing it for its relevance and meaning." She adds, "In other words, the basic emotional palette is quite simple – *want more, want less, feel good, feel bad* – and the seemingly more complex recipes are just that, more complex recipes that can be broken down to their component parts. Those component parts often get back to basic survival and the human condition of *Am I good enough?*"

Shull, who represents The Octagon on RIRA's Common Council, will share her insights into thinking and emotion at a reading and book signing to be held tomorrow (Sunday, February 12) at 4:00 p.m. at Gallery RIVAA.



Community Renominates Kalkin, Polivy, Christian To Seats on RIOC Board

Roosevelt Islanders issued a firm call for the return of Jonathan Kalkin to the RIOC Board of Directors in Tuesday's balloting. With 497 votes, Kalkin was nominated on 59% of the 837 ballots cast. He had been replaced on the Board in June 2011 when the governor appointed a non-resident at the behest of a Republican State Senator from Brooklyn.

Two Board incumbents, both previous community nominees (like Kalkin), also received renomination: Howard Polivy got 397 votes, and Fay Christian received 381, completing the resident recommendations to fill the three seats for which appointments have expired. (Polivy and Christian remain on the Board pending reappointment or replacement.)

Four of the remaining five candidates performed almost equally, with their counts clustered in a 23-vote range: Grace Bernstein, 250; Gerald Lombardi, 234; Dottie Jeffries, 231; and Lydia Tang, 227. Adrienne Grist received 75 votes.

Turnout

The ballot count of 837 was better than nine percent above the last election *in sua* – that is, one held on a day with no parallel contests for city, state, or national offices. In 2009, 766 ballots were cast in the election that led to Governor David Paterson's appointment of Board members Margie Smith and Michael Shinozaki.

Turnout was uneven across the Island. The ballot counts per building complex, in descending order of percentage of apartments (not residents), were Rivercross 202 (55% of the number of apartments in the building), Island House 112 (28%), Westview 67 (19%), Southtown 202 (17%), The Octagon 83 (16%), Roosevelt Landings 98 (10%), and Manhattan Park 73 (7%).

Election workers, observers, and candidates present at the vote count, done in the Good Shepherd Center Tuesday night after balloting ended, gave an extended round of applause to former RIRA Common Councilor Ashton Barfield, who managed the Good Shepherd polling station closely, and coordinated the overall election, together with the other election leaders – Aaron Hamburger, the nominations process and Southtown polling; Sherie Helstien, publicity; Matthew Katz, candidate and public gatherings; and Bill Long, Octagon polling. Many other Islanders were involved – at least 70 volunteered for one task or more.

Community nominee (and current RIOC Board member) Fay Christian said, after getting results, "I want to thank all the Island residents for coming out to vote and showing the Governor we care about our Island. I hope this vote will lead to my reappointment, so I can continue to serve on the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation Board of Directors. I extend my congratulations to Jonathan and Howard, and I thank all the other candidates for their participation."

Howard Polivy also thanked those who voted, adding, "Your active participation sends an important message – that Roosevelt Islanders want to control their local affairs. I want to thank the many neighbors who worked so hard to stage this election, interrupting their busy lives to devote

so many hours to the ideal of local self-governance. I especially wish to thank Ashton Barfield, who managed these efforts and created a fine template for the next elections. I hope these efforts build to an even greater level of participation in the November local election."

Polivy continued, "Thank you to those who gave me their vote of confidence. I hope my continued work on the RIOC Board of Directors justifies their choice, especially if I am reappointed."

Polivy expressed a hope that Islanders will increase their participation in Island affairs. "One of our great advantages is that we are small enough that every voice may be heard."

"Roosevelt Island has proven again it can take on any challenge," Kalkin said. "I want to thank everyone who came out to support our democracy. I'm eager to get back to work and I'm excited to help Roosevelt Island reach its potential as a place that leads not only the City, but the country, as a center of reform and innovation."

What's Next

Matthew Katz, president of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association, will now forward the election results to Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Michael Bloomberg, with the request that the top vote-getters be considered for reappointment to the RIOC Board of Directors. That Board consists of nine members – two State officials and seven public members. Six of those seven are residents. A non-resident replaced Kalkin when his appointment expired in June 2011, ending a period in which all seven of the public Board seats were occupied by Island residents.

