

RIRA Council May Consider Public Safety's Methods, Value

At its October 3 meeting, the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) may give an airing to concerns about the Public Safety Department (PSD).

Most recently, there have been questions about a traffic stop on Thursday, July 26, by PSD Sergeant Ingrid Veras. She stopped an SUV driven by resident Jenna Stueber, who stated, in a letter to *The WIRE* (August 25), that Veras told her, in making the stop, “On Roosevelt Island, we do not pass the mini bus.” The incident escalated to the point where Jenna’s father, Neal Stueber, was tackled, cuffed, apparently injured, arrested, and charged after he went to the scene, retrieved an insurance card from the car, and took it to the Public Safety office to provide it to Veras.

Neal Stueber, who was a part-time Red Bus driver, said he was later told by his supervisor that, “They [the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), of which Public Safety is a department] want me to fire you.” Faced with that prospect, Stueber submitted his resignation.

The RIOC Board’s Operations Advisory Committee, which met last week, went into a public-and-press-excluded executive session to consider “a personnel matter,” possibly related to the Veras-Stueber incident and Stueber’s subsequent resignation under pressure.

Shortly after *The WIRE* learned of the July incident, the newspaper submitted a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request to view PSD lobby video of the Stueber incident, seeking to verify PSD Chief Keith Guerra’s assertions, based on reports completed by his officers, that Neal Stueber was unruly. Guerra said that images from the lobby camera are not yet being recorded, though cameras in other parts of PSD quarters are recorded.

In a communication responding to Jenna Stueber’s letter in this newspaper, supplied through RIOC’s public relations department, Guerra wrote that, “She was not stopped for simply driving past a bus that was pulled into a bus stop, like she claimed. She was stopped because she drove across a double yellow line, against the flow of traffic, to pass... The law making this act illegal is enforced on Roosevelt Island for the safety of motorists
See PSD, page 9

Election Reminders and Information

Run for Office, & Recruit Others to Run

- Info about RIRA, and RIRA nomination forms, at riraonline.com/election
- Info about the RIOC Board, and RIOC Board nomination and petition forms, at tinyurl.com/rioc election
- Hard-copy RIRA & RIOC forms available by 10/1 at Public Safety (550 Main St.), the Library (524 Main St.), and some doorstations

Volunteer for Pre-election Activities

- See form at tinyurl.com/RIsignup2012

Deadline for All Nominations

- Sunday, 10/21, 6 pm, Public Safety, 550 Main St. (one box)

Deadline for Candidate Statements

- (RIRA President and Vice President and RIOC Board)
- Email to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net by 10/21, 6 pm

More in *ComingUp*, pages 3 and 4

This 9/11 photo by Islander Lici Diniz is a candidate for inclusion in *The WIRE's 2013 Roosevelt Island Calendar*, which will be offered for sale starting next month. Photographers with Island-related pictures they'd like considered should email them to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net by Monday morning.

Saturday,
September 22, 2012
33:02

The Main Street WIRE

“Ghost Tunnel” Under the Island Will Get a Role as Long-Delayed Transit Improvements Come to Life

by David Stone

The year was 1963, and it was a very different New York, unaware that it was about to be convulsed in civil and financial crises. In February, the Transit Authority proposed a two-track subway tunnel under 76th Street to be built in conjunction with the new Second Avenue subway line. By early May, its location migrated southward to 59th Street, and by the time Mayor Robert Wagner weighed in on the 24th of the month, declaring it should “be built with all deliberate speed,” the tunnel had meandered once again – to “around 61st Street.”

Maybe this foreshadowed the multiple frustrations soon to beset the tunnel, finally approved by the City Board of Estimate on October 17 – under 64th Street. It’s unlikely, even so, that anyone predicted that the city’s grand plans would result in a ghost tunnel under Roosevelt Island or related ghost platforms in Manhattan.

Passengers waiting on either 63rd Street platform today can peek through openings in the blue-painted construction barriers and see unused platforms, as work related to the new Second Avenue subway continues nearby. Built in the early 1970s, these platforms have yet to board a single passenger. The reason is a knotted tale of visionary ambitions for a grand transportation system – and the financial limitations that obstructed fulfillment.

Power Struggles

In the 1960s, the power of New York’s master highway builder,

Robert Moses, shrank as he sparred with Governor Nelson Rockefeller, who did not look kindly on the Moses approach of ripping up neighborhoods and replacing parks with parking lots. With Moses out of the way, the City turned to transportation projects that benefited residents, rather than helping rush them away to Long Island.

Mayor Wagner and transit planners envisioned growing the subway system’s reach with extensions of the BMT Sixth Avenue and Broadway lines, both curving east for an intersection at 63rd Street. From there, the F train would continue

into Queens, and a Q train would run north to join the long-discussed Second Avenue IND line. Both extensions aimed to ease severe overcrowding on existing trains.

Longtime Roosevelt Island residents will recall that, by the time our Island station finally opened in 1989, the only thing left of that big idea was the Q coming through to a dead end at 21st Street in Queens, not up the Second Avenue line, which hadn’t been built. What had been finished was the intersection of new lines at 63rd Street.

Part of the 63rd Street station has been in continuous use since 1989, but the rest has been empty and idle for decades. Few passengers realize that, for all those years, parallel platforms have remained just behind the walls on each of the in-use platforms. These ghost platforms were built for the Q; F train riders would have a chance to transfer before the Q turned north to join the new T line up Second Avenue.

According to a report in *New York* magazine, with bonds passed and plans approved in 1972, then-Mayor John Lindsay, Governor Nelson Rockefeller, and a young
See Tunnel, page 4

Island House Gets Its Ground-Lease Extension

The Island House Affordability Plan stayed on track Thursday night, as the RIOC Board of Directors voted, 8-1, to approve a ground-lease extension to 2068.

The *no* vote came from Michael Shinozaki after a plea from Island House resident Patrick Stewart, a former RIOC Board member, who said that he considers the deal “as bad as” the deal made for the privatization of Eastwood (now Roosevelt Landings) during his time on the Board.

The WIRE reported extensively

on the plan for the building in the June 2 issue, available on line at tinyurl.com/wire3219.

Once the ground lease is signed by a RIOC executive, the deal locks the owner in on affordability provisions in the plan, according to the announcement made late in May when tenants were briefed by their attorney.

Briefly...

- **Fr. Peter Miqueli**, at times a controversial leader of the Catholic parish here, is leaving October 1 for St. Frances deChantal in the Bronx.
- A reminder: **Discounted parking** is available at Motorgate, by purchasing coupons in advance. There’s a form to use in ordering at tinyurl.com/RIpark.
- More *Briefly* on page 2.



George Cuhaj

The Editorial Page

Public Safety

Once again, hard questions have to be asked about Roosevelt Island’s Public Safety Department.

What’s unfortunate about this is that, over the years, so many Public Safety Officers have rendered such valuable service to residents. They’ve saved lives. They’ve done the kind of curbstone mediation that quells disputes between neighbors. They’ve spotted a troubled arc in the life of one youth or another, and helped him find a better path. They’ve helped when groceries have spilled from a broken bag to litter the street. They’ve driven visitors around Motorgate in search of cars parked without a notation of location.

But it takes only one difficult incident to raise eyebrows and worthy questions.

