

Islander: Nina Wintringham

Without Its Usual Home, The Main Street Theatre Keeps On Keepin’ On

by Kamakshi Ayyar

How do you run a theatre program without a theater? Ask Nina Wintringham, who, together with the administration of the Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance (MST&DA), has been doing just that since the flooding of the organization’s premises last July. Both MST&DA and the Jewish Congregation have been out of their normal homes for seven months.

“It’s been hard,” said Wintringham, president of the organization. “But letting the MST&DA disappear has never been an option, so we just do what needs to get done.”

She admits that being associated with theatre was never a life goal. Born in Somerville, New Jersey, Wintringham studied psychology at Boston University for her undergraduate degree before beginning a career in publishing, printing, and graphic arts in New York City. A little-known secret is that she never graduated from BU, due to financial and personal issues.

“Once I got a job, I just got involved with life and never went back,” she said. Her first job was at *Harper’s Bazaar*, where she learned editorial production and typesetting before advancing to desktop publishing. She kept up with the times, reinventing herself every time a new challenge presented itself – from familiarizing herself with computers and information technology systems to learning the business of a changing publishing industry.



“I just kept learning things along the way, and I could apply that business knowledge when I came to the Main Street Theatre,” said Wintringham. “It was a very creative environment, and the business approach to things is very different.”

In Manhattan, she moved from boutique companies that allowed her the chance to learn the ins and outs of publishing to national and multi-national companies, rising to the post of vice president of marketing at her most current employer, RR Donnelley, one of the world’s largest publishers. Along the way, she met her future husband, John Dougherty; their first date was a Roundabout Theatre production of *Look Back in Anger*. They married in 1982 and had their daughter, Rebecca, in 1987, while living on the Upper East Side.

“We didn’t get a sense of community there and that’s what we wanted,” she said. So, they moved to Roosevelt Island in 1989, where Wintringham

See **Wintringham**, page 10

Guerra Hires a Lawyer, Who Threatens *The WIRE*

Public Safety Chief Keith Guerra has hired attorney Andrew Maloney to make a “cease and desist” demand of *The Main Street WIRE*, backed up by a threat “to immediately commence legal action against you as well as your publication” for “publishing several unflattering remarks designed to misalign [sic] his name and character.” RIRA Common Councilor Frank Farance says he received a similar letter, presumably for comments on the Roosevelt Islander blog; the blog also heard from Maloney.

Maloney’s letter to *The WIRE* (see page 12) and a similar one to reporter David Stone object to an article in the February 23 issue (on line at tinyurl.com/3311wire). The article quoted a source – a former employee who opted to remain unnamed, citing a fear of retribution. Key points of the report were allegations that established the existence of a considerable gap in control between RIOC and its Public Safety Department (PSD), as well as a likelihood that complaints submitted to PSD – the only available procedure until recently, when the RIOC Board started collecting them directly from residents – would be buried or ignored.

Over the years, *The WIRE* has privately urged those who have met with

See **Guerra**, page 6



The Deputy Director of Public Safety, René Bryan, listened at last week’s RIOC Board meeting as a parade of residents denounced the leadership of the department.

The Main Street WIRE

Saturday, March 9, 2013
33:12

RIOC Board to Seek a RIOC President; Hears Continuing Demand for Change At Top of Public Safety Department

by Dick Lutz

The key long-term development at last week’s meeting of the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) was a unanimous decision to begin a search for a new president. But the bulk of the meeting was dominated by two issues brought to the public session by residents – the Public Safety Department (PSD), and the extensive amount of time to get repairs done at the Cultural Center, which is home to the Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance (MST&DA) and the Roosevelt Island Jewish Congregation.

Open Jobs

The RIOC Presidency has been open since the sudden departure of Leslie Torres on September 20, and Legal Counsel Donald Lewis has been Acting President since then. The post of Vice President for Operations opened in December with the departure of Fernando Martinez. Other posts are open, as well.

The RIOC Board has been waiting for Governor Andrew Cuomo to nominate a president, having been informed by his appointments office that he intended to do so. The RIOC Board is empowered by statute to hire and fire the RIOC president, but over the years the various Boards have simply rubber-stamped each governor’s choice for the top jobs, making them part of the governor’s portfolio of patronage rewards to his supporters.

Late in January, concerned about the continuing lack of full-fledged leadership, the RIOC Board wrote to David Kidera, head of New York State’s Authorities Budget Office (ABO), asking what the trigger-point might be for the Board to act on its own (*The WIRE*, February 9, online at tinyurl.com/3310wire). Kidera responded (letter, page 12) without specifying a trigger point, but effectively gave the Board leave to start its own executive search.

Public Safety

Sgt. Ingrid Veras resigned last week. She had been under fire for the July (2012) arrest of Neal Stueber after his daughter was stopped, driving on Main Street. (See Public Safety timeline, page 6.) Her name was mentioned repeatedly as an officer involved in arrests that were controversial because of the level of force used. Public Safety Chief Keith Guerra is also embattled – for his officers’ tactics and, in Veras’s case, for promoting her despite 11 suspensions for various causes.

RIOC Board member Michael Shinozaki, who chairs the RIOC Board’s Operations Advisory Committee, attended RIRA’s mid-February rally and listened as a dozen or more residents told their stories of unpleasant (and sometimes life-shattering) encounters with Public Safety, and some 250 people cheered them on. But no other RIOC Board members were present, leading to a decision by RIRA’s Public Safety Committee to create a kind of road-show, and take

See **PSD**, page 6

MST&DA

The Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance has had its classes and rehearsals scattered to various locations on the Island after two episodes of flooding of the Cultural Center, which houses both the theatre and the Roosevelt Island Jewish Congregation. As a result, MST&DA has suffered a decline in enrollment and other setbacks. The organization’s president, Nina Wintringham (profile, page 1) appeared in the public session of last week’s Board meeting to thank RIOC for assurances, received in an earlier meeting of the Board’s Real Estate Development Advisory Committee, that MST&DA’s space requirements will be settled, eventually, by a move back into its space at 548 Main Street.

“When we first registered to speak tonight, it was to plead our case, to get back into our space, and then we both attended the Real Estate [Committee] meeting and heard some good news,” she said. A pre-arranged lineup of Islanders followed, nonetheless, to emphasize the value and importance of MST&DA’s classes.

Pulling It Together

What does the long delay in rehabilitating the MST&DA quarters have to do with the controversy over Public Safety’s handling of youth? One resident, Patti Fallone, brought the two issues together at last week’s RIOC Board meeting. She was speaking off-the-cuff, so it doesn’t read like polished prose, but the feelings are there. Here’s what she said to the RIOC Board and RIOC staff:

There are a couple of things at issue tonight, I know, and they really – all of them – are talking about the foundations of our community, and one thing that I think in a situation like this, where you have people whose job it is, and you have people whose community it is, and sometimes they cross over and sometimes they don’t, but Roosevelt Island is an extremely unique community, and the people who are here tonight and those who have been showing up recently – they’re not self-serving. They’re looking out for the greater good of a very rare community.

This isn’t just a neighborhood. When this place came to be in the late ’70s and I moved here when I was 11, it was supposed to be a utopia, and one of the things my mother always commented on was they wanted the socioeconomic mixed community, and they built Main Street as a railroad track

See **Fallone**, page 6



At Gristedes, a New Open Look

The Island’s supermarket got a whole new look in the renovation completed this week with a grand reopening.

The Editorial Page

Potpourri

• We commend to the RIOC Board’s attention the sentiments of Patti Fallone (page 1). She sees clearly some important things that may have been forgotten, as the system co-opts RIOC Board members and burdens them with the critical details of running this community. They’re volunteers serving in a murky world that lies between a community and New York State politics. There’s a breath of heartfelt fresh air there – an opportunity to become newly grounded in what’s really important.

• We commend the Board for beginning something that should have happened months ago – searching for a RIOC president. This is an act of wiping away the murk and getting on with business. Thanks to Michael Shinozaki, too, for his proactive approach on Public Safety, clothed so well in a garment of fairness. (Stories, page 1.)

• We also hope that the Board and residents will read Joyce Mincheff’s letter on page 4. In it, there is a dose of serious practicality based on the question, *How will the rents that we pay serve to support all the additional requirements that will be imposed by Cornell’s Island campus?* The fact is that every penny RIOC spends is a penny first paid or spent in some form by an Island resident or merchant. And while we support, enthusiastically, the coming of Cornell Tech, we urge the City administration, the City Council, the RIOC Board, and the New York State powers-that-be to realize that it will be very difficult for this residential community, through its rents, to support all that Cornell will require in the way of infrastructure and services. The RIOC Board holds the leverage – the loop of land that surrounds the Cornell premises – to require ongoing financial help. The notion of subleasing that space to Cornell, for annual income that will offset the demands on infrastructure, is a powerful one. (Letter, page 4; story, page 12.)

• It’s clear that Island organizations need at least twice the \$100,000 in Public Purpose Funds. It’s a pittance in the context of the RIOC budget, and the bang for the buck is the best purchase going. The annual amount should be increased. (Story, page 4.)

• It is hard to imagine anything that might be passing through the able brain of Keith Guerra that would lead him to believe he has a future here. Our Chief of Public Safety has an opportunity now for a dignified departure. Clinging to the job with a hurricane of uprising blowing strong is not a reasonable choice. Things got away from him, and there’s now too little opportunity to get out in front of the situation. (Story, page 1.)