If the governor honors the Island's nominations, another election will be scheduled for November in anticipation of three appointment expirations in June 2013.



In Good Shepherd Plaza Tuesday evening, former (and possibly future) RIOC Board member Jonathan Kalkin talked with former Board member H. Patrick Stewart (back to camera).



COMING UP

— This Weekend —

No direct subway service from Manhattan, 11pm Fri Feb 10 through 5am Mon Feb 13.

Fourth Annual Reelabilities Film Festival: *Musical Chairs*, today (Sat Feb 11), 7pm, Coler-Goldwater Hospital, south campus auditorium (1 Main St.). \$5 donation. Information: 212-318-4728.

***Quality of Light*, an exhibition of photographs by Francine Lange, daily 9am-9pm, Octagon Gallery, closes tomorrow (Sun Feb 12).**

Islander Denise Shull reads from and discusses her new book, *Market Mind Games – A Radical Psychology of Investing, Trading, and Risk*, tomorrow (Sun Feb 12), 4pm, Gallery RIVAA. Copies available, with author signing. Refreshments. RSVP to Think@TheReThinkGroup.net. (Story, page 1.)

— Coming Week & Next Weekend —

Fourth Annual Reelabilities Film Festival: *Defining Beauty*, Mon Feb 13, 7pm, Coler-Goldwater Hospital, south campus auditorium (1 Main St.). \$5 donation. Information: 212-318-4728.

Valentine’s Day Dance, Mon Feb 13, 7-9pm, Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance, 548 Main St. (Ad, page 5.)

Book Discussion, *Survivor* by Chuck Palahniuk, Thu Feb 16, 6:30pm, Library.

Real Fake – The World of Counterfeiting, Sat Feb 18, 2pm, Library.

Opening Reception for *Windows on Welfare Island*, an exhibit of the photographs of Danielle Hayes, Sun Feb 19, 1-5pm, Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St., sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society and Canon USA. Continues 10am-8pm daily through March 18.

Islander Bonnie Goodman performs in *Help Is On The Way*, a benefit for the Laurence F. Hickey Center for Child Development, Sun Feb 19, 4pm (seating starts 3:15pm), Laurie Beechman Theatre at the West Bank Cafe, 407 West 42nd St. Reservations: 917-841-4862.

— Continuing —

Lunch at the Senior Center, Mon-Fri, noon, \$1.50. Healthy meals. Monthly menus outside the social worker’s office, 546 Main St.

***Equations*, a RIVAA members show, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Through Mar 4. Mon & Thu 1-5pm, Wed & Fri 6-9pm, Sat-Sun 11am-5pm.**

Refereed Basketball League, every Fri, at Sportspark. To register, call 212-832-4540, ext 321 or email OMaragh@rioc.com.

Extended Sportspark hours for Island youth 16-25, every Fri-Sat, 9pm-midnight.

Zumba, Sat 10-11am, Sportspark. (Also Thu 8:30-9:30pm.)

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

Open-Rec Basketball, Sat, 2-5pm, Sportspark. All ages; free.

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

Baby Story Time, stories for ages 0-18 months, Mon, 10:30am, Library. Registration required; first come, first served.

RIOC’s Community Office Hours, Mon, 3-5pm, 591 Main St.

Island Boot Camp, Mon, 7:30-8:30pm, Sportspark.

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 each month, 6:30pm, Library.

Quickstart Tennis for boys and girls 10 and under, continues in after-school hours, Tue, 4-5pm or 5-6pm, through Mar 15, Sportspark. For info call 212-935-4049 ext 4 or KLatif@RIRC.com. (Ad, page 8.)

Beacon Body Sculpt & Fitness, Tue, 7-8pm, PS/IS 217, for high school students and adults. (Also see Fri.)

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

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, second Thu of each month, 3-7pm, RIOC offices, 591 Main St.

Anime Club for ages 13-18, Thu, 4pm, Library.

Argentine Tango Class, Thu, 6:30-7:30pm, Sportspark. \$3 per class. More info at 917-767-6714.

