

Frank Farance Prepares A Defense to Avoid RIRA Council’s Expulsion

Facing possible expulsion from the RIRA Common Council, Frank Farance has issued a 14-page defense. The Council will meet at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4, to hear from Farance and, presumably, to vote on the proposed expulsion (see *RIRA Column*, page 2).



In the Council’s November meeting, a vote of 19 to 2, with 10 abstaining, pressed charges (see *The WIRE*, November 9, online at tinyurl.com/wire3405). Farance, who represents Island House on the CoRoolkjlklkjlkljuncil, calls the expulsion motion “misguided for several reasons.” His extensive discussion of five main topics is far too lengthy for publication in *The WIRE*, but it can be accessed on the newspaper’s website via tinyurl.com/FF111913.

Issues
Farance’s topics are:
• **Rivercross privatization:** “This \$300 million windfall... will make Rivercross residents millionaires, See **Farance**, page 9



After last week’s hint of winter, this image from the February page of *The WIRE’s 2014 Roosevelt Island Calendar* seems particularly appropriate. The calendar is ready, and there’s an order form on page 5.

Transportation

Subway Disruptions Continue – All in Good Cause

by Briana Warsing
What is *up* with the #%&!&* subway?
Well, it seems Roosevelt Island has been caught, *is* caught, and *will be* caught for a while in New York City’s leap into a transportation future envisioned at the beginning of the last century. That’s right, the first mention of a Second Avenue subway happened back in 1919.
The 63rd Street tunnel – *our* tunnel, the one that takes Islanders under the East River on F trains – is at the center of this transportation

leap. Engineers in the ’60s designed it as a state-of-the-art tunnel, one that has more capacity than every other East River tunnel, for a future that has yet to arrive, bristling with all kinds of multi-line and multi-rail transferring. After a long hibernation, it’s finally on its way.
The Department of City Planning presented a study regarding transportation in Western Queens and Roosevelt Island at last week’s meeting of the Roosevelt Island Committee of Community Board 8. It focused on pedestrian, bicycle,

and transit improvements. But until a resident inquired, nobody mentioned the elephant in the room: *There has been limited or no F service on Roosevelt Island for how many weekends?* For how many years of weekends?
The short answer is that our 63rd Street tunnel is the focal point for long-planned transportation-improvement projects that will leverage the tunnel’s potential as envisioned back in the late 1960s. An advantage is that it ties in neatly with a new route for the Q train on

the Second Avenue subway line.
Second Avenue Subway
The cause of our weekend disruptions – last weekend, this weekend, future weekends – is construction of the Second Avenue line. If that seems strange, stay tuned. The result will be transfers between the F and Q lines at 63rd Street and Lexington Avenue.
That station’s platforms were

built as “islands,” with tracks on both sides. That hasn’t been evident because of a temporary wall – think *orange tile* – that had decades of “temporary” before being replaced with blue-painted construction barriers. On the other side of those barriers, there’s the other half of a platform and another set of tracks. For years, the only
See **Subway**, page 12

At 99, Architect Remembers His First Break – A Project Here on the Island

by Judy Buck
On October 11, Gilbert Seltzer entered his work place in West Orange, New Jersey, and was greeted by a 27-foot banner that spanned the elevator bank, and all but shouted *Happy 99th Birthday Gil Seltzer!* Seltzer is a distinguished architect whose 77-year career was born in the Park Avenue offices of William Gehron, and who is now, at 99, the Seltzer of Gilbert L. Seltzer & Associates.
Almost certainly, Seltzer is also the only surviving person who worked on the construction of New York City’s Convalescent Camp on what was then Welfare Island and is now Roosevelt Island. Completed in 1939, the camp occupied land where Manhattan Park now stands. Devoted initially to care for the poor and those recovering



from serious diseases and chronic illnesses, the camp shifted to the care of syphilis patients in the post-war ’40s, and was demolished in the ’50s.
Gil Seltzer remembers building the place. Fierce and funny, he is an imposing man whose intensely blue eyes, sharp intellect, resonant voice, and upright vigor amaze everyone but him. He leans forward in his desk chair, pulling up details.
“I was Toronto born and bred, and had just earned my bachelor’s in architecture from the University of Toronto. I needed a 12-month internship in order to work as an architect, and I couldn’t find work for free in Toronto, so I came to work for free in New York. This was in 1937, during the Depression. I worked for
See **Seltzer**, page 10

Briefly...