• Add to that his lawyer’s clumsy attempt to intimidate the local news media (including *The WIRE*) and individual residents who have spoken out, and you have a grasp of desperation, at best, keeping him on the Island. For the good that he has done, we wish him well. For the rest of it, we recommend the dignified exit before the situation grows more embarrassing, and forces him into a stubborn response from a beleaguered corner. (Story, page 1.)

• At the same time, we cannot help but sympathize with the several good Public Safety officers who, though they may have found themselves adrift in a quasi-militaristic culture, know how to handle Islanders, including the young.

• Kudos to Erin Feely-Nahem and the RIRA Common Council for the stand they have taken and the determination with which they’re pursuing their goal – and kudos to those residents who have stood up to power. That takes courage, but there is courage plenty to be had when joining together as they have done. It’s an easy observation that not every one is an angel all the time, but, when their rights are violated or abridged, standing up and standing together is the only good choice. (Story, page 1.)

• One final word about RIOC’s silence on Public Safety. Gaggling Chief Guerra so that he cannot speak out in defense of his department is a mistake. Careful statements, vetted by the lawyers at RIOC, could certainly be issued, so that the visible and reportable situation can be more balanced. Whatever policy imposes that destructive silence needs modification.

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Krystyn Donnelley and students of Legacy High School;
Andrey Ganeev and students from the PS/IS 217 Beacon Program

Letters

To the Editor:

I’d like to play devil’s advocate in the Public Safety situation. If the officers involved are found to have abused authority and severely injured Anthony Jones, obviously they must then be held accountable. Time will tell. However, some of the comments I’ve read are flawed. Recently, in *The WIRE*, Frank Farance stated that Public Safety should use more discretion in making arrests because, if you are fortunate to have money for a lawyer, you can get your case dismissed, but if not, you will have a record that will follow you for life. Really, Frank? So court-appointed attorneys can’t get your case dismissed if it is without merit? Where did you get that information? It is not true, and it is not rare, either.

Also, he defends incidents of angry behavior by residents toward Public Safety officers as something that should be ignored because that’s how people are sometimes. Well, as long as I’ve lived here, I’ve found that the attitude toward PSD is that they are “toy cops” and “wannabes” unworthy of respect or authority. So if they respond accordingly, then is that okay, too? Just asking. (I’m not referring to alleged physical abuse, but to the description by some residents of a “disrespectful attitude.” Because, although they’re supposed to be better than that, a person can be pushed too far – the resident or the officer, right?)

I myself have been a victim of the sometimes outrageous and disrespectful attitudes of some residents here in the course of performing my duties and following policies while employed by several of the Island management companies. If I even dared to defend my position, I was hit with *Do you know who I am?* or *I pay your salary* or other more insulting retorts. One of my co-workers had a telephone thrown at her, right in her office. Someone once posted obscene literature directed at me and another co-worker in the lobbies and elevators that our young children were almost exposed to. (Thanks for the quick save, building maintenance!) Once, pushed too far, I calmly told a tenant that I would not break policy without authorization (not available at that moment) unless he was willing to support my family if I lost my job. The public lashing I received from him and his wife in response was humiliating.

My point is, while I am reading about negative behavior by PSD, I’ve read nothing about the negative behavior of the accusers, and I know there is that. I can’t get behind this problem unless both sides are reported honestly and completely.

Regarding the teenagers arrested for loitering in the stairwell: I’m curious why they would choose to wait for their friend in a stairwell rather than a clean and supervised lobby, or in their friend’s apartment. Many people, City-wide, are arrested for this. You may get a summons, but if you don’t have ID, or you create a disturbance, you will be arrested. We know tolerating loitering will lead to criminal activity. I personally don’t want to see loitering in my building become the norm, in the hallways or the stairwells. These are public access areas, not living rooms or playgrounds. We live here at substantial rents with presumed quality-of-life standards. Loitering is addressed in our leases, and it is not put there facetiously, so if PSD is doing its job conducting vertical patrols (which they recently have been accused of not doing), and they enforce the regulations, then please explain the problem.

Regarding the resident who stated that he warns his son every day to be careful of Public Safety: Apparently he had an altercation with PSD at one time, resulting in his arrest. Based on a negative experience with a few officers, rightly or wrongly, he now condemns the entire PSD staff to his child and teaches him to fear and disrespect authority.

Regarding Mr. Jones’ situation: It appears that his injuries were excessive for an arrest, unless he was resisting; I don’t have the facts. However, when his mother complained that she was not immediately contacted, then told that the notification she got was a “courtesy call,” that seems legitimate. Anthony is legally an adult; if he were arrested by NYPD, no such call would be made. The person named in his pre-arraignment interview would get a call, however, in case bail was set. If there were life-threatening injuries/illness, notification would be made, but she was notified prior to that point. (Generally, from time of arrest to arraignment is approximately 24 hours – possibly longer – during which time you have no access to the defendant.) She commented that *They know me... they know where I live. They’ve been (to my apartment) before.* Well, ask Mr. Farance or some other members of the Residents Association about that, because they are adamant about no special treatment in this neighborhood.

So, while I concur there are problems here, I think fairness and accountability will go a long way in resolving some of them. There is blame on both sides. However, if PSD and the residents can’t work together to start respecting each other, and NYPD comes in, our level of supervision will be compromised, and real law-enforcement tactics are not going to be soft-pedaled because “this is Roosevelt Island – we are special.”

Gail Montague

Letters deadline for March 23 issue:
Tuesday, March 19, 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 text to **MainStreetWIRE@usa.net** (as text or as an attached MSWord or WordPerfect file), 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.

He: Sgt. says I can’t push you. Talk to him.

Me: Call. I’ll talk to him.

He: Called, then returned to say, *Sgt. won’t talk to you.*

When I finally got back, frazzled, exhausted, and furious, I called Sgt. Mendes, who claimed no knowledge of the incident. I apprised him as best I could in my badly shaken state. He said, *Call EMS*, similar to J. Martinez.

Me: I want to file a complaint.

Mendes: I’ll switch you back to the desk.

Result: I got disconnected.

Sharon Stern

To the Editor:

Public Safety Director Keith Guerra issued a statement in which he claims that, over the past five years, his department has been able to decrease crime on the Island without a “zero tolerance” or “maximum enforcement” initiative. First, without any empirical or hard-data evidence to support his claim, it is hard to believe that PSD is responsible for the decrease in crime on Roosevelt Island.

Even the NYPD, FBI, scientists, sociologists, and anthropologists differ wildly about the cause of what has been not only a City-wide but a nationwide downward trend in crime for decades. Guerra does not know why crime has been decreasing on the Island and to try to claim credit for it is to deceive people into thinking otherwise.

Second, judging by the high number of cases of alleged abuse and the alleged brutal attack on a young resident that put him in the hospital with a broken rib and punctured lung, it is safe to say, *also unknown to Guerra*, zero tolerance and maximum enforcement are in effect.

David Enock

To the Editor:

Time: Noon, October 13.

Place: Gristedes.

Incident: My wheelchair spun out of control, causing some damage behind my chair and spillage of my intended purchases. I managed to stop the chair by touching a switch by my ankle.

A new produce worker with limited English did his best to help, and an anonymous patron ended up turning off the chair, releasing clutches, and, as he had no cell, pushing me to the desk. No manager that day. Eventually, after several attempts to contact someone, Charmaine did. (In all fairness, she had her hands full – a delivery man waiting for her to check in his stuff directed her to me.)

At my request, she called Public Safety. When the officer refused to help me, she called my aide, who, at my request, came with my housekeeper, and both pushed me to my place, remarking how easy it was to do.

Meanwhile, Charmaine checked out my four items. Gerald S., another shopper who knows me, walked over, when he saw Officer J. Martinez walk away from me, to offer his aid. On his suggestion, we exited to await the Red Bus, with Martinez, I believe, pushing the chair; all remarking, “how easy,” etc., but I doubted they could manage the tight turn into the bus, and, at any rate, I was waiting for my aides, who did arrive prior to the bus.

Martinez stopped us, asking for “information,” indirectly from my aide, who transmitted his request, which seemed to me outrageous under the circumstances. I said, “No, we’re going.” He then tried repeatedly to give us directions, obviously unneeded and unwanted.

Now, I know Gristedes is not prepared for such emergencies, but I did think, silly me, that Public Safety is.

I wish I could remember verbatim the bizarre conversation between me and Martinez while I was still by the desk. This much I remember:

Charge your battery. Call a repair company. I’m not allowed to push you; I might get hurt, you might get hurt. I need permission from Sgt. Mendes. I can call EMS. (That’s when I asked Charmaine to call my home.)

Me: Ask for another man.

Westview Election

The Westview Task Force has a new roster on its board of directors, after an election coordinated by Gene Teytelman and monitored by Joyce Mincheff and Ron Meltzer. Fourteen candidates ran; 13 were elected. They are: Thomas Hastings, , Steven Kleinberg, Paul Lenner, Susan Marcus, Johan Marfey, Rosemary Musumba, Opher Pail, Slavica Plecas-Gak, Michael Sinelnikov, Ivens Stanton, Tad Sudol, Gene Teytelman, Eugene Torres.