Island Body Sculpt, Thu, 7:30-8:30pm, Sportspark.

Zumba, Thu, 8:30-9:30pm, Sportspark. (Also Sat 10-11am.)

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

Reading Aloud, Fri, 3:30, Library. Ages 3-5, 5-12. Families.

Beacon Body Sculpt & Fitness, Fri, 7-8pm, PS/IS 217, for high school students and adults. (Also see Tue.)

— Future Weeks —

Grandparents’ Safety Day, Thu Feb 23, 11am, Senior Center. Refreshments. Sponsored by Public Safety and Safe Kids New York. Information 212-832-4545.

Black History Month observance, Sat Feb 25, 2pm, Senior Center, 546 Main St. (See RIOC Column, this page.)

The Main Street WIRE – next issue Sat Feb 25. Advertising deadlines:

There is no charge to list Island events in *ComingUp*. Email information to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net or leave it at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*.

Display ads, **Wed Feb 15**; decision date for circulars/inserts, **Tue Feb 21** 5,500 copies due **Thu Feb 23**. **Additional issues:** Mar 10, 24; Apr 7, 21; May 5, 19; Jun 2, 16, 30; Jul 28; Aug 25; Sep 8, 22; Oct 6, 20; Nov 3, 17; Dec 15.

News phone, 212-826-9056; urgent matters, 917-617-0449. Email press releases or feature-story suggestions to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net. **Advertising** (display and classified): **917-582-3270**

Congratulations to the Super Bowl champion New York Giants! I’m sure all of you Giants fans enjoyed the game and the celebration in the days that followed. Hopefully, the team’s display of hard work and unity can give us all a little bit of inspiration.

Tidal Energy Project

While the south end of Roosevelt Island prepares to become the host site of the new Cornell/Technion Applied Sciences Campus, the waters off the north end of the Island will soon be home to another kind of groundbreaking innovation. Last month, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted Verdant Power the first-ever 10-year license to create a tidal wave energy plant right here in the East River. Verdant launched a pilot version of the project in 2002, culminating with the delivery of electricity to Gristedes and Motor-gate. The expanded field of underwater windmills, to be located in the waters north of the Roosevelt Island Bridge, is projected to supply electricity to more than 9,500 homes on the Island by 2015. Dubbed the Roosevelt Island Tidal Energy (RITE) project, it is another example of the Island as a leader in innovation and green technology, not only for New York City, but for the world as well.

2.1 Million Tram Riders in 2011

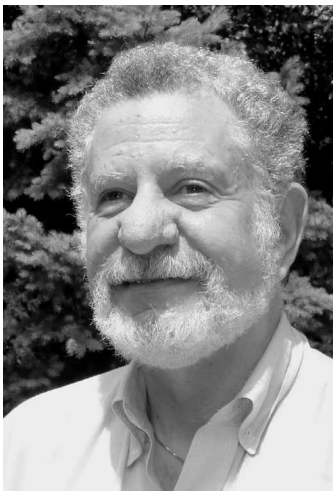
RIOC is excited to announce that a record 2,109,878 people rode our Tram in 2011, the first full year since the Tramway modernization project was completed. That’s over 5,700 riders per day! The new Tram system, which opened in November 2010, offers a quicker, smoother, safer ride, while simultaneously using less electricity – not to mention those breathtaking views of the Manhattan skyline. Also, you’ve probably noticed that it doesn’t shut down during inclement weather as frequently as the old Tram did. The new Tram has truly been an innovation in mass transit for residents and visitors alike, and will serve the Island well in the exciting – and busy – years ahead.

NYPD & FDNY & Tram

If you were near the Tram between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. this past Wednesday, you may have noticed NYPD officers conducting exercises on one of the cars. They were part of routine training sessions that NYPD and FDNY periodically conduct on the Tram to test their equipment. These sessions take place only during off-peak hours and use only one car, so that regular ridership on the other car is unaffected. RIOC always distributes an advisory via email before each training sessions to let residents know when they will occur. To subscribe and receive our advisories, you

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 past several weeks have been a whirlwind of activity, culminating in the RIOC Board elections on Tuesday. I’m sitting at my computer, wearily writing this some hours after the polls closed and the results were determined. I’m glad to record that the number



Matthew Katz, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
email: MatthewKatz@verizon.net

of voters exceeded our previous total by almost 10%, based on my unofficial count. Our three experienced directors, Jonathan Kalkin, Howard Polivy, and Fay Christian, were the highest vote-getters. Predictable, given their name recognition and efforts to rouse voters with their signage, and I congratulate them all.