- Rivercross resident **Carl Weisbrod** is heading Mayor-Elect Bill DeBlasio’s transition team.
- Applications for **Public Purpose Funds** are due Friday, January 10, at 11:59 p.m. (See *RIOC Column*, page 2.)
- Islanders can vote on the top six photos submitted in the **Four Freedoms Park** contest that’s currently under way. Vote at tinyurl.com/4FPcontest.
- *The WIRE’s 2014 Roosevelt Island Calendar* has arrived. See page 5 for an order form. Proceeds support this community newspaper.



• Islander **Greg Goodman** has just become the world’s first travel blogger to have his own TV show. It’s on the National Geographic Channel today (Saturday, November 23) at 8:00 a.m. and repeats Saturday, November 30, at 8:00 a.m. (See details, *ComingUp*, page 3.)

- The Island’s Boy Scout Troop may be gone, but the Scouts remain, and Troop 59 alumni will sell **Christmas trees** (to benefit the PTA this year), starting Saturday, December 7 (letter, page 3).
- Three Island yoga teachers are teaming up for **Typhoon Haiyan Relief**. “Please join us for a donation-based, slow-flow, and meaningful yoga class,” reads their note to *The WIRE*. The open-level event is scheduled for Monday (November 25) at Good Shepherd, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. “All funds raised will go directly to relief support.” They’ve lined up Ecuadorian musician Patricio Paurcar to play during the class. (See *ComingUp*, page 3.)



The Editorial Page

Choices – Civility, Collegiality Controversy, Contention

It is difficult to shed the temptation to comment on the proceedings before the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association – a bill of particulars lodged against a member, charges, a defense coming (and previewed in this issue, starting on page 1), and a decision. It is a process that will play out to some decision – one that we will observe in its fullness before considering a pronouncement on the specifics.

But it is important to recognize that public service and public activism tend to run in families, as people of like mind find one another, are comfortable in their mutual attitudes and politics and in their shared inclinations to serve, and then spend their lives together – sometimes as a married couple. This leads, quite unavoidably, to circumstances in which we could, if we are looking for trouble, see factors that might tip the balance if and when judgments are required.

In a small community like Roosevelt Island, where there is much to do for activists, and much to do for those willing to serve, we can ill afford to decline the services of people of skill and determination. Clearly, we shouldn't gaze with blinded eyes if there is clear and conclusive evidence of some kind of wrongdoing, but short of a smoking gun, we do well to allow spouses to serve in the way each chooses, and to resist any temptation to assume that there is fire where there is no evidence of smoke – or to assume smoke where there is no gun.

In short, we applaud couples who have found not just one another, but callings in which they can serve.

We could here incorporate a list of those in shared households who have done fine things for this community, but we would leave out too many, for, indeed, the list is long and the gratitude we must feel is wide and deep.

Civility and collegiality are to be preferred, we think, over contention and controversy, within our small community. When we slide toward the *ad hominem*, even obliquely hinting at tainted motives, we may discourage the very talents that we must encourage in building a better community.

A polite round of applause, please, for those who serve, and then let's have done with all this.

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

The holidays are upon us, and in celebration of the season, RIOC will be hosting Roosevelt Island's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony – more information is below. Despite the cold weather, many construction projects are going forward on the Island – work is taking place at the West Pier, Good Shepherd Community Center, 504 Main Street, and Motorgate. RIOC would like to wish safe travels to those who are going to see family, as well as to those who are coming home to Roosevelt Island to be with their loved ones.

RIOC Advisories
Following the phone outage on Roosevelt Island this past week, we would like to encourage residents to sign up for our email advisory system. The advisories that RIOC sends include important updates on Island events, traffic diversions, Tram service, construction, and other news that directly affect Roosevelt Island residents. In the event of an emergency, the advisories are the fastest way to get information directly from us. You can sign up online at rioc.ny.gov/advisorybody.htm or send an email to subscribe@rioc.ny.gov.

The RIOC Column

Tree Lighting
Roosevelt Island's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be taking place at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 6, at Blackwell Plaza. This festive Island tradition celebrates the unique spirit that brings the community together. Performers from The Main Street Theater & Dance Alliance, The Child School, and the Roosevelt Island Youth Program will sing holiday songs as we await the lighting of the tree. We invite you to come

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

The Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) is a non-profit corporation established to serve the Roosevelt Island community. The Common Council is the elected body of RIRA. Put simply, RIRA serves the community, and the Common Council serves RIRA. This is an important distinction. It means that RIRA, the organization, represents the Roosevelt Island community with a single, unified voice, and that the actions it takes represent the majority consensus of the community. There is no provision in the organization's constitution or bylaws for individual Council members to unilaterally represent the organization to the community, press, or government agencies. To do so would usurp the right of the rest of the Council to equal representation.