That’s because there’s an American philosophy of justice and law enforcement that tilts, quite intentionally, toward the civil rights of the individual – the right of all persons to be free of unreasonable persecution or prosecution. Better to let one criminal get off, we believe, than to mistakenly punish an innocent man. Require the state to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, the guilt of one charged with a crime.

That is as it should be.

Public Safety Director Keith Guerra has clearly made strides in improving the professionalism and *esprit de corps* of Roosevelt Island’s peace officers, and he has made efforts to connect with the community with various “summits,” bike-helmet days, basketball games between officers and teens, and other events. In spite of that, there appears still to be a disconnect between the way that a few officers behave on the job and the way that we, as a community, would have them perform their duties.

The “double yellow line” incident of late July, reported in *The WIRE* through letters and responses to letters (see *Letters*, this page, and in the August 25 and September 8 issues) raises concerns. There is no question that, strictly speaking, a Public Safety Officer is enforcing a valid law when issuing a ticket on this violation. Yet, given the narrowness of the east side of Main Street in the commercial strip, it is clear that motorists must cross the double yellow line to pass a stopped Red Bus, MTA bus, or hospital bus – particularly one boarding a wheelchair passenger at 546 Main Street. The alternative is an instant traffic jam.

So the law is enforced selectively and subjectively – not objectively. That puts an important level of judgment into the hands and brain and emotional predisposition of any officer empowered to punish – for the delay and the fine, because travel delay and court appearance can be a form of punishment – by stopping a driver and taking the time to document a violation and issue a ticket. The alternative, having officers on the street monitoring the pile-up behind every bus, presents its own difficulties.

Subjective judgment and selective enforcement put a great deal of power in the hands of individual officers. And this is only one of hundreds of circumstances in which officer judgment and discretion are important. Any resident can quickly name many others.

The July incident raises other questions that are even more troubling. *How does a discretionary traffic stop lead to an emergency room visit and the dismissal of a RIOC employee?*

Assemblymember Micah Kellner once introduced legislation that would put PSD under a kind of Civilian Review Board. It hasn’t moved in the State Legislature, but having it available to Roosevelt Island residents would introduce a measure of recourse that isn’t presently available. And it might temper the attitude and behavior of some Public Safety Officers. But, until that’s available... what?

First, RIOC should seriously consider the consequences of forcing the resignation of an employee who has had a run-in with a Public Safety Officer. Second, Director Guerra should think seriously about how he handles an incident that he has not personally witnessed. And there should probably be a narrowing of the gap between “adequate” officer performance and offenses that call for suggesting that an officer seek other employment.

In the meantime, on Wednesday night, an officer was still issuing summonses to motorists trying to negotiate that narrow east lane in the retail strip of Main Street – trying, perhaps, to press a point?

DL

Letters

To the Editor:

I want to understand how longtime residents and law-abiding neighbors wind up in handcuffs in our Public Safety office.

A young girl returns to the Island after graduating college. She runs some errands with her mom. She drops her mother off with packages. Returning to Motorgate, she pulls around the Red Bus, then has to stop as people who exit the bus are crossing in front of the bus, instead of using the crosswalk. She is pulled over by a Public Safety officer, asked for her license. She gets her license, finds the registration, but she can’t find the insurance card. She asks if she can call her mother to ask. The officer says yes, then yells at her to hang up the phone. Her father comes down, checks on his daughter (who is in tears), and takes the insurance card into Public Safety.

So how is it that a man in his late 50’s, a father of three, married over 25 years, never in or near any trouble with the law, then finds himself in handcuffs?

I was there that night after the arrest to support a dear friend. Believe me when I say that the officers were not organized or communicating. A young man was given keys by Public Safety to move the vehicle, but when going to get into the vehicle, he was stopped by other officers and told *not* get in or move the vehicle. He was also told he had better have his license on him before driving the vehicle – even though the officers know him, and he has never been in trouble.

Again, “peace” was not the feel of the situation.

Many drivers go around the Red Bus each day. It’s common and unavoidable, and it is legal in New York City to go around vehicles blocking the road. I have done it myself. If everyone waited behind the Red Bus, each bus would have 10-20 cars behind it by the time it reached Motorgate. It’s what people do. But it is supposedly illegal here? Some just get stopped by the wrong officer, on the wrong day, and get written up.

The handling of the Stueber traffic stop and his subsequent arrest are not unusual, odd events. A few years ago, we had the incident on the Little League field – a law-abiding, long-time resident arrested and handcuffed in front of his children and children he coached.

A family unloading groceries from the supermarket on the road next to Capobianco Field is harassed by Public Safety for having a car there. Yet, right in front of the ballfield on Main Street, there is someone selling drugs. That is pointed out to the officer, but it is ignored.

An arrest in front of the deli in which a truck driver finds himself in handcuffs after arguing with an officer. The usual driving pullovers. I have never seen an NYPD officer act the way these “peace officers” act. “Peace” is clearly *not* what they have in mind.

Here is the irony: A former resident, a convicted criminal, returns to the Island a few weeks ago. He threatens and swings a bat at a resident in 2/4 River Rd, and is caught on a security camera. He is escorted to the train station, told to leave the Island.

Although I have never had a confrontation with Public Safety myself, I have witnessed their arrogant attitude over the years. (I have also seen some be compassionate toward a person in need.) On more than one occasion over the years, I have witnessed a driver being pulled over. I have done errands, or I am going back and forth to the laundry room, and the same driver is still waiting for a ticket 30-45 minutes after being pulled over. When I was once pulled over by NYPD, writing a ticket took about five minutes. Why does it take so long here? Is it extra punishment to hold up a driver who happens to drive for a living?

I have been an Island resident for 25 years. I can tell you where the drug sales are on the Island. Does Public Safety *not* know? You can smell drugs being smoked behind Roosevelt Landings. And I see Public Safety stop and talk to loiterers and high-five them while they have open alcohol containers!

Again, we can only hope to get a NYPD substation on our Island. Maybe the addition of the university, and its clout, will make it happen.

Name Withheld

To the RIOC Board:

Please take away the power of arrest from the Public Safety Department, and redirect some of our budget towards greater NYPD presence and other needed services on this Island. Please!

Chris Enock

To the Editor:

Roosevelt Island rife with trouble? No Tasers at all, please (or horses). And the many discontents – failed commercial corridor, Eastwood debacle (or is it cabal?), rocky roads and infrastructure, unsavory politics, i.e., Shane’s dismissal.

Do we really get to keep our Trel-lis?

Still, Friday 8/31, in my chair, I trod 13 rocky, noisy, dirty, polluted Manhattan blocks, doubting my sanity in attempting such a trek, wondering about my chances of success. A kind cop stops traffic for me and my aide, Nicole. And I can scarcely describe my relief and joy when sweet-faced Gregory opens the Tram gate and helps me on and off. A scenic ride, a floral turnaround, so beautiful and serene.

I could have kissed the ground.

Belated mention of Raphael and his friends when my chair slipped the curb. Not a scratch.

And thanks to Annie of the Senior Center who, for many, makes nightmarish paperwork a cinch.

Sharon Stern

Letters deadline for October 6 issue: Tuesday, October 2, 5:00 p.m.