Once again, my building complex, Westview, came in dead last in vote count. We had set that unenviable record in 2009, and reinforced it today. I can’t understand why the turnout is so pathetic, given that RIOC directors will determine the level of ground lease payments required when our building comes out of Mitchell-Lama and seeks to privatize. You would assume that the Westview Task Force would have mounted a campaign to learn which candidates were most attuned to affordable housing and gotten out the vote for them. You would have been mistaken. Apathy is the bane of American democracy all across this country, and we in RIRA have fought it here at home through every avenue at our disposal. These appointments count, and we have worked for weeks to convince an often unresponsive electorate to care. It’s only our future, folks.

It is now my responsibility to convey the preferences of this community to Governor Cuomo, Mayor Bloomberg, and their respective Appointments Offices. Of course, I

can send an email to subscribe@rioc.com.

Apps Track Red Buses

Last week, RIOC received word that the iOS RBT Red Bus Tracking App wasn’t functioning properly. This is a good opportunity to explain how riders can use their mobile devices to track buses’ progress, for those who aren’t aware. A service called NextBus tracks RIOC’s Red Buses, which are equipped with a GPS system. Riders can see the location of each bus on www.nextbus.com, and by accessing the aforementioned RBT App or the Bus Tracker App for Android devices. You can plan your trip by checking the next arrival times at the stop closest to you. When the RBT App stopped working last week, RIOC discovered that NextBus was still showing the location of all the buses, and thus the problem was with the app, not the GPS. At the risk of getting too technical, it turns out that the app required an update in order to continue communicating with NextBus’ GPS. As of the evening of February 2, the RBT App was back up and running. We hope you will take advantage of this technology to make your travel as smooth as possible.

Grandparents’ Safety Day

I encourage seniors and their grandchildren to come out to our annual Grandparents’ Safety Day on Thursday, February 23, at the Roosevelt Island Senior Center (546 Main Street), starting at 11 a.m. Co-sponsored by RIOC’s Public Safety Department and Safe Kids NYC, the event will feature safety tips, goodie bags, and light refreshments. It’s part of the Public Safety Department’s on-going efforts to keep citizens safe, young and old.

Black History Month Celebration

Please join us on Saturday, February 25, at the Senior Center as we celebrate the achievements and contributions of African-Americans throughout history with music, poetry, and dance. Festivities begin at 2:00 p.m., and light refreshments will be served. RIOC is proud to partner with the Roosevelt Island Senior Association to bring you this fun event.



Leslie Torres, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
email: LTorres@RIOC.com

will copy our elected Albany representatives with the hope that their voices, together with the evidence of our superb nominees and impeccably mounted election, will persuade the powers-that-be to honor our choices.

Assemblymember Micah Kellner spoke at our Candidates’ Night last week and echoed my aspirations. Our intention, initially, is to codify this process so that we may combine the RIRA elections with plebiscites to fill expiring RIOC Board seats every two years in our biennial elections. This would allow RIRA to do

The RIRA Column

something other than running these incredibly time-consuming exercises more than once every two years. To that end, we will need some confirmation of the process from the Governor so that we aren’t obliged to reinvent the wheel with every new administration. Ultimately, we hope to modify the legislation that created RIOC to include the direct election of its Board of Directors, and exclusively from the Roosevelt Island residential community. It’s called representative democracy and we’d like to establish it here.