Letters, from page 2 To the Editor:

Coler-Goldwater Hospital has come up with an innovative and creative way to save money: they skimp on toilet paper and paper towels. After all, residents don’t need paper in all of their toilets. Only one of four will do. So what if they have to wait? Some might deem this unsanitary and a health hazard, but that’s just old-fashioned.

This is no joke. For the past six months, they have been doing this. I have been a resident in units in both hospitals, and have experienced this. Head nurses call administration and housekeeping (the responsible party), and sometimes get a response. I have contacted the nursing home ombudsman, which also helps.

I would question whether a net saving is achieved, since people use a certain amount of paper regardless.

Bob Furman

To John Catsimatidis (owner of Gristedes):

I was really hoping not to write to you yet again on a Wednesday morning, but you leave me no choice.

Once again, in today’s *New York Post*, is a full-page ad declaring *War on Inflation* – but again, only at two stores in Kips Bay, on East 29th Street at Second Avenue, and on East 32nd Street at Third Avenue, and at the store on East 86th (hardly an address that needs a price break) – your three stores located steps away from the new Fairway at East 30th Street at Second Avenue or the one at East 86th.

You took an ad out in *The WIRE* touting the re-opening of the Roosevelt Island store, promising *fresh this, organic that*, better selections of certain items – but without any indication of a *War on Inflation* for us. Is it all about the money, honey? When will we see better, competitive pricing?

You sent out invitations yesterday to a very select few for the store’s grand-opening preview on Wednesday, March 6. Will there be a full-page ad anywhere declaring *War on Inflation* for us long-suffering RI residents? We’re still subjected to over-the-top high prices on such necessities as:

- Milk – \$1.49 a quart here, but 99¢ at the three stores mentioned above, and only on 1% or fat-free.
- Toilet paper – \$3 for four rolls of Scott bath tissue at the three Manhattan stores, but \$5 for four rolls on Roosevelt Island.
- And my favorite – four cans of Bumble Bee Solid White Tuna at four for \$5 in Kips Bay, and who knows how much this week on Roosevelt Island?

And how nice, free delivery for purchases of \$40 up.

And, by the way, while the Roosevelt Island store is nearly finished, the person who is doing the signage for the aisles has put up small signs that cannot be read by

Talk on Goldwater Set for Tuesday



The innovations of Goldwater Hospital are the focus of a talk by historian Judith Berdy sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society, of which she is President, at the New York Public Library Branch on Roosevelt Island, on Tuesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Titled *If the Walls of Goldwater Hospital Could Talk*, the presentation will highlight how, even in its architectural design, Goldwater is notable for its open and airy layout, incorporating community space with individual rooms for long-term residents.

In the hospital’s early days, several recreation rooms were painted by artists through a program sponsored by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Sadly, three of the four murals were painted over, and it is hoped that Cornell University will remove and restore them. The fourth mural, *Abstraction*, by Ilya Bolotowsky, has been restored and is visible today.

Other notable experiments in medical care, plus the integration of the disabled in a residential setting, took place there.

In addition to currently serving as a home to more than a thousand residents, Goldwater has also gained cinematic fame as the setting for numerous films. *The Exorcist*, *Cold Souls*, and the remake of *Arthur* were all set at the hospital.

The lecture is both a celebration of Goldwater Hospital, which has led the way in treatment of patients with tuberculosis, polio, AIDS, and other long-term chronic diseases, and a farewell. The hospital is scheduled to close in December 2013.

The event, the second in a series of spring lectures sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society, is free.

The WIRE Archives: nyc10044.com

To the Editor:

The City is giving away its Roosevelt Island land to Cornell-Technion. Roosevelt Islanders are totally behind a plan that provides significant enhancements for all New Yorkers. But the process neglects to consider important problems that could be ruinous for our tiny community:

- Major construction in a community with *only one street* can easily overwhelm us if not properly managed. *Barging* is not an option – it’s a necessity. And mixing cement on site will eliminate countless truck hazards, while the cost to do so will have only a minor impact on the project’s budget. In fact, some construction professionals believe that the efficiency gained by onsite cement will likely reduce the project’s overall cost.

- Most Roosevelt Island services – the ones that keep us safe, our neighborhood clean, and our population moving – are *not* supplied by the City. In any other corner of the City, they would be. The Public Safety Department, grounds maintenance, street cleaning, plowing, and repair, Red Bus transportation, the facilities, and our quality of life are paid for by land-leases that RIOC charges for Roosevelt Island assets. The budget gets *no* infusion from the City whatsoever. Yet, the population of Cornell-Technion will cause a dramatic increase in the demand for Island services. Our population will grow from about 14,000 to approximately 21,000. The City has not offered a nickel to help support the services that its pet project will demand, even though it will derive huge monetary benefits.

Although the quality of life on Roosevelt Island may seem an idyllic setting for such a project, it comes at a price. While the City has the right to give away its land, does it have the right to impose an outrageous expense on a community without defraying that ongoing cost? Cornell-Technion is not simply building a school here. It is building an enterprise and making tax-generating corporate co-location profits. Cornell-Technion will benefit, the City of New York will benefit. Roosevelt Island’s tiny budget will be overwhelmed.

Our elected officials must come to our aid to include Roosevelt Island, the provider of services that will support Cornell-Technion’s population, in the division of revenue generated from this project. And Roosevelt Islanders should contact our elected officials to let them know.

Joyce Mincheff

anyone because the print font is even smaller, and many of the new shelves have merchandise on them so high up that only a basketball player could reach it.

Really, Mr. C, how much longer will this go on?

I read this morning that, at last night’s Mayoral Candidate Forum, you kibitzed about failing calculus in school. Well, right now you

are failing the public relations test on Roosevelt Island – continuing to favor other neighborhoods with many shopping choices over the one place where you could possibly make a difference now – and kibitzing and humor will not make the difference. Better prices on many staples and a few specialty items will be a good start.

Nina Lublin

Public Purpose Funds Asked: \$254,210 Funds Awarded: \$100,000

At Wednesday night’s meeting of the RIRA Common Council, delegates approved the recommendations of the Public Purpose Funds Committee. Funds awarded to the applying organizations are listed below to the right of their requested amounts. The recommendations will now go to the RIOC Board of Directors for acceptance and funding.

The applicants, their requests, and their awards:

	Asked	Awarded
RI Disabled Association (RIDA)	\$10,500	\$ 9,000
PS/IS 217 PTA	32,000	12,700
iDig2Learn	10,500	7,500
RI Historical Society (RIHS)	22,000	7,000
RI Chamber of Commerce	10,000	3,500
RI Day Nursery	35,000	4,250
RI Senior Association (RISA)	20,000	14,700
Roosevelt Landings Residents Association	5,000	0
RI Community Literary Associates (RICLA)	20,000	3,500
Life Frames, Inc.	25,360	3,250
R&R Concerts	14,850	11,000
RI Visual Art Association (RIVAA)	30,000	10,500
Island Kids	19,000	13,100

RIRA, from page 3

volunteering, please contact us at sce@riraonline.com.

Love Your Block, Love Our Earth

On Saturday, April 20, come out for this family-friendly event. Join the festivities with flower power as we plant together. Celebrate our Earth and beautify our Island. Make your mark. We will be beautifying strategic areas along Main Street, including the plaza in front of Motorgate and Gristedes. Christina Delfico got a special grant from Citizens Committee for NYC and NYC Service to celebrate Earth Day and beautify our block. Her group, iDig2Learn, is organizing this event in collaboration with the PS/IS 217 PTA, the Youth Program, RIOC, RIRA, Urban American, The Hudson Companies, and others. See the work of your hands for years to come. Practice getting dirty in anticipation of Roosevelt Island Day in June. There will be activities in the morning and afternoon. For more details or to volunteer, contact iDig2Learn@gmail.com.

Updates

The Roosevelt Island Community Coalition (RICC) has been closely following the deliberations of the City Planning Commission. We are disappointed that, up to this point, they have been unwilling to take a stand on bargaining. This means that our City Councilmember, Jessica Lapin, will need to save the day and deliver the bargaining that our community demands. Also pushing for bargaining are Assemblymember Micah Kellner and Assemblymembers from Western Queens. RICC plans to continue lobbying our elected officials.

We will be having a RIRA/RICC/CERT town meeting about emergency planning after the Office of Emergency Management releases the new evacuation designations for the City. It is expected that Roosevelt Island will be reclassified. We’ll give you more information when we learn it.

The RIRA Public Safety Committee is planning many additional events, and is being very active in its mission to replace the leadership of Public Safety with one that treats Islanders more respectfully. Committee members are continuing with the petition drive, and are planning a march and rally. It is not enough to get rid of what we don’t like about Public Safety. Our community must create a Public Safety that we want. To that end, I have begun some discussions with a not-for-profit organization that helps communities think through thorny issues and come to collaborative conclusions. I have invited the Public Safety Committee to join this process, to create the kind of Public Safety Department that supports life on our Island.

ComingUp, from page 3

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

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

– Future Weeks –

RI Women’s Health Organization meets, **Wed Mar 27** 6:30pm, 12th floor, Senior Center, 546 Main St.

RI Business Networking Group meets, **Wed Mar 27** 7pm, location to be announced.

Easter Egg Hunt, Sat Mar 30 2-4pm, Firefighters Field. Register online at <http://go.riraonline.com/easteregg>.