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 email to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net or on a disk left at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. If you email, 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, in the judgment of the editors, merits the required space.

Briefly...

• **Cornell**NYCC has just acquired three key advisors – Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Google’s Eric Schmidt, and Irwin Jacobs, the founder of Qualcomm. BetaBeat (tinyurl.com/cornellbeta) calls the trio “the super-important ultra-rich white guy Avengers of Cornell.”

• An open **workshop on land use** has been scheduled as preparation for the Cornell project, sponsored by Borough President Scott Stringer. It’s set for Thursday, October 4, at the Manhattan Park Community Center. RSVP to **212-669-4385** or workshop@manhattanbp.org.

• Islanders who have noticed the hand-lettered sign with the tempting ice cream cone inside the door at the former Montauk Credit Union location next to Trelis have been wondering when Coach Scott Bobo plans to open the **Sweet Shoppe**. The answer is *just before Halloween*. We’ll have more in these pages soon.

• The Food Emporium chain is up for sale, with 16 Manhattan locations. Reportedly, the owner of **Gristedes**, John Catsimatidis, is interested in buying.

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Krystyn Donnelley and students of Legacy High School;
Jasmine Lang-Felder, Acting Director, Andre Ganeev,
and students from the PS/IS 217 Beacon Program

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

Opening reception for *MOTAA*S, *A New Museum of Technology, Art, and Science on Roosevelt Island*, **Sat Sep 22**, 6-9pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun**, 11am-5pm; **Tue & Thu**, 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri**, 6-9pm. Through Oct 14. (Review, page 6.)

Opening reception for *Flowers, Fruits, & Still Lifes*, works of Toshiko Kitano Groner, **Sun Sep 23**, 3-6pm, The Octagon, 888 Main St. Exhibition open 9am-9pm daily, runs **Sat Sep 22** through Oct 28. (Ad, page 7.)

Island pianist Roy Eaton in concert, **Sun Sep 23**, 2pm, Unity Center, 213 W. 58th St. Information: unitynewyork.com or **212-582-1300**. Free; \$20 donation suggested.

Islander Gerald Starlight in concert on shakuhachi flute with Andrew Newcomb, synthesizer, **Sun Sep 23**, 3pm, Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art, 338 Lighthouse Av., Staten Island. Information: **718-987-3500**.

— Coming Week & Next Weekend —

Informational/organizational meeting for **Relay for Life Roosevelt Island 2013**, a future fundraising event to fight cancer, **Tue Sep 25**, 6:30pm, Good Shepherd Center. (Additional meeting **Thu Oct 4**, 6:30pm, Good Shepherd Center.) Additional information: **212-492-8423**, greg.murray@cancer.org, and relayforlife.org. (Story, page 4.)

— Continuing —

Zumba, **Sat**, 10-11am, Sportspark.

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

Swimming at Sportspark, **Sat-Sun** 12-3pm, **Mon-Fri** 6-10am, **Mon Wed Thu Fri** 7:30-10:30pm. **Adults** (18-up) **Sat-Sun**, 4-7pm, **Tue** 7:30-10:30pm. 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.

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

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

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

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

Zumba, **Mon**, 6:30-7:30pm, Sportspark.

Beacon Cardio/Fitness/Dance, **Mon**, 7pm, PS/IS 217, for high school students and adults.

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

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

Islander Bonnie Goodman exhibits her art in *The Cauldron*, New Century Artists Gallery, 530 West 25th St #406. Gallery hours **Tue-Sat**, 11am-6pm. Through Sep 29.

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

Games (kids 5-12), **Tue**, 4pm, Library.

QuickStart Tennis for ages 4-10 continues at the Roosevelt Island Racquet Club, **Tue & Thu**, 4-5pm & 5-6pm. Registration still open. Info — **212-935-4049** #5. (Ad, page 5.)

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.

Beacon Core/Stretching/Yoga, **Tue**, 7pm, PS/IS 217, for high school students and adults.

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.

Beacon Dance, **Wed**, 7pm, PS/IS 217, for high school students and adults.

Open Computer Lab Q&A about computers, selected **Thu & Fri**, 10:30am.

Knitting & Crochet Group, **Thu**, 11:30am, Library. Adults.

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

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

Beacon Cardio/Fitness/Dance, **Thu**, 7pm, PS/IS 217, for high school students and adults.

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

Zumba, **Thu**, 8:30-9:30pm, Sportspark.

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

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

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

— Future Weeks —

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Oct 3**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.

Land Use Education Forum in preparation for the CornellNYC project, **Thu Oct 4**, 6-8pm, Manhattan Park Community Center, presented by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer. RSVP to **212-669-4385** or workshop@manhattanbp.org.

Informational/organizational meeting for **Relay for Life Roosevelt Island 2013**, a future fundraising event to fight cancer, **Thu Oct 4**, 6:30pm, Good Shepherd Center. Additional information: **212-492-8423**, greg.murray@cancer.org, and relayforlife.org. (See Sep 25 listing and story, page 4.)

The Main Street WIRE — next issue **Sat Oct 6**. **Advertising deadlines:** Display ads, **Wed Sep 25**; decision date for circulars/inserts, **Tue Oct**

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

2; 5,000 copies due **Thu Oct 4**. **Additional 2012 issues:** Oct 20; Nov 3, 17; Dec 15. **2013:** Jan 12, 26; Feb 9, 23; Mar 9, 23; Apr 6, 20; May 4, 18; See **Coming Up**, page 4

The WIRE

Greetings, Roosevelt Islanders! Excitement continues to mount for next month's opening of Four Freedoms Park, the memorial to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Last week, *The New York Times* wrote that the park will be the city's "new spiritual heart," and that it is "a monumental triumph for New York and for everyone who cares about architecture and public space." I couldn't agree more. Four Freedoms will be a special place for Roosevelt Islanders, New Yorkers, and visitors from far and wide.

FEMA Reimbursement for Restorations

By the time Hurricane Irene reached New York City a year ago, it had been downgraded to a tropical storm, but that didn't stop it from leaving considerable damages in its wake on Roosevelt Island. In particular, the westside waterfront sidewalk, from the Meditation Steps to Island House, was undermined and partially collapsed by the East River's rushing floodwaters, and many of the lighting structures at Lighthouse Park — poles, foundations, and wiring — were destroyed.

The RIOC Board of Directors has now approved the hiring of contractors to reconstruct the westside waterfront sidewalk and restore the lighting at Lighthouse Park. Both projects have been pre-approved by the Federal Emergency



Leslie Torres, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
email: Leslie.Torres@rioc.ny.gov

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.

Sherie and I spent last Saturday in northeast Philly, knocking on doors for our choice of presidential candidate. We were among six busloads of New Yorkers who traveled to Pennsylvania to canvas, and we knocked on about 24,000 doors in an afternoon. This is the fourth presidential campaign that has sent us to the Keystone State, and it's an exhausting but exhilarating experience. Nobody said that the care and feeding of a democracy was easy, of course.

Why Run, Why Serve, Why Care

I've been pushing our home-grown elections in my last two columns. We held a meeting to give prospective candidates for the RIRA Common Council and the RIOC Board of Directors some nuts-and-bolts information on what running and serving the community entail. The turnout was sparse.