Thank You, Thank You

I have a bunch of people to thank for producing the Board election – where to begin? I should start with RIOC, specifically Erica Spencer-EL, who arranged for those beautiful banners of ours to be hung under the bridge ramp and at the subway, and provided the set-up and sound system for our Candidates’ Night; Cy Opperman, who coordinated our Red Bus signage; and the maintenance crew, who preserved our kiosk signage through Election Day. All the banners, signs, posters, flyers, and door-drops were coordinated by my wife and Secretary of the Council, Sherie Helstien, and her team. They include Tad Sudol, Barbara Allen, Marilyn and Marty Atkins, David Mischiu, Lorraine Williams, Russell Fields, Matthew Katz, Romano Reid, Ahmad Darwish, Don Semenza, Steve Bessenoff, Betty Spensley, Linda Heimer, France Farance, and Vicki Feinmel. Additionally, we must thank *The WIRE* and its stuffing

See **RIRA**, page 3



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...students of Legacy High School; Hassan Wazani and students from the PS/IS 217 Beacon.

RIRA, from page 2
crew, who made sure that every newspaper included an insert announcing the election, and Rick O’Conor and the Roosevelt Islander blog. Finally, hats off to the building managements, especially Jennifer Jones of R-Y Management and Doryne Isley and Melissa Rivera of Urban American, who arranged for our flyers to be door-dropped at every resident’s door in Island House, Westview, and Roosevelt Landings.
Nominations chair Aaron Hamburger oversaw the search for qualified candidates to serve the community on the RIOC Board. He guided our eight hopefuls through the nominations process, and was aided by his able committee.
Coordinating the entire elections process, Ashton Barfield fielded the myriad details of election production, is archiving the information for future election committees, and put together the army of volunteer poll-workers and ballot-counters who recorded your votes over 15 hours. Aaron Hamburger (Southtown) and Bill Long (The Octagon) organized their rush-hour election sites, arranging the logistics and recruiting the poll-workers. The total election-day support team included (in no particular order) Sue Cina, Erin Feely-Nahem, Russell Fields, Dick Lutz, Steve Marcus, Betty Spensley, Joan Pape, Julie Palermo, Mel Campos, Sally Hamburger, Ahmad (Bob) Darwish, Alan Siegal, Alex Marshall, Ann Biddlecom, Anne Kanninen, April Ward, Barbara Allen, Bonnie Goodman, Cynthia Choi Ahn, Dave Evans, Denise Shull, Dolores Green, Don Semenza, Ethel Romm, Fred Plastino, George Ohring, Gundula Schmidt-Graute, Ilonka Salisbury, Jane Margaretten-Ohring, Janet Falk, Jeff Escobar, Jenny Lines, Jim Bates, Judi Tandon, Judy Buck, Karen Lee, Katherine Vithlani, Lenore Blank, Linda Heimer, Lorraine Altman, Lorraine Williams, Lynne Strong-Shinozaki, Marianne Russem, Marilyn Atkins, Mark Lyon, Matthew Katz, Mihaela Preradovic, Mona Sen, Nurit Marcus, Paco Bozzano-Barnes, Pat and Mike Schwartzberg, Pete Digilio, Rochelle Liss, Romano Reid, Sheldon and Barbara Brooks, Sherie Helstien, Steve Silverstein, Susan Marcus, Tom Wood, Trevre Andrews, Vicki Feinmel, and Vini Fortuna. Whew! I’ve probably left someone out, and I apologize for that.
Finally, I must thank the candidates themselves for agreeing to plunge into this “peculiar institution” of campaigning, election, potential appointment, and then, service to the community running a \$30-million-a-year New York State Public Benefit Corporation. It takes true dedication and love of community to subject oneself to that ordeal.

Public Purpose Funds
For many years, RIOC made available to Island organizations a fund of several million dollars that initially was derived from the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) payments involved with the construction of Manhattan Park. When that source was depleted, RIOC determined to offer a fixed sum of \$100,000 each year to as many qualified non-profits as applied. Five years ago, RIOC asked RIRA to take charge of allocating that money, on the premise that we know and use these institutions and are better equipped to make the hard decisions. Well, those decisions have gotten harder every year, as the number of applications has increased with a concomitant increase in the total amount requested. To give you an idea of how this process has become more complicated, last year, eight organizations applied, requesting a total of \$164,373. This year, 11 well-established groups are asking for \$275,258. However, the fund has remained at \$100,000.
The committee is again chaired by Bill Long, who has distributed the lengthy applications to the members and is busy scheduling interviews with the leaders of each outfit. Over time, we have tweaked the system to ensure that it is scrupulously fair and that no interested parties serve on the committee. During a month’s time, we will conduct the interviews and debate fair allocation of the grants. The committee will then bring our results to the RIRA Common Council for their endorsement, and submit our recommendations to the RIOC Board of Directors. This is probably the hardest work (other than producing elections) that I’ve taken on, given that these are all effective and beneficial Island agencies and that, given the limited funds, most, if not all, will not be fully funded. In a time of fiscal austerity, with government and corporate grants drying up, I wish we could fund everybody to the extent they need. Quite literally, it’s a tough job, but someone’s got to do it. RIRA took it on.