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

RIOC Board Meeting, Thu Apr 4 5:30pm, Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd. Register to comment in public portion at start of meeting by calling **212-832-4540**.

MST&DA Adult Musical Theatre Studio presents *Songs for a New World*, **Thu Apr 4** 7:30pm, **Fri Apr 5** 8pm, **Sun Apr 7**, 3pm and 7pm, Good Shepherd Center. \$15 (seniors, students \$10). (Ad, page 9.)

First Sunday Jazz Salon, Sun Apr 7 5-7pm, Gallery RIVAA. \$5 donation; refreshments. (Ad, page 14.)

RI Business Networking Group meets, **Tue Apr 9** 7:30am, Riverwalk Bar & Grill. Info: **917-445-7876** or djeffries2@nyc.rr.com.

Cherry Blossom Festival, Sat Apr 13, 10am-7:30pm, Goldwater Hospital, on the West Promenade.

Book discussion: *Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon, **Thu Apr 18** 6:30pm, Library.

Love Your Block Earth Day Celebration, Sat Apr 20 10am-afternoon, sponsored by iDig2Learn with a grant from the Citizens Committee for NYC and NYC Service. All welcome; to volunteer, email iDig2Learn@gmail.com.

RI Business Networking Group meets, **Tue Apr 23** 7pm, location to be announced. Info: **917-445-7876** or djeffries2@nyc.rr.com.

More **ComingUp** on page 11



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PSD, from page 1

most of the stories to two additional venues last week – the Operations Committee meeting held Monday (February 25), and the full RIOC Board meeting (Thursday, February 28). Stories reported in *The WIRE*’s February 23 issue (online at tinyurl.com/3311wire) were repeated – many verbatim – for the Board members.

By the time of those meetings, Shinozaki had taken a number of steps dealing directly with Public Safety, responding to the protests about its methods. These were announced in the February 25 Operations Committee session, which was moved from the RIOC offices to the community room at 4 River Road to accommodate about 30 residents who wanted to attend.

• He had begun investigating the possibility of cameras on officers, he said. “How can we collect actionable information, so things can be proven?” He said that small point-of-view cameras mounted on glasses seemed to him the best solution. Worn by Public Safety officers, they would record



continuously, providing audio and video of arrests, sometimes from the viewpoint of multiple officers.

• He said cameras in the Public Safety Office would be made operational. (They were mounted but not recording during the forceful Stueber arrest, which occurred in the PSD office.) RIOC’s Acting President, Don Lewis, said they’d be working by March 8.

• He announced that RIOC will bring in an outside consultant to evaluate PSD, and that a Request for Proposals (RFP) is being prepared.

• “We have put Public Safety on notice that we will do random inspections,” Shinozaki said. “I’ll be coming in any time of the day or night, checking up on them, inspecting the offices.

They need to be aware that we’ll be dropping in on them, keeping an eye on them.”

• “We’ve also put in place [the requirement of] notification to the Board if any level of force is used – handcuffs and up, on the force ladder. We’re going to be notified

what’s happening... by the officer in charge.” When a resident expressed concern that such orders might be ignored, Shinozaki added, “If we give them a standing order and they violate such orders, we can act on that. If we have cameras that have evidence of what they’re doing, then we have something we can act on.”

After that point, Board member David Kraut commented, “I have to say that I think your problems are less with Public Safety than they are with your [RIOC] Board of Directors, to tell the truth. I’m not saying that we were lax in any way, but, in fact, Public Safety should have been taking their leadership and guidance from us for 20 years... 25 years, and we’re only now at the point where we’re establishing policies – the kind of stuff that Mike is talking about, so we’re behind the eight-ball here. We should have been out in front of the issue from the get-go, and so, now, people are unhappy. That doesn’t mean that all this stuff that you’re talking to us [about] is true or right. Some of you are famous on the Island for making stuff up. You just are. I’m on the rock 34 years, I’m on this Board 19 years, and I know my neighbors.”

At that point, a resident interrupted, using the word “dictatorship” in reference to RIOC or the law-enforcement climate on the Island. Kraut responded, “Aw, sit down and shut up, you moron.” With that, the meeting became noisy – residents using language like “abuse of power” and “I don’t feel like I’m a Roosevelt Islander anymore.”

That triggered a partial reprise of the resident complaints that had been heard at the February 16 rally (*The WIRE*, February 23, online at tinyurl.com/3311wire.)

That was repeated, more formally, at last week’s RIOC Board meeting (already reported, in part, on Website NYC10044 at nyc10044.com).

Resident Frank deJesus, who had not been heard from in previous group recountings of encounters with Public Safety officers, told of wanting to file a report in 2006 after his son was mugged, and being told by a desk officer at PSD that *We have it under control*, apparently refusing to take the complaint. When he insisted on filing a report, he was warned, he said, that if he continued to insist, he would be arrested. “She told me that they had everything under control, and told me to

Guerra, from page 1

its editor to complain of excessively physical enforcement by PSD to tell their stories publicly. Some have written letters, and a few have told their stories for publication, but many have been afraid that a public complaint would lead to further trouble with Guerra’s PSD. A resident of Roosevelt Landings, Akaterini Drougos, came forward in recent meetings with such a story of alleged harassment by a Public Safety officer after she filed a complaint about alleged manhandling during a traffic stop (see *The WIRE*, February 23, online at tinyurl.com/3311wire, page 11).

Following publicity surrounding the case of Anthony Jones (*The WIRE*, February 9, tinyurl.com/wire3310), the chair of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) Public Safety Committee, Erin Feely-Nahem, urged victims to speak out together – a safety-in-numbers strategy. The RIRA Common Council, meanwhile, passed a resolution asking for Guerra’s removal.

The Maloney letter to *The WIRE* includes a “demand” that “you immediately cease and desist from publishing any further information about Mr. Guerra which are [sic] false, misleading, unsubstantiated and lacking of journalistic integrity” [all in capital letters].

WIRE publisher Dick Lutz said, “*The WIRE* stands by its reporting.” *The WIRE*’s legal counsel, A. Ross Wollen, responded to Maloney (see letter, page 12), writing, “As you should know, your Cease and Desist letters are totally inappropriate in these circumstances. *The WIRE* was reporting, as it should, an issue of major importance to our residents and community, as evidenced by several recent protest gatherings of hundreds of Roosevelt Island residents, focused mostly on your client. He is without doubt a public figure, currently the most such, on Roosevelt Island... I read the article in question and found not a hint of anything improper and not fully protected by the First Amendment. I’d enjoy arguing this issue with you in court if you proceed to ‘commence legal action.’”

Fallone, from page 1

right down the center of it, separating the various income levels.

That railroad track doesn’t really exist anymore. The socioeconomic distinctions are not as clear anymore. You take something like the [Main Street] Theatre, that is something that has always crossed those boundaries. One of the beautiful things that I always found, when the oldest of my four kids started at the theatre, was [that] it’s one of those situations where you’re on a stage where there are kids from the most expensive private schools, and there are kids from welfare families, and nobody knows who’s who, and they’re just happy. They grow up with such a greater understanding of the world at large. And I think it’s vital for the Board and the State to understand that – whether it’s the soccer fields, or the theatre, or just the parks where our children no longer feel free to play, because any sort of recreation is deemed loitering.

It’s up to you guys to preserve this. You have a wonderful opportunity here to be part of this community, and to help us. We are willing to do the work. We’re not sitting here saying You need to do this for us or We want you to do this. We want to be able to keep our community strong and our community together, and these are the ways we do it. We do it with things like the Main Street Theatre. The theatre is amazing. The kids that come through the theatre program have benefitted so greatly from it. I was talking with one of the families in Rivercross, and their kids all went to

top schools, and their daughter is now at the [unclear word], and she presented something, and her father said something to her about her degrees. And she said, No, it was the Main Street Theatre that taught me how to do a presentation like that. It’s true. You guys have to understand that.

I implore you to appreciate and put your finger on the pulse of this community, because there is such a disconnect. With all due respect to the Board members, there is a little bit of a disconnect between the residents and the residents sitting on the Board, I think, as well as the [staff] members.

[From] the [staff], I would expect that. We all friggin’ hate our jobs. [But] you have a job where you can actually do amazingly good things. And you should really look at that, and appreciate that. We don’t want to feel like we’re the constant enemy. You know the [Cultural Center] renovations should have been done. OK, we had [Hurricane] Sandy, so, thank God, they weren’t [yet] done. But they should have been done by now.

What you’re doing is [that] you’re breaking down the community when you’re not feeding the needs of the community. When we’re dealing with all of these issues with Public Safety, and we’re talking about [how] the kids have nothing to do? Well, don’t threaten one of the things that’s actually in place that the kids have to do.

Respect the community. And help us to help you allow us to be a very strong community.”

With Online Links

A Public Safety Scrapbook
What Has Riled Residents?

2008

Wed Oct 8 – RIRA Common Council puts question on ballot: *Should Roosevelt Island have a Citizens Review Board to hear resident complaints about Public Safety Department (PSD)?* tinyurl.com/wire2903

Tue Nov 4 – 94% of Island voters call for PSD to be under review of a board of citizens. tinyurl.com/2905wire

2009

Sat May 30 – Adib Mansour is arrested while taking photos as PSD officers clear Capobianco Field for use by off-Island teams. tinyurl.com/2919wire Case later dismissed. tinyurl.com/wire2921

2010

Sat May 8 – Assemblymember Micah Kellner sponsors bill calling for review board. tinyurl.com/wire3016

2012

Wed Jun 6 – PSD Chief Keith Guerra proposes that Public Safety officers be armed with tasers. tinyurl.com/wire3220

Thu July 26 – Neal Stueber arrested and injured in Public Safety office when he goes there to provide insurance papers following his daughter’s arrest while driving on Main Street. The next day, RIOC demands Stueber’s resignation as part-time Red Bus driver.