Beyond the obligation to their constituents, Common Council members have a fiduciary obligation to RIRA. They are duty-bound to protect the organization's best interests, abide by majority decisions, and remain loyal to the organization. Frank Farance has consistently and repeatedly ignored those obligations, not just in the current RIRA term, but for many years. His actions as a rogue member undermine RIRA's relationship with the community and with government agencies, interfere with the organization's operations, and harm the personal lives and professional reputations of Council members and volunteers. In short, his unilateral actions deny the rest of the community their right to equal representation by RIRA.

The motion to expel Frank Farance is not about personal grudges. The Common Council has a fiduciary

I remember where I was. We all do – all of us who were alive and aware that day.

I was just three days into the second quarter-century of my life, in graduate school, and, that day, working in my office at The University of Michigan Television Center.

The word spread fast. The television set was on in the graphics studio nearby. *They say Kennedy was shot*, someone said, and there was the CBS Bulletin graphic on the screen, soon replaced with Walter Cronkite in shirtsleeves amid the mess of a hastily adapted newsroom. And then, too soon, the word that President John F. Kennedy – *our President, my President* – was dead.

In the days that followed, television – *my medium* – made me proud. And journalism – *my craft* – soared despite the gravest of contexts.

My President was dead. But in circumstances that made many feel that the world might just come apart,

out with your friends and family to listen to Island performers, watch the lights twinkle, and even have a photo op with Santa. Come join in the fun and festivities!

Holiday Train Show
This year, the New York Botanical Garden has included a replica of the Roosevelt Island Lighthouse in their annual Holiday Train Show! The show is a cherished tradition that delights people of all ages. Marvel at the charming model trains and New York landmark replicas, stroll the spectacular grounds, break for lunch and hot chocolate in the Holiday Dining Pavilion, and shop for everyone on your list! A 30% discount has been offered to members of our community. To attend, you can get tickets at nybg.org and use discount code 9036.

The Public Purpose Funds
As a reminder, the Public Purpose Funds application is now available online at rioc.ny.gov/grants.htm. The deadline for submissions is Friday, January 10, 2014 at 11:59 p.m. All non-profit organizations on the Island that are in need of funding are encouraged to visit the webpage for more information or to apply.



Charlene Indelicato, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
charlene.indelicato@rioc.ny.gov

obligation to defend the organization against damages caused by Mr. Farance's actions. This motion is the most recent in a series of attempts to correct Mr. Farance's misconduct. Past measures have included personal appeals, calls for resignation, a rebuke by the Common Council, and a formal censure. It is our hope that, through Mr. Farance's expulsion, RIRA can put this unfortunate state of affairs behind it once and for all, and re-focus on its primary purpose – working for the betterment of the Roosevelt Island community.

In the course of preparing this motion, my committee collected and reviewed hundreds of internal and external emails, Council meeting records, statements to the press, blog posts, and personal accounts. They document a pattern of unilateral actions, unfounded accusations, personal attacks, threats, and intimidation tactics, and a complete disregard for his fellow Council members. To help you understand why we feel that we are obligated to act, we've provided examples of Mr. Farance's misconduct, along with copies of the organization's constitution and bylaws, the motion for expulsion, and reference materials defining fiduciary duties in community organizations, on our website at www.riraonline.net.



Jeff Prekopa, Chair
RIRA Communications Committee
jeffprekopa@gmail.com

island observer

I saw the highest standards of service set, and I took solace in the pride that I could feel in what I saw on a 21-inch black-and-white screen.

As things developed, within five years I was managing a public television station, and then – the next rending tragedy. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, and it seemed again that the world could come apart. But we opened the studio and invited the Madison, Wisconsin, community to share their grief in person. Again, television served its community well. Amid tragedy, my medium made me proud.

Now, just three days into my fourth quarter-century, those tragedies all feel as desperately stark as they did then. Watershed moments, they were, and the need to inform, and console, and join in deeply shared feelings – with the power of media to create and foster community. That's what we want *The Main Street WIRE* to be all about, too.

–Dick Lutz

COMING UP

submit events to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com

– This Weekend –

Subway Disruption – No direct service to Manhattan, **Fri Nov 22** 11:15pm-**Mon Nov 25** 5:00 a.m. Tram service expected to be normal or extended. (Related story, page 1.)