Letters deadline for February 25 issue:
Tuesday, February 21, 5:00 p.m.
Earlier submission recommended and appreciated.
Thanks.

Letters

To the Editor:
Thanks for your front-page articles in *The WIRE* (January 28) about Island energy. First, thanks for pointing out the horrendous cost of electricity in the old Main Street buildings – Roosevelt Landings, Island House, Rivercross, and Westview. We should all welcome any opportunity to cut these costs.

The longer article on district hot water heating gives lots of details about what it would take to bring heat from the oil-fired plant near the 59th Street Bridge to Main Street, starting with getting all the buildings’ many owners to agree, and ending with new piping in every apartment. It might save money in the end, but it sounds pretty complicated and expensive up front, even without factoring in the volatile price of oil.

The second article brings the welcome news that Verdant now has a license to expand its successful underwater-turbine generating field north of the 36th Avenue bridge. The expanded turbine farm will be a pilot project, but it will generate power for about 1,000 homes. The obvious question is whether Verdant could sell direct to the Island rather than just feeding power into the grid. That is, could the power now going to Gristede’s and Motorgate under the experimental phase be extended in the pilot phase to the 1,000 homes in the old Main Street buildings (minus Rivercross, which I understand has already opted for hot-water heating)?

If there is a choice between (a) a lot of upfront hassle and expense over who knows how many years, lots of new pipes in my apartment, and an unknown end price depending *inter alia* on what happens in Iran; or (b) keeping my old electric heaters (or maybe, god forbid, getting new ones) and paying a lot less for soon-to-be-available energy from renewable, local sources, there’s no doubt that I would go for option (b). Who wouldn’t?
I don’t know whether option (b) is even a possibility – but in a perfect world, Verdant would build out the turbine farm as planned and simply run the power up Main Street. The world isn’t perfect, of course – but tenants, owners, and possible future owners would love to know more.

Alex Marshall

Dr. Sy Olikier, PE, whose advocacy was the subject of the January 18 article, responds:

Thank you for reading the article and thinking about the options for reducing the cost of energy for the residents of Roosevelt Island. We need concerned people like you to accomplish any project.

To respond to some of your concerns:
Heating an apartment with resistant electric heating is very inefficient and costly. There is a loss every time energy in one form is converted to another form. Thus, typical electric generating plants have an efficiency in converting fuel to electricity of only about 35%, even before additional losses in transmission and distribution. This makes electric heating very expensive. If the cost of electricity is 10 cents per kilowatt hour, the ultimate cost of heat is about **\$30.00** per million Btu (British thermal units). But the current cost of natural gas (and we propose to use gas, not oil) is about \$6 per million Btu. With a conversion efficiency of about 80%, the cost of gas-fired hot-water heating becomes **\$7.50** per million Btu.

Once a district hot and chilled water system is developed, it becomes economical to install a gas-fired combined heat and electric generation plant, with an efficiency of up to 85%.

Tidal generation of electricity is a useful strategy for green power, but conversion of that electricity to heat will be just as inefficient, negating the green aspect.

It is true that an investment in piping and heating elements is necessary. We performed retrofits of buildings from electric heat to hot water in many cities. (Buffalo and Jamestown are two examples.) The actual retrofit of an apartment takes about two hours. Distribution pipes are installed in stairwells.