Sat Aug 25 – *The WIRE* carries letter from Jenna Stueber about her father’s arrest. tinyurl.com/3223wire

Wed Oct 3 – RIRA Common Council asks for an investigation of Public Safety. tinyurl.com/3303wire

2013

Sun Jan 13 – Anthony Jones is injured in the course of a Public Safety arrest and detention, is cuffed and guarded in hospital. No charges are filed against him. tinyurl.com/3310wire

Wed Jan 30 – Lawyer for Jones and his mother holds press conference, announces suit against RIOC. tinyurl.com/3310wire

Wed Jan 30 – At a meeting of the Operations Committee of the RIOC Board of Directors, many residents tell stories of what they consider mistreatment by Public Safety, or mishandling and arrests of youth.

Wed Feb 7 – RIRA Council unanimously asks for PSD Chief Keith Guerra’s removal. tinyurl.com/3310wire

Sat Feb 9 – *The WIRE* reports on the lawyer’s press conference. tinyurl.com/3310wire

Sat Feb 16 – RIRA Public Safety Committee holds rally. 240 sign petition. tinyurl.com/3310wire

Sat Feb 23 – *WIRE* reports whistleblower’s claim that RIOC has lost control of PSD. tinyurl.com/3311wire

Mon Feb 25 – RIOC Operations Committee moves to larger room to accommodate residents who have come to protest.

Wed Feb 27 – Guerra’s lawyer threatens *WIRE*, others, with legal action. tinyurl.com/3312wire

Thu Feb 28 – At a meeting of the RIOC Board, many residents repeat stories told at the February 16 rally.

Thu Feb 28 – Ingrid Veras, key officer in the Stueber case, resigns her Public Safety post. tinyurl.com/3311wire

leave, and said if I didn’t leave, I would be arrested. I protested, and they all jumped on me. My wife and boy were there. They held me by the throat and they were choking me. ... Anyway, I got beat up and they sent me to the Tombs. I had to report for six months. I missed work.

“Another time, my boys were playing at the park – basketball, last year. They were playing and they were told they were making too much noise. The kids protested, like they do – they think they have every right to speak out – and the cops told them to leave the park. Anyway, they were leaving, but my boy had left his backpack in the park. He asked one of the cops for permission to [go back] and retrieve his backpack. He told him yes, but one of the lady police didn’t get the signal, and she maced him for returning back to the park after he was told to leave. They called an ambulance and they took him to the hospital, and I had to pay for the ambulance and everything else.

“I don’t know what’s happening on the Island. If this happens... People talk about how this Island was a utopia. I think it’s unique and there are different classes of people

who try to get along, [but] I think this is a repression. I hate to think this way. What? Are you having an experiment in how to repress people? People can’t even walk through the hallways sometimes;



they get arrested for that. Where else would they get arrested for that? ...

“You have to give people rights. We tend to believe that we have rights – that we can do things. You have to respect them – young men are rebellious, but they’re not

hoodlums. They gather in groups, yes. But the biggest gang here is the Public Safety. My point is, do not be afraid of these youth. There’s nothing to be afraid of. Go to them [and speak to them] like an older person, tell them, you can’t be doing this.

“I don’t know what’s happening on this Island.”

There followed a replay of several of the stories reported in the February 23 *WIRE*, with the chair of the Residents Association (RIRA) Public Safety Committee, Erin Feely-Nahem, summarizing the position taken by the RIRA Common Council – that the top management at Public Safety must

See **Public Safety**, next page



As the RIOC Board’s Operations Advisory Committee listened to residents’ complaints on February 25, in a meeting timed to prepare for the full Board meeting of February 28, Public Safety officers listened from the back of the Manhattan Park Community Center. Public Safety Director Keith Guerra listened, too, seated with RIOC officials and Board members (inset).

Public Safety, from page 6
be fired.

“In the light of the growing crisis of the Public Safety Department... we are asking RIOC and the RIOC Board, which has the authority to do so, to terminate Chief Keith Guerra, Deputy Director René Bryan, [and] Captain Estrella Suarez. We further request that action be taken against a number of officers, who are the PSD footsoldiers, and whose names come up on a continual basis around abuse, harassment, misconduct, and brutality, as demonstrated over the past four years by PSD. These would include but are not limited to Officer Ralph Torrens, Sgt. Raoul Hernandez, Sgt. Ingrid Veras, and Sgt. Yee.” She said her committee continues to gather “dozens of documented accounts of such behavior under the leadership of the present regime.

“As residents, our patience is wearing thin,” she continued. “We can no longer continue to wait for action. We are beyond rushing to judgment. Our patience is gone. Our patience is wearing thin because, over the past four years,

the Public Safety Committee has discussed issues... with Director Guerra, with little or no change in the tactics his department uses. He has ignored our suggestions and manipulated situations and reports, ensuring that his officers’ account is the only accepted side.

“He has refused to see the obvious patterns where the targeting of certain youth is reflected in an officer’s arrest jacket, praising the officers for harassment of these youth, by labeling the officers as proactive, and promoting them despite the community’s concerns. I can give you several examples of this. Sgt. Hernandez is one, and Sgt. Rivera, who is now gone to the Corrections Department, was another.

“We showed him a pattern. They were promoted.

“The case of Anthony Jones has been a catalyst for a growing movement on the Island, of individuals who are now willing to come forward, as demonstrated by our magnificent rally on February 16, which I think most of you missed, except for Michael Shinozaki, who did attend. People are no longer

afraid, atomized, or content to passively accept their fate as written by the Public Safety Department. Instead, they are uniting in a search for justice.

“As the RIOC Board, you are in a position to meet our central demand – the removal of the present leadership of the Public Safety Department, starting with Guerra. As far as we are concerned, we are beyond debating this question. We respectfully present you with our concerns, supported by the RIRA resolution unanimously passed in the February [Common Council] session, and we expect you to act accordingly.”

Other residents followed Feely-Nahem. Chris Enock read a report written by his son, then added, “I don’t think there’s a community like this, where you can say all your friends are being arrested. I don’t know... Something’s going on that’s really wrong.”

Erin Feely-Nahem’s husband, Ike Nahem, made an impassioned speech about a 2008 “assault” on his son by Officer Raoul Hernandez, but he quickly moved to the RIRA Public Safety Committee’s key demand. “I think the elephant in the room tonight is [the] community unrest that is boiling over on our wonderful Island over the clear, longstanding pattern of abuse, false detentions, violent assaults, lies, and coverups, by the Public Safety Department under the leadership of Bryan, Guerra, and Suarez. Since the Anthony Jones scandal, the dam has burst open, and we really expect the [RIOC] Board to act and to act expeditiously. We want this inept, incompetent, vicious regime led by Guerra to be gone.” Nahem was applauded repeatedly.

“You should have no doubt that the Public Safety Committee and [the] RIRA [Common Council], which voted unanimously to remove the Guerra-Bryan regime, that we speak for the majority on this question. RIOC inaction and dawdling on the main question will only increase the alienation of residents toward you... RIOC managed to fire Stephen Shane for causes that you thought were valid. You shamefully, shamefully, arranged to separate Neal Stueber, an honest worker whose crime was to get beaten up for nothing, by PSD thugs, the next

day. *The next day*, you managed to separate him from his job – to get him fired.

“Now, when it comes to clear cases – one after another that have been going on for years – you’re seeing this upsurge in our community, I hear a labyrinth of obstacles to acting expeditiously. We don’t accept that. We don’t accept that. You need to act now. We want these people out. We want new leadership. We don’t want to discuss reforms. We will discuss reforms, and God knows there need to be reforms on many levels, but the question is getting rid of this leadership. Then we can discuss reforms

way that Public Safety treats people who live on this Island,” she said. She told of a minor dispute with her boyfriend that led to an arrest. “Sgt. Veras grabbed my left arm with force, continued to provoke me while talking in a soft manner. Then Sgt. [name obscured] comes from out of nowhere, picks me up, and body-slams me onto the ground like an animal. I was then handcuffed. After I was handcuffed, Officer Veras attempted to pepper-spray me. Two witnesses informed me of this after I was released from the booking. A resident of 4 River Road actually recorded it. Now, my question is, what could one do while being handcuffed? What was the purpose of the pepper spray? In fact, while she attempted to spray me, it was reversed and she sprayed herself. I believe that was God’s doing.”

Joe Strong (Michael Shinozaki’s stepson in his marriage to Lynne Strong-Shinozaki) suggested that RIOC should offer free mediation between Island residents and Public Safety officers, called for a “task force” of residents to investigate incidents, and then asked for more frequent meetings of the RIOC Board of Directors (which presently meets about eight times a year, though there are also frequent committee meetings). “With the vacancies in your executive staff, there is a need for this Board to step forward and act.”

in a serious, rational way. To try to discuss things like that by keeping this current leadership in place will not work.”