Islander Greg Goodman stars in *Get Lost in Korea* on National Geographic channel, **Sat Nov 23** 8am (listing may be incorrect; record 1 full hour). Info: GetLostInKorea.com; preview at tinyurl.com/GG112313. Repeats **Sat Nov 30**, same time. FIOS channel 121/621HD; TimeWarner channel 65. (Disregard any other program titles in guide listings.) (See *Briefly*, page 1.)

Closing: *Ten Narratives*, an exhibition exploring the art of visual storytelling, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St., through **Sun Nov 24**. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm.



– The Next Three Weeks –

Yoga for Typhoon Haiyan Relief, Mon Nov 25 7-8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center, with musician Patricio Paucar of Ecuador. Open level. Info: kerenmsr@gmail.com or 212-614-9181. Suggested donation \$15.

Microsoft Excel advanced class, Tue Nov 26 10am, Library. Pre-requisite, beginners' MSExcel (see Nov 12 listing). Free. Register in person or call 212-308-6243.

Public Menorah Lighting, Sat Nov 30 6:30pm, Blackwell House. Snacks and drinks. Info: Nechama@RIJewish.org. (Ad, page 7)

First date for ordering inexpensive food packages for the coming month from Helping Families Help Themselves, **Sun Dec 1**. See menu at jolinfoodbox.com, call **347-985-7540**, or email unclejim1944@gmail.com.

Family Olive Oil Workshop, Sun Dec 1 10:30am-12:30pm, Legacy High School, 585 Main St. (behind Island House). Donation \$7. Info: Nechama@RIJewish.org. (Ad, page 7.)

First Sunday Jazz Salon, Sun Dec 1 5-7pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. \$5 donation; refreshments.

Constituent Service Hours for State Sen. Jose Serrano and/or staff, **Tue Dec 3** 1-4pm, Senior Center, 546 Main St. Info: 212-828-5829. (Note change from 1st Wed to **1st Tue**.)

RI Seniors Association trip to Foxwoods Casino and Newport, Rhode Island, **Tue-Thu Dec 3-5**.

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

Women's Movie Group presents *Rebel: Loreta Valezquez, Secret Soldier of the American Civil War*, **Thu Dec 5** 7pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Donation of \$6 and healthy snacks or drinks for six guests. (Story, page 11.)

Holiday Tree Lighting, Fri Dec 6 7pm, Blackwell Plaza. **Christmas tree sales** start at Motorgate, below the ramp, **Sat Dec 7** 10am-6pm. Also **Sun Dec 8** 1-6pm, **Fri Dec 13** 6-8pm, **Sat Dec 14** 10am-6pm, **Sun Dec 15** 1-6pm, **Fri Dec 20** 6-8pm, **Sat Dec 21** 10am-6pm, **Sun Dec 22** 1-6pm. Proceeds benefit the PS/IS 217 PTA. (Letter, this page).

Opening Reception for *Painted Mountains*, paintings by Stefan Umaerus, **Sat Dec 7** 6-9pm, Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St. Gallery hours **daily** 9am-9pm.

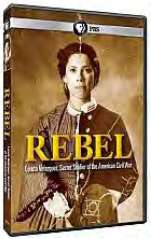
Opening Reception for *In With The New*, group show by RIVAA artists and guests, **Sun Dec 8**, 5-8pm. Runs through Jan 26. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm **Tue & Thu** 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm.

Microsoft Publisher class, Tue Dec 10 10-11:30am, Library. Pre-requisite, MSWord. Free. Register in person or call 212-308-6243.

RIOC Board Meeting, Thu Dec 12 5:30pm, Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd. Register to comment in public portion at start of meeting by calling 212-832-4540.

New Voices / New Sounds, Fri Dec 13 730pm, Gallery RIVAA. Vocalist Aubrey Johnson with guitarist Cesar Garabini, and harpist Lucia Stavros with violinist Joanna Matthey.

The Main Street WIRE— holiday issue **Sat Dec 14**. **Advertising deadlines:** Display ads, **Tue Dec 3**; decision date for circulars/inserts, **Tue Dec 10**; 5,500 copies due **Thu Dec 12**. **2014 issues:** Jan 11, 25; Feb 8, 22; Mar 8, 22; Apr 5, 26; May 10, 24; Jun 7, 21; Jul date to be determined; Aug 30; Sep 13, 27; Oct 11, 25; Nov 8, 22; Dec 13. **News**



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

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

& classified): **917-587-3278**.