The *WIRE* article discussed a comprehensive approach to an efficient, sustainable, and cost-effective energy supply for the Roosevelt Island community. But to accomplish this plan, a number of concerned citizens like you should get involved and urge the responsible officials to take action.

There’s a good deal of information about district hot water heating on the internet. [See, for example, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/District_heating.] Many countries use it widely. In Denmark, for example, about 60% of the population is supplied with heat by district hot water.

To the Editor:
Yes, stop publishing multi-step, back-and-forth arguments. One response letter is enough and fair.
Sally & Aaron Hamburger

To the Editor:
I do feel the subject matter is of real interest to Rivercross residents especially. However, Frank’s bellicose attitude comes through in his comments, alas. Is there any way you could shrink future exchanges down to the essential message and keep those of us who wish to keep informed about both their opinions? This is a vital matter for all residents I believe.
Mary Camper-Titsingh

To the Editor:
Regarding your question about limiting the number of exchanges of letters to the editor, I agree, especially due to limited space (and not an infringement of free speech), that after one letter and one response, further discussion can continue on the paper’s website.
Katherine Vithlani

To the Editor:
In response to the query about your current policy against ping pong arguments in the print newspaper:
While I am so happy that there are opportunities to learn and participate in actual ping pong here on Roosevelt Island at Sportspark, I am against printing ping pong arguments in the newspaper. The current policy allows each party to present a point of view, but let’s spare the trees in letting people go on *ad infinitum* with their arguments. *Website NYC10044.com* would indeed be an optimal outlet for people who are interested in further participating in the discussions.
My two cents.
Ann Biddlecom

Editor’s note: Most readers who responded agree with Biddlecom and with *The WIRE*’s policy on ping pong arguments between those who write letters to the newspaper. For the newspaper, where space is limited, the policy will remain in place; exceptions will be made rarely. *The WIRE* will soon provide a place for continued exchanges on *Website NYC10044.com*.

To the Editor:
Although I don’t live on Roosevelt Island, I do visit it every six weeks or so, as my daughter is a resident of The Octagon. I understand your concern over Albany’s interference with Roosevelt Island’s small-community independence. The RIOC Board appointment of Sal Ferrera was one incident that so irritated me that I wrote Albany to protest.
I would like to suggest that Roosevelt Island become an incorporated village. The largest incorporated village in New York State is Hempstead (Long Island), with some 56,000 residents. Asharoken Beach (also Long Island), where I grew up, is incorporated. It is still in the County of Suffolk and the Town of Huntington, but it has its own mayor and board of trustees who are elected by the residents only. The Village has its own judge, and collects taxes from residents to fund the services it provides, such as trash collection, recycling, police, road maintenance, etc. Fire protection is contracted out to the Village of Northport. Asharoken also uses absentee ballots distributed by volunteers for those residents who are unable to get to the polls.
I suggest that Roosevelt Island look into this option. I am certain that there are enough resident attorneys who could investigate the matter (pro bono, of course).
Sondra Wenderoth

To the Editor:
The December meeting of our Roosevelt Island book club included a treat. We had a guest speaker, a local author, Mary Camper-Titsingh.
She talked about her book, *The Man Who Kow-Towed*. The attendance was small but enthusiastic to hear Mary talk about her interesting book, based on fact, about her distant ancestor.
She generously gave each member a copy of her beautifully written and illustrated book.
If you enjoy reading and discussing what you have read, please join us on the third Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the library.
Barbara Brooks

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.



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

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ComingUp, from page 2

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Thu Mar 1**, 5:30pm, Manhattan Park Theater Club, 8 River Rd. Public comment period, starting at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.
Advanced Ballet begins **Thu Mar 1**, 6pm, Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance, 548 Main St. (Ad, page 5.)

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

Book Discussion, *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell, **Thu Mar 15**, 6:30pm, Library.

Day Nursery registration, **Tue-Thu Mar 20-22**, 8am-3pm, 4 River Rd. (Ad, page 4.)

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

Town Meeting on Cornell-Technion, **Thu Apr 5**, time and location to be announced.