Resident Marie Gomez followed. “I’m honestly disappointed with the



RIRA Council Votes to Continue PSD Protests

by Alex Marshall

At its monthly meeting Wednesday night, the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) endorsed a May protest march and follow-up rally or update meeting, in order to keep the issue of alleged excessive force by the Island’s Public Safety Department in the minds of RIOC staff, the RIOC Board of Directors, and New York State government.

(A bill to establish a State-wide Civilian Complaint Review Board is on the legislative docket in Albany.)

Public Purpose Funds Awarded

The Common Council also approved the recommendations of its Public Purpose Funds Committee (requests and awards, page 4), which now go to the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation for approval. The committee’s task was to award \$100,000 to about a dozen Island organizations that had requested a total of \$254,210. Two new projects received approval in this year’s awards: the Chamber of Commerce for holiday lighting on Main Street, and iDig2Learn for an environmental science program that helps children understand the life of plants and the arithmetic associated with gardening.



Chris Enock hands complaints to RIOC Board member Margie Smith. The Board has asked for documentation on stories told at recent meetings, and has promised to investigate each case. Ultimately, the complaint forms will be turned over to the New York State Inspector General, who will also investigate.

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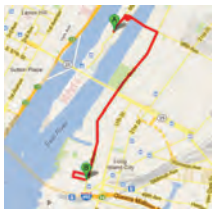


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It's Vernissage 12. 12! Gallery RIVAA Hits an Even Dozen Years

by David Stone
Today (Saturday, March 9), the artists of Gallery RIVAA celebrate a new year of creativity with Vernissage 12, their annual members' exhibit for the community. An opening reception is set for tonight, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at 527 Main Street on Roosevelt Island. Vernissage is French for "varnishing." Traditionally, it referred to the day before an exhibition when artists were allowed to retouch and varnish work already hung. These days, it refers to a private showing before a public opening. As it has been since its early-



reputations like Valeriu Boborelu and by emerging talents who add individual accents to the shows. Altogether, RIVAA provides membership and exhibit opportunities to over two dozen artists. Except for occasional solo or special exhibits, all RIVAA shows are juried. Artists deliver their artwork on Tuesday evenings for review by a senior team that selects the best for each exhibition. Once selections are finalized, all hands are asked to pitch in to prepare the gallery for the opening. Brooms and mops come out, and all the walls are freshly painted be-

fore a curation team decides how to arrange the art that's been accepted. Vernissage means extra attention to detail, to spark an atmosphere of starting off fresh. Artwork to be hung or placed inside the space includes paintings of many sizes in oil, pastel, watercolor, and acrylics, and sculpture, photography, and mixed media. The curators try to create balance within the angular space, originally occupied by a pharmacy and renovated a decade ago. As current as the art being shown at this year's Vernissage is, it's also steeped in tradition. Many of the artists arrived on Roosevelt Island after leaving cultures that were very different. Boborelu, for example, made his way to New York by way of Paris, emigrating from a Communist culture in Romania that stifled artistic growth. Also struggling to escape Romania was pastelist master Georgette Sinclair, her American-sounding name a random pick upon arrival. President Sudol left a successful career in architecture in Poland to teach at Columbia University, and now participates here not just with his art but as RIVAA's missionary to the community. He just led a successful collaboration with RIOC to bring mural-size art to Motorgate's concourse, and continues to promote conversion of the Goldwater Hospital steam plant to a museum of arts and science, modeling his idea on the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.



America. She continues to paint on canvas as well. When all these powerful influences join the other streams of inspiration guiding RIVAA, the exhibitions rival those of any other small art group in the city. On the most recent Tuesday,

the walls, with identifying stickers indicating the artists, titles, and media. There, all of it will wait for the jury to decide which make the cut and will be available for public viewing in the next few weeks. Contrasting this raw start to the next Vernissage will be the polished final version that visitors to Gallery RIVAA will see on Saturday evening. The show will highlight Roosevelt Island's Main Street corridor until April 21. After the open-



est days, the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association is led by Tad Sudol, Arline Jacoby, and Esther Piaskowski. They've since been joined by artists with international

fore a curation team decides how to arrange the art that's been accepted. Vernissage means extra attention to detail, to spark an atmosphere of starting off fresh.

Toshiko Kitano Groner left Japan for America as a recent college graduate, and successfully joined the Greenwich Village music scene before abandoning songwriting to raise a family. Later, she found new creative life as a painter of vivid oils and acrylics. In addition to Vernissage, she has a current solo exhibit at the Onishi Gallery on West 26th Street. Sinclair is also managing a solo show of her own at the Salmagundi Gallery on Fifth Avenue. The romantic abstracts of Ioan Popoiu reflect his convictions about nature and are packed with spiritual energy. Career art instructor and administrator Arline Jacoby's work emerges from the sophisticated styles of the pop art movement with found objects and mixed media displays arranged to make statements about art and life in



starting at 8:00 p.m., members carried their artwork into the bare-walled gallery, some of it wrapped in plastic, some carried along like giant canvas sails. The pieces were lined up on the floor against

ing, gallery hours will be from 1:00 to 5:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00 to 9:00 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays.



Wintringham, from page 1
says she felt the "promise of community," and she wasn't wrong. When she and her daughter sit down at Trellis to work, Rebecca can never get anything done because of all the people stopping by to say hello to her mother. "Also, I wanted my daughter to grow up in a multi-cultural environment, and the Island had that." Wintringham's association with MST&DA began when she enrolled her daughter for classes there – jazz, tap, and ballet – all through her school years. This was when the organization was being run by Worth and Nancy Howe. Since the organization was run as a not-for-profit, there came a time when the finances were in the red. Since Wintringham had been involved with her daughter's school PTA activities, she signed up to help raise funds for MST&DA. Their first event, a silent auction in 2003, was a big success. She took care of the event structure and finances while the artistic members of the board reached out to contacts for donations. "We had a wide range of things on offer – jackets from Broadway shows, ballet shoes, tickets to dance classes at the Y – all donated by the community," she said. The auction was followed by more fundraising events, and soon Wintringham was invited to be a board member of the theatre. Shortly thereafter, Nancy Howe left Roosevelt Island to join her husband, Worth, on the West Coast. The board knew that they couldn't let the organization fall apart – "It was integral to the texture of the community" – and so they reshuffled with Wintringham being appointed as the new president. "I had the business background, and other members had the arts background," she said. They joined together to deal with issues such as insurance during the interim management period, and were an up-and-running organization soon after, and "the rest is history, as they say." Since then, the executive

directors have included former Rockette Mary McCatty, Jackie Lucid-Cusick, who has a background in theatre, and the current director, Owen Johnston, a former dance captain with the Broadway production of *Rent*. Under their guidance, the programs offered by MST&DA grew, with classes in a wide variety of activities such as hip-hop and ballroom dancing, aeropump, Pilates, and yoga. Everything was going along smoothly until the flood last summer. Wintringham doesn't know how the pipes burst, but is doing the best that she and MST&DA can to support and expedite the rehabilitation of the theatre's space at 548 Main Street. RIOC has taken on the responsibility of repairing the damage after more than six months since the event. The delay was a combination of time taken in insurance filings, demolition, remediation and rebuilding bids that had to be filed, and the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the Island, which diverted the attention and resources of RIOC. "There was no way we would have guessed that we wouldn't be in our space by this year," she said. Most of the equipment, props, and set materials have been stored at the empty bakery on Main Street, with the balance being disposed of. An entire room of Wintringham's apartment has been taken over by MST&DA files. But she isn't complaining. "One of the things I love about this community is that your contribution can make a difference." Before being involved with MST&DA, Wintringham and a few parents used to rent movie reels from the public library in the City and screen children's movies every week for the Island's kids at the community library. She also helps out with the maintenance of Roosevelt Island's public spaces as a member of the Garden Club. She ensured that MST&DA worked with other organizations

in the community – whether it was performing for the elderly at the Senior Center or helping out the local school with ballroom dance lessons. Wintringham is particularly proud of their association with the Jewish congregation. "We worked out a fundraiser for the congregation; guests paid for dinner and then came to our show of *Fiddler on the Roof*. This was followed by a question-and-answer session with the rabbi, who loved the music of the show," she said. "That session added a whole different dimension to the performance." Though her work with MST&DA sometimes feels like a second full-time job, Wintringham doesn't mind. She said going to the theatre space on a Saturday morning after a stressful week is her way of relaxing. The buzz of little girls in tutus and adults rehearsing for shows or training students in the arts energizes her. When the organization was struggling to find its footing after Nancy Howe left, Wintringham and the directors would often work weekends. "You sleep a little less; you don't watch as much TV, but when something is important, you make time for it," she said. She says that a picture of the Howes in the theatre inspired her every time she felt a little dejected. Fresh from a trip to Istanbul, the latest addition to her list of places visited, Wintringham is ready to get MST&DA back into its old space. "Hopefully, we'll have our place by summer, so that we're ready for fall registrations," she said. The organization plans on having several large community-building programs, reminding everyone to "come and play with us." "I'm grateful in my own life to have had this opportunity," said Wintringham, getting a little emotional. "This has been a chance for me to immerse myself in the arts, to meet some fabulous, talented people, and to use my business skills to contribute to something bigger and more significant – my own self-awakening of sorts."