– Continuing Events –

We're adopting a new format for *The WIRE's* listing of regularly scheduled events. For this issue, it appears far right.

– Future Weeks –

RI Women's Health Organization meets, **Wed Dec 18** 6:30pm, 546 Main St., 12th floor. Topic to be announced.

Book Discussion: *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh, **Thu Dec 19** 6:30pm, Library.

– 2014 –

First date for ordering inexpensive food packages for the coming month from Helping Families Help Themselves, **Wed Jan 1**. See menu at jolinfoodbox.com or call **347-985-7540**.

First Sunday Jazz Salon, Sun Jan 5 5-7pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. \$5 donation; refreshments.

Microsoft PowerPoint beginners' class, **Wed Jan 7** 10-11:30am, Library. See **ComingUp**, page 8

Letters

To the Editor:

I am happy to be able to report that, for the 37th consecutive year, Christmas trees will be available on Roosevelt Island. The Boy Scouts of Troop 59 first sold trees at Christmas 1976, and have done so every year since then, and this is now one of the community's traditions.

This year, the alumni of Troop 59 have partnered with the PTA of PS/IS 217 to continue the tradition, and will be selling trees near Gristedes and the Farmer's Market, starting on Saturday, December 7, with proceeds from the sales going to support the PTA and community students attending the school.

Please support your community by buying your tree this year on Roosevelt Island.

Geoffrey Kerr
Scoutmaster (retired)

To the Editor:

What's in a name?

For me, there was defilement and inescapable sorrow. I've decided to leave it behind. It's taken many years for me to be able to do so.

As a break with the heartache of my past, I've reclaimed my maiden name, which is Joyce M. Short.

In addition, I've written my story in order to attempt to help others steer clear of the damaging harm that I fell prey to. My tale will be distributed shortly on Amazon and Kindle, and I will notify the community as soon as it is available. For the very last time...

Joyce S. Mincheff

To the Editor:

The Westview Pool has been closed since January 2013. When is it going to re-open? We were given a repair date of six to eight weeks. *We are still waiting!*

We have been complaining and being disrespected by RY Management, Inc. If you call to inquire, they say they have no information. Every time he is asked about the pool, Mark, the super, says that it will be another few weeks.

We are now in our 40th week without our pool. One reason for my family moving here is because of the wonderful health club in the building. I do not know why we cannot get an answer or resolution.

Mr. Nice Guy is over. It's time for action! Westview residents, stand up. Contact me via the building's front desk.

Joe Palermo

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Roosevelt Island Parents' Network, I would like to thank RIOC for resuming the swim classes for babies and toddlers at Sportspark. The instructor is great, the water is warmer, and everyone can now join on a drop-in basis again.

[See *ComingUp* listings, this page, for details.]

We would especially like to thank Erica Spencer-EL and Eddie Perez of RIOC, who helped to establish these popular family classes, as well as Aaron Hamburger and the RIRA Island Services Committee for their ongoing support. We hope that we can start working on the next term of classes now, to avoid a gap in the New Year.

Eva Bosbach
The Parents' Network

Letters deadline
for December 14 issue,
Tues., Dec. 10, 5:00 p.m.

COMING UP

– Continuing Events & Activities –

ART EXHIBITS

Faces, group show by members of the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association, Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St. Gallery hours **daily** 9am-9pm.

PARKS

Southpoint Park open **daily** 6am-10pm.

FDR Four Freedoms Park open **daily** (except Tue) 9am-5pm.

Lighthouse Park open **daily** 7am-9pm.

CLASSES (alphabetical, then Sat-Fri)

Art, taught by members of the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association (RIVAA), **Sat** 11am-2pm, Sportspark. Free

MUSIC

Jazz Salon, 1st Sun 5-7pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. \$5 donation.

EXERCISE & SPORTS (alphabetical)

Basketball (all ages), **Sat** 2-5pm, Sportspark. Free.

Basketball (adults), **Mon-Thu** 8-10pm, PS/IS 217. Free.

Ping Pong (all ages), **Tue Wed Fri** 6-9pm, Sportspark.

Sportspark extended hours (ages 16-25), **Fri-Sat** 9pm-midnight.

Swimming (all ages; no instructor) – **Sat-Sun** 12-3pm, **Mon-Fri** 6-10am, **Mon Wed Thu Fri** 7:30-10:30pm.

(All **Sportspark swimming** \$5; free for disabled, seniors 60+, and ages 0-3.)

Swimming (18 yrs+) – **Sat-Sun** 4-7pm, **Tue** 7:30-10:30pm, Sportspark.