I know all too well how busy Roosevelt Islanders are with the details of career and family life. My wife and I hardly noticed Island issues for the first few years we lived here; our work and social lives were centered in Manhattan. However, during the mid-90s, we were politicized by the arrogance, the callousness, and the egregious stupidity of our New York State overlords, and how government by patronage and political fiat was impacting *our* quality of life on the Island. I wish you such an *Aha!* moment, because the gains we've made, with considerable effort over the last 15 years, are not graven in stone, and can be taken away at the first sign of apathy. Ask any old-timer how much say he or she had in the development or administration of the Island in, say, 1999.

Our nominations for both RIRA and the RIOC Board open on October 1. You can find nomination forms for both elections now at the RIRA website, www.riraonline.com, and RIOC forms and comprehensive RIOC election info at tinyurl.com/rioc election. Hard-copy forms will be available by October 1 at Public Safety (550 Main Street) and the Library (524 Main Street), and some building doorstations. If you have questions regarding nominations, contact Nominations Committee Chair Aaron Hamburger, at ashamburger33@gmail.com. Should you have questions about the election process or wish to volunteer some time in mounting our referendum, you may contact one of the Election Committee Co-Chairs, Ann Biddlecom (abiddlecom@gmail.com) or Mark Lyon (marklyon@gmail.com). And should you wish to discuss any facet of the process, I'd be glad to share my perspective: **212-935-7534**.

You will get to meet the RIRA candidates for President and Vice President, and the RIOC Director candidates, at the Island-wide Candidates' Night on Monday, October 29, at 8:00 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Center, 543 Main Street. Also, each building complex will host an event just for candidates representing their RIRA

Management Agency (FEMA) and qualify for up to 75% reimbursement of the total costs. As I wrote earlier this year, RIOC became eligible for reimbursement funds because we had previously undergone companywide FEMA emergency preparedness training, and we executed the agency's command procedures during Irene.

NYPD to Continue K-9 Training on Island

The RIOC Board of Directors has also approved a three-year extension to a permit agreement that we entered into a year ago with the New York City Police Department Transit Bureau K-9 Unit for the location of a police K-9 agility course on Roosevelt Island. The agility course is used by the K-9 Unit to train police dogs for special operations, investigations, and search and recovery exercises. We're always happy to help the NYPD, with whom we have a great working relationship. The Department, for example, uses our Tram periodically during off-peak hours for routine training sessions to test their equipment.

Brazilian Street Artist Visits, Creates

You may have noticed some unique public art popping up on the Island this past weekend. That's because, on Saturday, the acclaimed Brazilian street artist Bel Borba was here, unleashing his creative spirit as part of a multi-faceted visual art project called *Bel Borba Aqui New York*. Borba is renowned for making striking creations out of found or discarded materials, like the "Belkenstein" sculpture he made out of old plastic traffic barriers, which you can see near the Tram. His work will be on display for a few more weeks. For more information on the project, visit diariobaiano.wordpress.com.

The RIOC Column

Common Council districts, as follows: On Tuesday, October 30, at 8:00 p.m., Westview, Rivercross, and Island House (Westview lower community room), and Manhattan Park (8 River Road community room); and on Thursday, November 1, at 8:00 p.m., Roosevelt Landings (Senior Center, 546 Main Street), Southtown (455 Main Street party room), and The Octagon (community room).

Flood

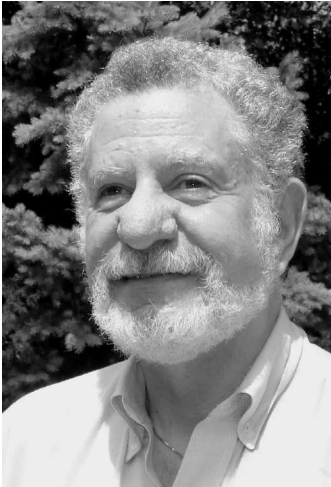
I've learned that the Cultural Center, located in the basement of 548 Main Street and housing the Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance and the Roosevelt Island Jewish Congregation, suffered a major flood on July 24. For reasons that escape me, the RIOC Board of Directors was not informed until just recently. I learned of it at the September 13 RIOC Operations Advisory Committee meeting, as Island press coverage of this disaster has been non-existent. Clearly, neither of these tenants was responsible for the water damage they experienced, and I hope that whoever was, be it Urban American, Hudson/Related, or RIOC, will make the groups whole. We've seen retailers lose their business because of water damage to their stock caused by circumstances within their landlord's sphere of influence and responsibility. Someone needs to step up and do the right thing.

Ops Committee

More substantive information is discussed at these Operations Advisory Committee meetings than anywhere else (and the RIOC conference room has become entirely too small to hold all the people who want to monitor their discussions). For example, I learned that the Meditation Steps project, now halfway through the estimated construction period, has accomplished only 30% of the job. Anyone who has dealt with contractors can sympathize with RIOC, who finalized the contract last June. Estimated time of completion is now the end of October.

Several projects are under way, including the six-month replacement of the Good Shepherd roof with slate shingles and the re-imagining of Good Shepherd Plaza, to include the services of a landscape architect. This landmarked building is iconic, and the work, which began with the re-surfacing of the Plaza, deserves and requires the thought and care that the RIOC

See **RIRA Column**, page 4



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

Roman William Smith



Long time residents Jacqueline and Steven Smith welcome their new addition, Roman William Smith, who arrived on August 31, weighing in at seven pounds and measuring 19 inches. Roman’s siblings, Ella and Maxx, are over the moon, as are grandparents Miriam and Danny.

ComingUp

from page 3
Jun 1, 15, 29; one July issue, date to be announced; Aug 31; Sep 14, 28; Oct 12, 26; Nov 8, 22; Dec 14. **News phone, 212-826-9056; urgent matters, 917-617-0449.** Email press releases or feature-story suggestions to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net. **Advertising** (display & classified): **917-587-3278.**
RIOC’s Fall for Arts Festival, Sat Oct 6, 11am-4pm, Southpoint Park.
Run for Congo Women, Sat Oct 6, 8:30am. Registration: rfcwNYC2012.kintera.org.

Organizations:
Send your 2013 events now.

Beautiful Words, Beautiful Writing for teens and young adults, **Thu Oct 11,** 4pm, Library.
Roosevelt Island Women’s Health Organization (RIWHO) inaugural seminar meeting for women 18 and older, **Thu Oct 18,** 6:30 pm, 546 Main St. 12th-floor community room. For information, call **646-895-3618** or **917-273-7651.**
Book discussion: *Don’t Ever Get Old* by Daniel Friedman, **Thu Oct 18,** 6:30pm, Library.
Deadline for submitting nomination forms for Residents Association officers and Common Council delegates, and forms and petitions for RIOC Board members, **Sun Oct 21,** 6pm, Public Safety Office, 550 Main St.
Deadline for sending campaign statements to *The WIRE* for RIRA president and vice president candidates and RIOC Board candidates, **Sun Oct 21,** 6pm, by email to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net.
Campaign Orientation for declared RIRA and RIOC Board candidates, **Mon Oct 22,** 8pm, Westview lower community room, 625 Main St.