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Cornell, from page 3

In the long term, as in any organization, the success of our campus is dependent on the people we attract – faculty, students, and staff. Today, I want to highlight our early faculty hires. We have been gratified to see the amazing level of faculty talent that has been attracted to Cornell Tech. Currently, we are interviewing faculty in six fields that span areas as diverse as computer science to operations research to marketing. We are looking for a very special kind of faculty member – someone with established academic credentials in an area that is compatible with our campus, together with entrepreneurial/commercialization interests, and a demonstrated commitment to societal good. We want faculty who want to make an impact. Our first two full-time, tenured faculty members, Deborah Estrin and Rajit Manohar, are great examples, as is Dan Huttenlocher, founding Dean of Cornell Tech.

Dean Huttenlocher has been on the faculty at Cornell since 1988, most recently serving as Cornell's Computing and Information Science (CIS) Dean, but it is his mix of academic and industry experience that makes him the perfect fit for Cornell Tech. He has worked at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) and served as Chief Technology Officer of Intelligent Markets, and serves as a Trustee of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. He has taught in both the Department of Computer Science and the MBA program at Cornell, and has won recognition as a New York State Professor of the year, a National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator, and a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery.

While Dean Huttenlocher is an outstanding academic and entrepreneur in his own right, it is unlikely he will be able to spend much time teaching and conducting research, as he is quite busy serving as the chief academic officer of the campus. Thus, our first full-time “true” faculty member is Professor Deborah Estrin, a pioneer in networked sensing, which uses mobile and wireless systems to collect and analyze real-time data about the physical world. Deborah joins Cornell Tech from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she was a professor of computer science and the Founding Director of the Center for Embedded Networked Sensing (CENS). Her work has shown how the data



streaming from networks of devices such as smartphones and cameras can enrich our understanding and management of complex problems – from personal and public health to traffic patterns and civic engagement.

Professor Estrin brings an award-winning pedigree to Cornell Tech, as the winner of the Women in Technology International Hall of Fame Award, a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and one of CNN's “10 Most Powerful Women in Tech,” among many honors. She is also a co-founder of Open mHealth, a non-profit organization working to create an open-source infrastructure for the growing field of mobile health, which uses the wealth of live data made possible by mobile technology to revolutionize patient care. Professor Estrin is already lending her expertise not only to our students but also to clinicians from Weill Cornell Medical College, as we all work together in an effort to use technology to improve healthcare. She has also shown a commitment to K-12 education, spearheading a groundbreaking internship program for Los Angeles high school students in mobile technologies and data.

Professor Rajit Manohar is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs on the campus, and he joins us from the main



Cornell campus in Ithaca, where he served as the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in Engineering.

Professor Manohar is the recipient of the prestigious National Science Foundation Career award, five best paper awards, and seven teaching awards, and was named to *MIT Technology Review's* top 35 young innovators under 35 for contributions to low-power microprocessor design.

In addition to being an outstanding teacher, Professor Manohar is a great fit at Cornell Tech due to his experience partnering with private industry and building companies. He is currently part of a team with engineers from IBM that has worked to create microchips that help computers think more like the human brain. He has also created his own start-up firm, Achronix Semiconductor.

These amazing faculty are among the team that is shaping the academic program for the campus. Many of us will be on Roosevelt Island this year for some special programming, and we all look forward to joining you at our permanent campus in 2017, but in the meantime, I hope you enjoyed “meeting” a few of the key members of our team. I'll be back next month to provide another update on the review process and everything that's happening with Cornell Tech.



ComingUp, from page 4

RI Women's Health Organization meets, **Wed Apr 24** 6:30pm, 12th floor, Senior Center, 546 Main St.

Exhibit of Paintings and Collages from Creative Aging Workshop opens **Fri Apr 26**, time and location to be announced.

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

First Sunday Jazz Salon, **Sun May 5** 5-7pm, Gallery RIVAA. \$5 donation; refreshments.

RI Business Networking Group meets, **Tue May 7** 7:30am, Riverwalk Bar & Grill. Info: **917-445-7876** or djeffries2@nyc.rr.com.

RIOC Board Meeting, **Thu May 9**, 5:30pm, Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd. Register to comment in

public portion at start of meeting by calling **212-832-4540**. **The Twenty-Fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**, **Thu May 9-Sun May 12**, presented by the Main Street Teen Theatre. (Ad, page 9.)

Casino Night Fundraiser for the Roosevelt Island Senior Association, **Sat May 11** 6:30-10:30pm, Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd. Sponsored by RISA and Manhattan Park. \$50.

Book discussion: Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann, **Thu May 16** 6:30pm, Library.

Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr, **Fri May 17-Sun May 20**, presented by the Main Street Children's Theatre. (Ad, page 9.)

RI Business Networking Group meets, **Tue May 21** 7pm, location to be announced. Info: **917-445-7876** or djeffries2@nyc.rr.com.

RI Women's Health Organization meets, **Wed May 22** 6:30pm, 12th floor, Senior Center, 546 Main St.

Authorities Budget Office Responds to RIOC Board’s Question About Hiring

At its meeting last week, the RIOC Board of Directors voted unanimously to form a search committee to find a new president for RIOC, following several months of delay after the termination, by the governor’s office, of Leslie Torres.

The Board had sought the advice of the Authorities Budget Office (ABO) and, in response, received the letter below from its director.

Ms. Smith:

This is in response to your inquiry below concerning whether you and other board members of Roosevelt Island Operation Corporation (RIOC) have been irresponsible in not taking independent action to fill vacant staff and executive positions at RIOC.

A core principle of the 2009 Public Authority Reform Act was the recognition that directors of public corporations have the same fiduciary duty as that of corporate boards. That is, directors are to act in the best interests of the authority with good faith, diligence, and care. Board members may take into consideration the views, recommendations, and policies of any elected official or body, or other knowledgeable person, when forming opinions or shaping decisions.

The RIOC governing statute authorizes the board to appoint officers and employees, to prescribe their duties, and to fix their compensation in accordance with an approved staffing and compensation plan. This does not preclude the board from consulting with

the Governor’s Office, the Mayor of the City of New York, other elected representatives, and residents of the Island when considering such appointments. From our understanding of the situation, the RIOC board has been in communication with the Governor’s Appointments Office regarding potential candidates for the CEO and the Vice President for Operations positions. This search is ongoing and the Appointments Office has requested additional time to complete this process. Acquiescing to this request is not a dereliction of duty. It appears that the board has been acting in good faith, and you are doing your due diligence as board members to allow the process to continue.

The ABO is not in position to suggest when it might become necessary for the board to act on its own and initiate an independent search. You indicate that the Appointments Office has asked that RIOC delay this undertaking for several weeks. Only the full board can determine when it would be prudent to consider making its own appointment, and when further delay would harm the mission, reputation, or ability of RIOC to effectively carry out its public purpose. At that point, your fiduciary duty (and governing authority) would require that you take steps to prevent such harm from occurring.

We hope this address [sic] your concerns. Please contact our office if you have additional questions or seek further clarification.

David Kidera, Director
Authorities Budget Office

Andrew Maloney
Maloney Law Group, PLLC
Attorneys at Law
230 Park Avenue, 10th Flr.
New York, N.Y. 10169

(212)808-3002 Off. (212)808-3020 Fax
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www.maloney-lawgroup.com

Via Email & Regular Mail

Mr. Dick Lutz
Editor – The Main Street Wire
531 Main Street
Roosevelt Island, NY 10044

Re: Matter of Keith Guerra – Article by David Stone - CEASE AND DESIST

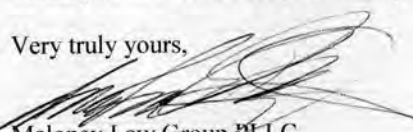
Dear Mr. Lutz:

Please be advised that our offices has been retained by Mr. Keith Guerra, in his personal and individual capacity to ascertain the level of actionable misconduct committed by your staff writers, as well as your publication by publishing several unflaterring remarks designed to misalign his name and character in The Main Street Wire. Based upon information and belief, the information regarding Mr. Guerra’s activities and alleged malfeasance were published in your publication were based upon a tip from an anonymous source, alleging to have inside information on Mr. Guerra’s activities. It is respectfully submitted that that said information is not only FALSE and SLANDEROUS, but DEFAMATORY as it relates to Mr. Guerra.

DEMAND IS HEREBY MADE THAT YOU IMMEDIATELY CEASE AND DESIST FROM PUBLISHING ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT MR. GUERRA WHICH ARE FALSE, MISLEADING, UNSUBSTANTIATED AND LACKING OF JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY. While you are privileged to publish articles of newsworthy interest to the public, you also have an obligation not to print any articles which are FALSE, MISLEADING, AND A DELIBERATE MISREPRESENTATION OF THE TRUTH DESIGNED TO DAMAGE THE GOOD NAME AND REPUTATION OF THE PARTY REFERENCED IN THE ARTICLE, particularly when the foundation of the article is based upon a non-reliable source with a vested interest in misaligning Mr. Guerra’s name. Should you elect to ignore this demand, please be advised that our offices have been authorized to immediately commence legal action against you as well as your publication for defamation, slander and negligence in reporting, including a demand for compensatory and punitive damages. Should it be necessary to commence legal action, we will be seeking equitable relief restraining you from continuing in the aforesaid course of conduct. Please be guided accordingly.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in honoring this request.