The Island and The WIRE **on the Web**

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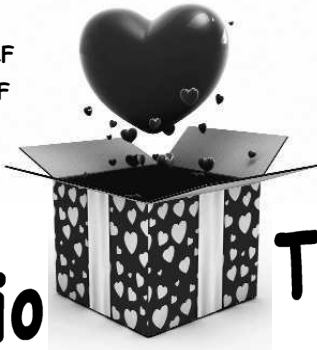
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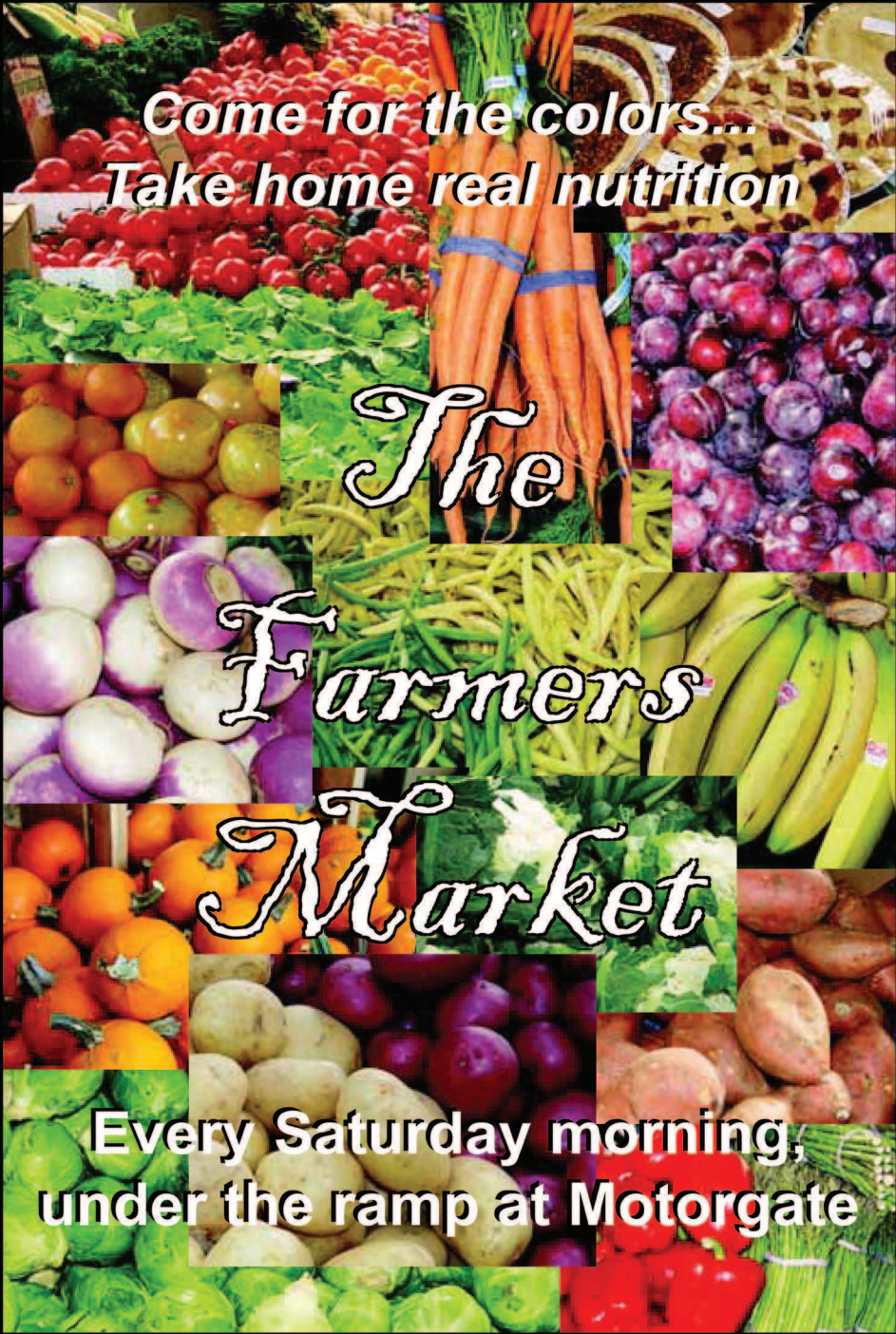


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