Four Freedoms Park Opens, Wed Oct 24 (United Nations Day).
Big Jeff Halloween Routine, Wed Oct 24, 4pm, Library.
Candidates’ Night for RIOC Board nominations and for RIRA President and Vice President, **Mon Oct 29,** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center.

RIRA Common Council Candidates’ Night, Tue Oct 30, 8pm; for **Rivercross, Island House,** and **Westview** in the Westview lower community room, 625 Main St.; for **Manhattan Park** at the Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Thu Nov 1,** 5:30pm, Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd. Public comment period starts at 5:30, precedes

Cancer Relay Run Is Organizing

Relay for Life is organizing for a 2013 Roosevelt Island event that will raise funds to fight cancer. Informational/organizational meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, and Thursday, October 4, both 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Center (see *ComingUp*, page 3).

The event will be one of over 5,000 nation-wide. The genesis was a 1985 event in Tacoma, Washington, when a colorectal surgeon, Dr. Gordy Klatt, ran 83 miles in 24 hours, circling a track at the University of Puget Sound. Donors joined him for 30-minute periods, paying \$25 each in an effort that brought in \$27,000.

Today, the events run 12, 18, or 24 hours, accompanied by entertainment, ceremonies, and other activities. Specifics for the Roosevelt Island event remain to be planned.

The organizer, Greg Murray, is seeking organizers and participants. He can be reached at **212-493-8423** or via greg.murray@cancer.org. There’s more information about Relay for Life at relayforlife.org, with videos available at tinyurl.com/videorelay or on a YouTube channel, available via tinyurl.com/youtuberelay.

formal meeting.
RIRA Common Council Candidates’ Night, Thu Nov 1, 8pm; for **Roosevelt Landings** at the Senior Center, 546 Main St.; for **Southtown (Riverwalk)** at the party room, 455 Main St.; and for **The Octagon,** in the Octagon community room.

Election Day, Tue Nov 6, 6am-9pm, PS/IS 217 and other locations on the Island, depending on your specific election district. Federal, State, and Island voting (RIOC

Board nominations and RIRA officers and Common Council members).

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets (first meeting with newly elected officers and council members), **Wed Nov 7,** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.

Book discussion: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, **Thu Nov 15,** 6:30pm, Library.

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

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Thu Dec 20,** 5:30, Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd. Public comment period starts at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

Book discussion: *Sarah’s Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay, **Thu Dec 20,** 6:30pm, Library.

— 2013 —

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Jan 2** (or **Jan 9**), 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.

First *WIRE* of 2013: **Sat Jan 12.** Display advertising deadline **Thu Jan 3.** *The WIRE* welcomes advance event listings. Email information (and any later changes) to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net; include name and phone number for possible follow-up along with date, time, location, name and sponsor of the event, any registration date, attendance, or participation charge, any age restrictions, and website, email address, and/or phone number for reader follow-up. There is no charge for listing events in *ComingUp*.

Book discussion: *The Best American Short Stories 2011*, edited by Geraldine Brooks, **Thu Jan 17,** 6:30pm, Library.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Feb 6,** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.

Tunnel

from page 1
congressman named Ed Koch traveled up to 102nd Street for the Second Avenue subway groundbreaking. Making reference to a line that had first been proposed in the 1920s, Lindsay joked, “Some people suggested a transit facility along Second Avenue. And it was such a good idea that I decided to follow up on it immediately.”

Then, prophetically, all three men failed to crack the pavement with their axes. Power equipment had to be brought in.

Dream Deferred

By the 1980s, after the project had been idled by budget constraints for more than a decade, with only a few small sections completed, Koch—by now mayor—was asked, “What should we do with the tunnels?” He suggested growing mushrooms in them.

All was not lost, though, because in November of 1969, Rockefeller and Lindsay had jointly stood by in Queensboro Park while symbolic explosions near Welfare Island announced the beginning of construction of the 63rd Street tunnel. According to *The New York Times*, the ceremony was serenaded by the Transit Authority band playing *The Monkey Wrapped His Tail Around the Flag Pole*.

Musical tastes notwithstanding, the project was already “holed through” by 1972, ahead of the financial crises under Mayor Abe Beame. That crushed hopes for the Second Avenue subway. The crisis was exacerbated when President Gerald Ford refused federal aid to the city in 1975. (A memorable Daily News headline,

**FORD TO CITY:
DROP DEAD,**

RIRA Column

from page 3
Board of Directors, especially our neighbors whom we elected to that post, have provided.

There were discussions of the NYPD K-9 unit that trains on Roosevelt Island, as well as the need for security cameras at the FDR Four Freedoms Park and the impact that this will have on the memorial’s aesthetics. The renovation of the Blackwell House interiors, to include the rotting porch on the East Channel side, will restore a venue to the community, lost many years ago through neglect, that will be a connection with our history as Blackwell’s Island.

There was more, but I just wanted to touch on the highlights. You may recall my discussion in the June 30 RIRA Column of a charming traditional Korean Pavilion, to be located in Southpoint Park, to be presented by the Island’s Korean community. There was talk at that time of reaching out to the Trust for Public Land, the organization responsible for producing the conceptual design of the park. Nothing has been done, as the Ops Committee is awaiting the presentation of schematics and construction data from the organizers. Organizers...are you listening?

Public Purpose Funds

You may recall that, for five years now, RIRA has undertaken the demanding job of allocating RIOC funds to support Island organizations. This past spring, we distributed \$100,000 among 11 well-regarded institutions that had asked for a total in excess of \$275,000. At the last RIRA Common Council meeting, we voted to request that RIOC increase the amount to \$150,000, to better serve their needs. However, the RIOC Audit Committee opted to continue with the original amount. As more Island organizations apply for these funds, the difficulty of providing adequate dollars to maintain these groups will increase. I understand that RIOC’s largess is limited for these discretionary purposes, but at a time when government grants are difficult to find, this money has been a godsend. Too bad.

Andrea Rohach • Dagan Uhle



Longtime Islander Dagan Uhle, the son of Rivercross resident Joan Pape-Uhle, married Andrea Rohach on June 23 in Vail, Colorado. Andi is originally from Hallam, Nebraska. The couple, now living in Phoenix, Arizona, honeymooned on Maui.

helped sink Ford’s re-election bid.) The city survived and thrived, but mass transit was on life support for years to come.

Engineering Marvel

What did get done matters because, today, more than 30 years later, the city is drawing close to completing the 1960s plan after all.

The 63rd Street tunnel that provides Roosevelt Island with subway service as it rolls between Queens and Manhattan is unique in that the section under the East River was constructed using an immersed tube method without any tunneling. Trenches were dug in the riverbed, and 375 concrete sections, prefabricated in Fort Deposit, Maryland, were floated up the Atlantic and sunk into place.

Interesting as this is from an engineering point of view (it won a number of awards), it’s more so because these are double tunnels with upper and lower sections, another leftover from Mayor Wagner’s grand vision. The upper section is the one on which the F train travels, as originally projected. The lower level was designed to serve an East Side terminal for the Long Island Railroad that fell permanent victim to the 1970s financial crisis. In 1980, it was dubbed “a dead-end to nowhere,” according to a *Times* article, by City Council president and MTA board member Carol Bellamy.

There were even discussions

about using the tunnel for a JFK express train, also abandoned.