Very truly yours,


Maloney Law Group PLLC
By: Andrew Maloney

Expecting (and Supporting) a Green Light For Cornell Tech, RICC Continues Quest For Concessions to Island’s Community

In 11 days, the City Planning Commission (CPC) is very likely to approve Cornell University’s plans for a Graduate Tech Center to occupy the Goldwater Hospital property on Roosevelt Island. Its decision is due March 20, and the Roosevelt Island Community Coalition (RICC) expects an approval.

So says Ellen Polivy, who is both Co-Chair of RICC and President of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association. She and other members of the RICC board of directors presented the community’s view at the February 6 meeting of the CPC. “We are not attempting to stop construction, but to make the construction process feasible for the health and safety of our community,” Polivy added.

Major community issues presented to the CPC include:

- Trucking of construction materials on Main Street, with the concern focused on traffic congestion, exhaust pollution, noise, vibration, potential roadway and ramp damage, and potential obstruction of emergency vehicles;
- Trucking wet cement, when it is possible to mix cement on site;
- Early-morning noise created by construction-related traffic, demolition, excavation, and building; and
- Cornell’s refusal to provide significant support for infrastructure and services that its population will be using – with exceptions that include, but are not limited to, costs associated with additional Red Bus service and traffic signals on Main Street.

RICC provided CPC with the community’s written response to Cornell’s 800-page Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS), the document that City agencies review in considering development proposals. The Island’s 40-page response, much of it contradicting DEIS conclusions, was written by RICC board members and volunteer readers who included construction, zoning, and air-pollution experts.

Additional RICC Activities include:

- Meeting with Cornell representatives Pete Krokondelas and Meghan French at Cornell’s temporary headquarters in Google’s Chelsea office, where discussion focused on PS/IS 217
- Drafting a response to Cornell’s letter to CPC, which contested several statements made by RICC. Cornell’s letter also indicated that Cornell continues to explore the barging of construction materials, has begun meetings with the New York State Department of Conservation for this purpose, and is considering other ways to respond to community needs.
- RICC Co-Chair Ellen Polivy contacted City Councilmember Jessica Lappin for an update on negotiations with Cornell, and will request a meeting in anticipation of the next stage in the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), for which the City Council is the next stop.
- Three RICC board members met with RIOC’s Real Estate Development Advisory Committee to discuss and support strong negotiations for the RIOC-controlled land surrounding the Cornell site.
- Polivy attended a meeting of Community Board 1 in Astoria, Queens, where there is also concern about construction-generated traffic.



RICC Board members at Cornell Tech, now occupying space at Google/NYC: Joyce Mincheff, Ellen Polivy, Linda Heimer, Jonathan Kalkin, Judy Buck

Related letter
on page 4


33rd year as Roosevelt Island’s independent community newspaper

March 5, 2013

Andrew Maloney
Maloney Law Group, PLLC
Attorneys at Law
230 Park Avenue, 10th floor
New York NY 10169

Dear Sir:

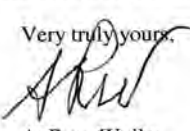
This is in response to your February 27 letter to David Stone and a similar one to Dick Lutz, dated February 27 but received yesterday. Mr. Stone is a reporter and Mr. Lutz the editor and publisher of *The Main Street WIRE*, Roosevelt Island’s newspaper and principal source of information to our Roosevelt Island community here for several decades. I have been a resident for more than 30 years.

Firstly, direct any further communications on this issue to me and Mr. Lutz. Our *WIRE* masthead has all of the information you should have used, and it lists me as Legal Counsel. I am a member of the New York Bar in good standing and practiced for about 35 years in New York City.

As you should know, your Cease and Desist letters are totally inappropriate in these circumstances. *The WIRE* was reporting, as it should, an issue of major importance to our readers and community, as evidenced by several recent protest gatherings of hundreds of Roosevelt Island residents, focused mostly on your client. He is without doubt a public figure, currently the most such, on Roosevelt Island. Your reference to “an anonymous source, devoid of journalistic integrity,” would cut *The New York Times* and other publications in half. I read the article in question and found not a hint of anything improper and not fully protected by the First Amendment. I’d enjoy arguing this issue with you in court if you proceed to “commence legal action.”

The WIRE will continue its prolonged record of journalistic integrity. We will not Cease and Desist as you attempt to mandate, nor be influenced by your letters in any way other than to report your engagement by your client and our receipt of your letters.

Very truly yours,


A. Ross Wollen

The Island Gets a Long-Desired Ice Cream Shop; For Its Owner, Fulfillment of a Family Destiny

by Jim Baehler

Scot Bobo is an optimist. How else would you describe a man who opens an ice cream shop in January on Roosevelt Island? *The WIRE* sat down with him recently to see how this venture came about. As he tells it, “My family has always been involved in retail – grocery stores, clothing stores, and so on – and for a long time, I had wanted to do something like that on Roosevelt Island. My wife and I have lived here for 19 years, and I’ve always been involved in community activities like the Youth Program. My two children have been involved in Little League, the Main Street Theatre, and other Island activities. Last year, I attended the meeting in the church when David Kramer from the Hudson Companies talked about his plans to lease space for new stores on Main Street.”

At the time, after many years on inactivity in finding new tenants for the vacant spaces on Main Street, RIOC had turned the leasing responsibility over to Hudson/Related. Now, the ice cream store has opened, as has a Subway sandwich shop, and Gristedes has now completed a major renovation of its facility. (Discussions are under way with other merchants to open additional stores on Main Street. There’s a related ad on page 9.)

Scot goes on to describe the process by which the ice cream shop came into existence. “Soon after Mr. Kramer’s presentation, I called Hal Shapiro, whom Hudson/Related had designated as their leasing agent. We talked about various possibilities, and then I suggested an ice cream shop. Mr. Shapiro said that was definitely on their agenda, and that they had already begun preliminary talks with a franchise ice cream vendor. I said I would be very interested in that type of shop, as my brother has a similar shop in Brooklyn. We involved David Kramer in the discussions, and eventually I signed a 10-year lease for the vacant space in what was originally the Montauk Credit Union and later occupied by Orphans International.

“I found Mr. Kramer and Mr. Shapiro a delight to work with. Both men are knowledgeable and fair-minded, and their assistant, Arianna Sacks Rosenberg, was wonderful to work with. She guided us through the process and was a great help.”

Once the lease was signed, Scot was faced with the problem of remodeling the space, just north of Trellis on the west side of Main Street. It was necessary to gut the entire interior from floor to ceiling, a process that required a considerable upfront investment. For his designer, Scot was determined to find someone local to do the work. “I asked around, and was put in touch with Karen Laurence, an Island resident, whose initial sketch of what the shop should look like is almost exactly how it was built. She was amazing, and we were so fortunate to find her.”

Additional help was provided by Tony Lama, the sales rep for Electro Freeze, America’s largest supplier of ice cream equipment. “Tony’s company supplied all of our equipment for making ice cream and for displaying and dispensing it. He was a great advisor who trained all of our staff, and is still in touch even after the sale has been concluded. The contractor, George Jaroszuk, was a fair guy and great to work with. The work was done on time and to my satisfaction.”



Scot goes on to say, “The work took a bit longer than it should have because I was involved with my regular job.” He’s the Director of Operations for a company that sells and installs high-end Microsoft computer systems for corporate customers, and is responsible for all internal activities of the company. Only his high energy level allows him to work full-time in a demanding job and to begin a separate commercial venture. When asked about any problems in the process of opening a new store, he said, “There weren’t any real problems. I’m a details guy, and I made sure to read all the City and State requirements for a food-service shop, so there were no surprises. I did exactly what the manuals said, and things went fairly smoothly. There was a suspenseful period after we opened while we were waiting for the report of the City inspector. He had spent two hours looking into every part of our business, and a bad report would have been terrible. As it was, we received an excellent report, and we all breathed easier.”

Right now, Main Street Sweets is open every day from early morning until early evening. Coffee and bakery goods are available all day, as well as hot chocolate, milkshakes, and various candies. Scot says, “We have 16 flavors of ice cream. Before we opened, my daughter and I visited ice cream shops all over the City, making notes about the flavors we liked best. Our ice cream is made on-site and is always fresh. One of our more unusual flavors is Birthday Cake, which everyone seems to love. We are always on the lookout for new flavors to appeal to our customers. We serve premium ice cream with high butter-fat content, and I’ll match our taste against any in the City. Our baked goods come from four different suppliers, and we have chosen the best items from each of them.”

The shop has adult-size tables and smaller ones for children. He says, “It is so heartening to see kids here with their parents, sitting at the tables, and everyone having a good time. Some kids do their homework here, and the little ones use our crayons to work in their coloring books.”

In the spring and summer, he plans to have ice cream carts stationed at the athletic fields and other venues on the Island. There are also plans to open a similar shop off-Island and, perhaps, another retail venture on the Island. If optimism, energy, planning, and attention to detail are the secrets to success, then Scot Bobo is well on his way to a new career in his family’s tradition of retail ventures.

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7:30 Games

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10:20 Shoppers' Bus
10:30 Salsa
10:45 Spanish
12:00 Bridge
1:30 Scrabble

Thursday
10:30 Zumba
10:45 Ping Pong
12:30 Movie
1:00-2:30 Theatre tickets at discount prices; see Rema or Annie

Friday
9:00 Building Strength
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1:00 Korean Games
7:00 Games (RISA)

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