In the dustup that followed, Richard Ravitch, then MTA chairman, acknowledged that work had continued on the lower tunnel for five years after officials knew it would never be used. He said that to stop the work “was impossible or so costly as to make it impractical.” Hence, there is a ghost tunnel, neither coming from nor going anywhere, just leaking water beneath the East River. Bellamy said she was “appalled.”

Even workers assigned to the project were indulging in dark humor, referring to the tunnel as the city’s most expensive wine cellar and meat locker, according to the *Times* article. “Over there, we’re going to put the California reds,” one was quoted as saying, while a second noted, “We’re going to hang the meat over there.”

Today, Tomorrow

But prophecies of a never-to-be-used ghost tunnel are now turning out to be wrong. Listening closely, Roosevelt Islanders can sometimes hear rumblings beneath the subway platform as it comes to life as part of the LIRR’s first expansion in 100 years. Known in planning as “the East Side Access project,” the new line will carry paying passengers from Long Island to Grand Central Station, beginning in 2019. For now, it’s used to transport equipment and materials between the construction in Manhattan and the railroad’s Sunnyside yards.

The lower level beneath Roosevelt Island will allow riders to speed more quickly than ever into and out of midtown. Beneath the 63rd Street station, it will part ways with the subway system, turning south toward Grand Central.

When construction is completed, Q trains will begin running over the under-utilized 63rd Street tracks (the only line that passes under Central Park) to the ghost platforms at Lexington, before heading up the East Side to join the Second Avenue subway, now in Phase 1 of construction and set to open in 2016.

Hopes from the 1960s will be realized as bad dreams from the 1970s are put to rest. Ghost platforms and “dead-ends to nowhere” will be reborn in an improved mass transit system that makes commuting from Long Island faster and gives cramped passengers on the East Side the breathing room that they’ve waited nearly a century to appreciate.

Roosevelt Islanders will benefit, too, as a range of new options — *up the T or west on the Q?* — open on the Manhattan side of the river.



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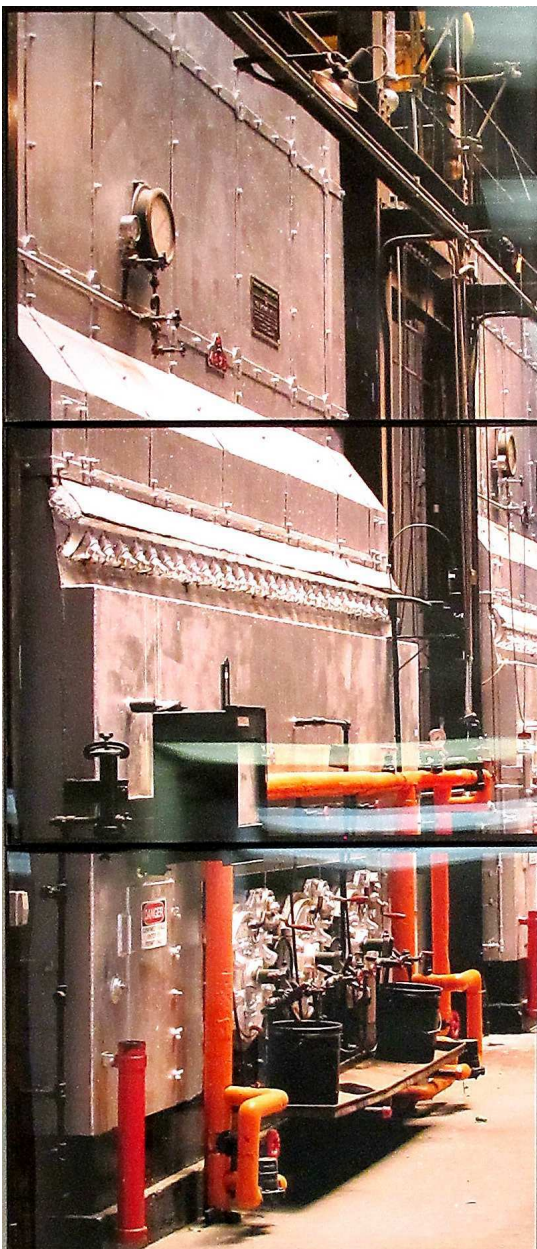
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At RIVAA, Tad Sudol Imagines A New Museum for the Island



review by David Stone

Tad Sudol, whose newest exhibit, *MOTAAS, A New Museum of Technology, Art, and Science on Roosevelt Island*, is on display at Gallery RIVAA, can't be accused of harboring small ideas or limited visions. His current goal includes nothing less than putting Roosevelt Island on the world art circuit as a must-see venue.

In a 2010 show, Sudol sought to convince local officials to consider the idea of repurposing the original Tram – its gearworks, pulleys, and cabins – for a display on the defunct escalator at Motorgate. He argued that it would brighten that relentlessly dreary concourse. RIOC passed on the idea. He has also worked, so far unsuccessfully, to bring large outdoor sculptures to the Island. But Sudol has hopes for better with his latest idea, and he is using the Gallery RIVAA space to make his point.

MOTAAS stands for Museum of Technology, Art and Science, and Sudol sees no reason why the steam plant – the building with a smokestack next to the Queensboro Bridge – can't be a perfect place for it: a heated building with autoclaves that, for decades, have provided steam for Goldwater and Coler Hospitals.

As a touchstone and model, Sudol cites London's Tate Modern. Taking over space that once housed a power plant in Bankside, that museum opened in 2000. It quickly revitalized a deteriorating post-industrial section along the Thames with restaurants, boutiques, new housing, and smaller galleries. The Musée d'Orsay in Paris, reborn from a train station in 1986, is a similar post-industrial space that lifted a neighborhood while drawing tourists farther along the Left Bank than they'd traveled before.

Sudol's proposed location for MOTAAS – adjacent to the Tram, steps from the subway – is more convenient for visitors than either the London or Paris examples.

In one of the most convincing sets of photographs in his exhibit, Sudol offers a side-by-side match of the monumental entrance

See **MOTAAS**, page 10





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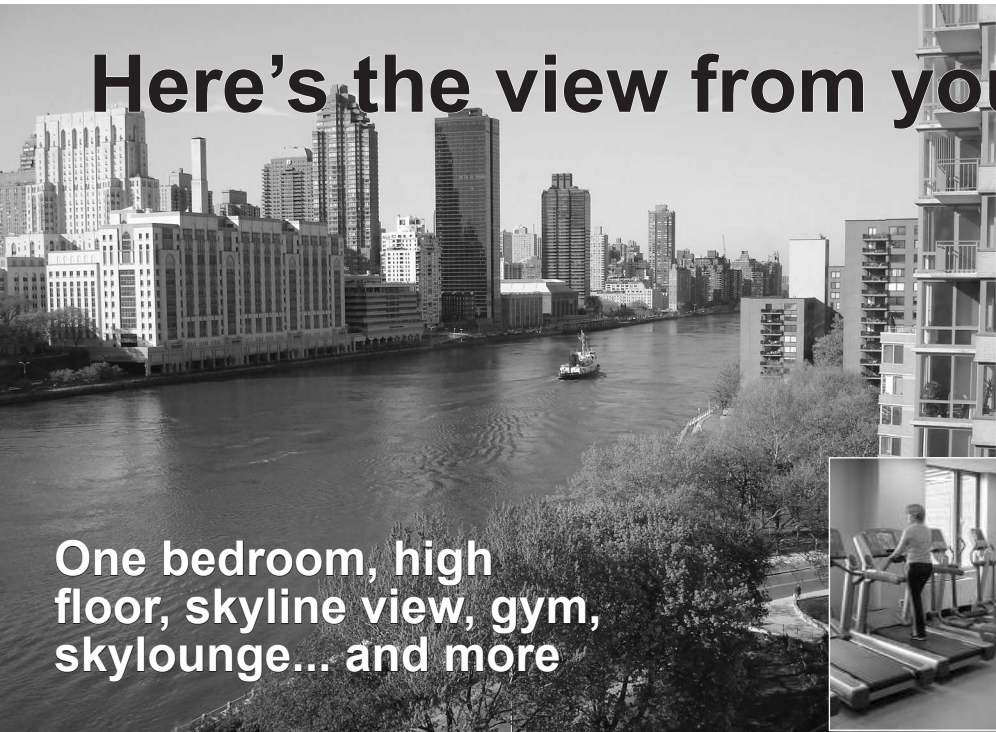
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Passing Along Her Love of Art, Arline Jacoby Offers Regular Sessions at the Senior Center

by David Stone

“It’s wonderful. Coming here makes the world go away.”

The speaker is Georganna Gala-teau, and she’s talking about the RISA-sponsored art classes taught weekly by artist and educator Ar-line Jacoby.

“It’s social,” adds Hilda Cohen, looking up from her pencil and paper.

In a quiet room flooded with light, both natural and fluorescent, a creative group of seniors gets to-gether to learn from an expert with decades under her belt as a teacher, art administrator, and artist. After a career working in schools on Long Island while raising her family, Ja-coby moved to Roosevelt Island where she became one of the found-ing members of Gallery RIVAA.

She has taught this class at the Senior Center for seven years. At times, she is aided by Tony Moran, another Gallery RIVAA artist who volunteers to share his somewhat different experiences with the se-niors.

Starting another in a month-long series of classes focusing on self-portraits and learning how to use artists’ tools, the teacher first collects homework assignments.



“This is a serious class,” she notes, lest anyone assume it’s a time-killer for retirees with nothing better to do.

“They bring so much enthusiasm. I stay for only an hour, but they keep going after I leave, sometimes until four or five o’clock.”

Judging by the stacks of home-work turned in, many additional hours must be spent at home, per-fecting the skills taught each week and bringing them in for a critique.

The classes cover drawing, paint-ing, and sculpture. Supplies are free for students. The Senior Center

provides some funds for supplies and classroom space, where a col-lection of class artwork decorates the walls.

“We scramble around for what-ever supplies we can find,” Jacoby explains. “We insist on good qual-ity. We never use junky stuff.”

Recently, keeping an eye out for bargains, she was able to acquire over \$100 worth of supplies at the Farmer’s Market for \$25. She shrugs. “Sometimes we use my supplies.”

For Arline Jacoby, the joy is in the teaching.

“How does the pencil talk?” she asks her class, reaching back to what they were taught in a previous lesson. Three different members of the class respond.

“The point.”

“The pressure.”

“The side.”

As an instructor, even for a free class, Jacoby doesn’t skip the sub-tleties demanded in good art.

Now, her students are all busy drawing self-portraits on paper.

“Where does the neck start?” she asks, reminding them of a technical point.

“Behind the ears,” the class an-swers in unison.



Standing over a table where she’s spread out a bagful of props, Jacoby shares an artist’s insight. “Some of my ideas come from my doodles.” She holds up a paper plate with a doodle filling a crumpled surface. “I don’t know what happens. When you’re drawing, something happens in your creative process. Next thing you know, it’s an abstract painting.”

“Every part of the paper is pre-cious,” she reminds her students as she paces behind them, occa-sionally pausing to look closer and praise work in progress.

“Arline is very strict, but we need that,” confides Jeanette Browne be-fore she launches into a pair of self-portraits, one dark and brooding, the other enriched with color. “I draw what I’m feeling, not what I look like.”

A bit more quietly than her so-cialable neighbors, Mary Lou Hot-esse crafts an intricate image with shadows accenting a face that looks back from the paper. Looking in a mirror, as all of her classmates are, Hotesse creates a hairstyle that “I wish I had.” The mirror shows her wearing a baseball cap that she decides to ignore.

Hotesse suffers from Parkinson’s disease, but the hand that holds her pencil is remarkably steady and true to what she is trying to draw. Her end product belies her ailment.

Hilda Rich apologizes for leav-ing early. “I love it,” she says of the class. It opens a whole new world. I always loved museums. Now, Arline teaches me how.” She

points to an expressionist canvas she brought to the class. “Arline told me to paint from the heart. So, I painted my family.”

“Tell everyone to come,” Ja-coby urges. Seniors are defined by the AARP criterion of age 50 and over. “They’re all welcome.”

How to join? “Just come to the class,” Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Roosevelt Island Senior Center, 546 Main Street, “in the room just past the pool table.”

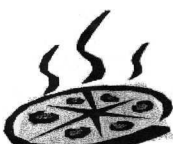


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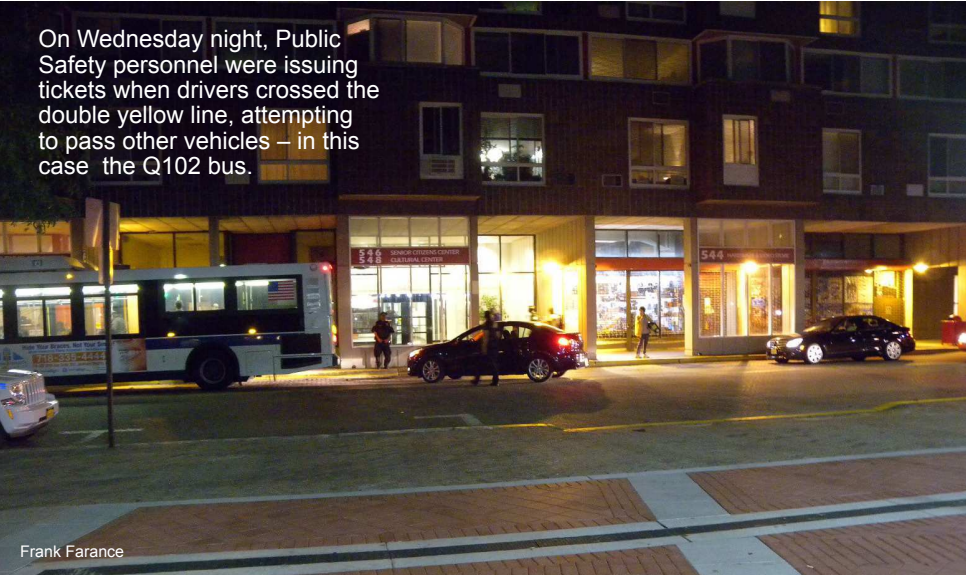
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CHINA 1 KITCHEN

PSD, from page 1
and pedestrians alike. In this case, enforcement prevented pedestrians from being struck by an automobile.”
Common Council member Frank Farance (letter, September 8 issue), who looked into the incident, told *The WIRE* that Guerra later attributed the Jenna Stueber traffic stop not to the law against crossing a double yellow line, but to unsafe driving, after Farance pointed out that to proceed, drivers must cross the double line when a vehicle is stopped in Main Street’s northbound lane, which is narrow. Farance, whose Island House apartment overlooks Main Street at the location where the arrest took place, said that the double-yellow-line law is enforced only selectively. Unsettled by what he felt were shifting responses, he later viewed video of Neal Stueber being taken to, and sitting in, a holding cell, still handcuffed and apparently injured as a result of being tackled and hitting the floor.
In a statement emailed to *The WIRE* Wednesday night, Farance wrote, “I’ve spoken to Director Guerra about this incident several times. I don’t get a warm and fuzzy feeling. I get more and more alarmed about the potential for injury, Guerra’s apparent lack of concern about injuries, Guerra’s numerous comments to me incorrectly claiming

Mr. Stueber was faking his injuries, Guerra’s approach suggesting that all actions can be considered resisting arrest, and his encouragement that officers not go light on residents – when in doubt, arrest the person.
“Guerra wants Tasers,” Farance continued, “but his approach is incompatible with Taser use. One can reasonably ask whether Guerra’s approach is compatible with this community.”
Farance said the Public Safety Committee of the RIRA Common Council met Tuesday evening, and will report to the Council that “the committee had many concerns about Public Safety, their actions, procedures, and leadership, including future potential use of tasers.” The RIRA Council has no power to act in the matter, other than to express concern or make a non-binding recommendation.
The October 3 RIRA Common Council meeting, which will be held in the Good Shepherd Center (lower level), will start at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be open to the public, as usual, with an opportunity for residents to address the Council, with a time limit, at the beginning of the meeting.
Two related letters appear on page 2 of this issue.



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Yom Kippur day, Sept. 26
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12:00pm Yizkor
6:30pm Neilah
7:26pm Shofar blowing and break fast buffet

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- Yom Kippur, Wednesday, September 26
fast ends at 7:26pm
- Friday, September 28 at 6:24 pm
- Sukkot, Sunday, September 30 at 6:21 pm
- Sukkot, Monday, October 1 AFTER 7:18 pm
- Friday, October 5 at 6:13 pm
- Shmini Atzeret, Sunday, October 7 at 6:10 pm
- Simchas Torah, Monday Oct. 8 AFTER 7:07 pm
- Friday, October 12 at 6:02 pm

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MOTAAS, from page 6
to Tate Modern and what an entrance to the Goldwater boiler room might look like, if set aside for MOTAAS.

“That’s the way it should be,” he says, “art and technology together.”

An architect by profession and artist by conviction, Sudol has a keen eye for industrial art. Early in the 20th century, artists like Charles Sheeler offered realistic paintings and photography that celebrated power plants and factories grown prominent across America. These contrasted with abstract art, which was trying to loosen our ways of seeing things. Like Sheeler, Sudol appreciates the importance of hard-core design, and he makes a show of it on the walls of the gallery.

His *Centrifugal Pump Triptych* resembles a symphonic wave in red as pump and pipes curl to accommodate “1000 gallons per minute against 150 pounds pressure,” according to its identifying plate, which also warns: “Full speed 1800 revolutions per minute.” What keeps basic engineering from being mere basic engineering is design – bright-red piping that seems posed in a dance.

He continues to demonstrate artistry in industrial design in *Inferno*, four photographs that show the intense heat of a two-story oil-fueled boiler converting water into high pressure steam, along with the barriers built to keep it visible but safely within its furnace.

In other sets of photographs, like *Duality* and *High Bar Contest*, Sudol shows that industry can be as committed to artful design as it is to functionality. Instead of colorless collections of working parts, we have brightly colored installations that invite human involvement.

“With Cornell coming, the time is right to do this,” Sudol explains. “I invited (Cornell-NYC Vice President) Cathy Dove to see the

space. At first, she was reluctant, but after she saw it, she was ecstatic.”

“One of the reasons we were so drawn to Roosevelt Island is the entrepreneurial spirit that exists here,” Dove told *The WIRE*. “Tad’s vision is one of the many exciting ideas that Islanders are pursuing. It certainly seems like an ambitious project to transform that space from its current use, but New Yorkers are known for successfully undertaking massive projects when there is great passion and broad-based support.”

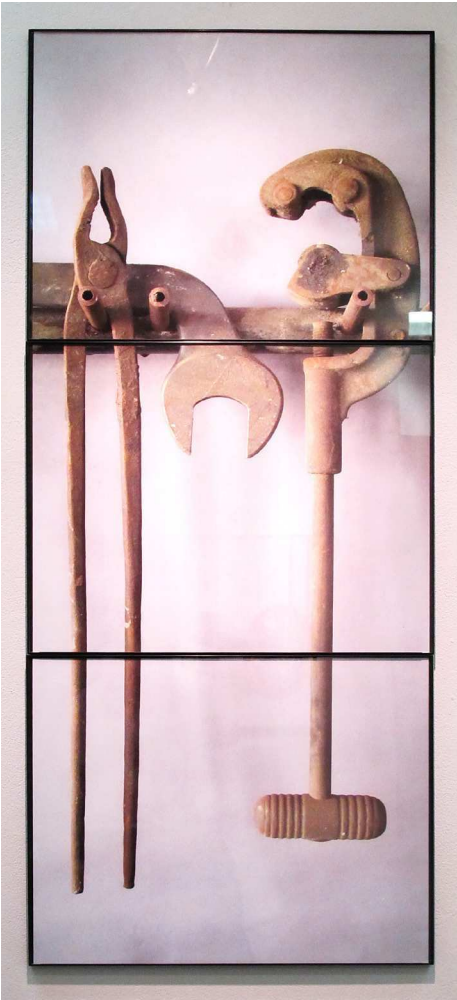
Although Cornell has already committed to a more modern, green-friendly campus than the old plant can service, perhaps free-

ing it for use as a museum, Coler Hospital may have other ideas. Coler depends on the plant and a mile-long pipe under the East Promenade for steam. (The future of the Steam Plant has been uncertain for years, with New York City’s Health and Hospitals Corporations considering a local heating plant on the Coler property. And Skip Hartman of the Racquet Club produced a proposal for a recreation center that would include and take over the Steam Plant.)

Sudol remains undaunted by obstacles. He launched his career as an architect in communist Poland, eventually finding his way to a teaching position at Columbia University. He is also one of the founding members of Gallery RIVAA, and has fought to keep the institution prosperous for over a decade. Using Tate Modern as

a guide for creating a similar world-class venue on Roosevelt Island doesn’t seem so hard, given that perspective.

MOTAAS remains on display through October 14. Sudol has invited the community to a reception today (Saturday, September 22) from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Gallery RIVAA, at 527 Main Street, is open from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday, and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.





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

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Nellie and David Finnegan,

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7:30 Games

Wednesday

9:30 Yoga Stretch
10:20 Shoppers’ Bus
10:30 Computers
10:45 Spanish
1:30 Scrabble
7:00 Salsa

Thursday

10:30 Zumba
10:45 Ping Pong
12:30 Movie

Friday

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10:30 ESL
1:00 Korean Games
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