Swimming – Water Aerobics, **Mon** 12-1pm, **Wed & Fri** 9-10am, Sportspark.

Swimming – Learn to Swim (adults), **Mon** 1-3pm, Sportspark.

Swimming – Master Swim, **Mon & Fri** 7:30-8:30pm, Sportspark.

Yoga (open level), **Sat** 11am-12noon, **Thu** 6-7pm, Sportspark. \$5.*

Yoga with Keren Messer, **Mon** 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center. \$17; multi-session rates. Info: KerenMs@gmail.com or 212-614-9181.

Yoga (adults), **Tue** 7-8pm, **Thu** 7:30pm, PS/IS 217 Beacon. Free.

Yoga (beginners), **Wed** 7-8am, Sportspark. \$5.*

Yoga with Jax Schott, **Wed** 7:30pm, Island Kids, 536 Main St. \$15.

Yoga with Lauren Blankstein (open level), **Thu** 7:30-8:30pm, PS/IS 217.

Zumba, Mon 6:30-7:30 & 7:30-8:30pm, **Thu** 8:30-9:30pm, **Sat** 10-11am, Sportspark. \$5.

Zumba/Dance/Cardio, Mon & Wed 6:30-7:30pm, PS/IS 217. Free.

BIRTH THROUGH TODDLER (Sat-Fri)

Art for Kids with Connie Tanner (ages 3-8), last **Sun** of the month, 10-11:30am, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. \$10 suggested donation; materials supplied. No reservation required.

Baby Story Time (0-18 mo), **Mon** 10:30am, Library. Advance registration required.

Story Time with Olya (pre-school ages), **Tue & Thu** 9am, Main Street Sweets, 559 Main St. Free.

Baby & Toddler Swim classes (6-36 mo), **Sun** 11am & 11:30am, **Wed** 10:30am & 11am (through Dec 22), Sportspark. \$5.*

Toddler Story Time (18-36 mo), **Wed** 11am, Library. Registration required. Free.

Story Time, Wed 4pm (2-6 yrs), **Wed** 5pm (6-10 yrs), Main Street Sweets, 559 Main St. Free.

Island Kids Baby Group (0-14mo), **Thu** 10am, 536 Main St. Info: IslandKidsRI@gmail.com.

Music with James (4 mo-4 yrs), **Fri** 10-11am. Info: MusicWithJames@aol.com.

Read Aloud (3-6 yrs), **Fri** 3:30pm, Library.

OLDER KIDS (Sat-Fri)

Tennis – **New York Junior Tennis League** (ages 5-18), **Sat-Sun** 6-8am, Racquet Club. Free.

Tennis – Junior Tennis, **Sat & Mon-Fri** after school, Racquet Club. Info 212-935-0250.

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

Girl Scouts (6-13 yrs), **Fri** 6-8pm, PS/IS 217. Info: 212-527-2505. (Ad, page 4.)

Teen Game Night, Wed 6pm, Main Street Sweets, 559 Main St.

SENIORS (also see page 14)

Lunch, Mon-Fri noon, Senior Center, 546 Main St. \$1.50. Menus outside social worker office.

REGULAR MEETINGS (Sat-Fri)

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

Sci-Fi Discussion Group, 1st Tue 6:30pm, Library.

114th Precinct Community Meeting, 4th Tue 7pm, Riccardo's by the Bridge, 2101 224th Av., Astoria.

RIRA Common Council meeting **1st Wed** (except Jul-Aug) 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center.

Knitting & Crocheting Circle (adults), **Thu** 11:30am, Library.

OFFICE HOURS

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

Constituent Service Hours for State Sen. Jose Serrano and/or staff, **1st Tue** 1-4pm, Senior Center, 546 Main St. Info: 212-828-5829.

Constituent Service Hours for Assemblymember Micah Kellner and/or staff, **Mon-Fri** 9:30am-5:30pm, District Office (1365 First Av at 73rd St.). Call 212-860-4906 for appointment.

OTHER

Food Box Orders for Helping Families Help Themselves, ordering period **1st-11th of month**. Menu online at jolinfoodbox.com. Info 347-985-7540; pickup period at 546 Main St. **15th of month**.

*Info: 212-832-4569 or eddie.perez@rioc.ny.gov.



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 used. Submit to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net as text in the body of the email, or as text on a disk (no PDFs) left at the lobby desk at 531 Main St., 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 the front desk at 531 Main Street (allow extra time); 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.

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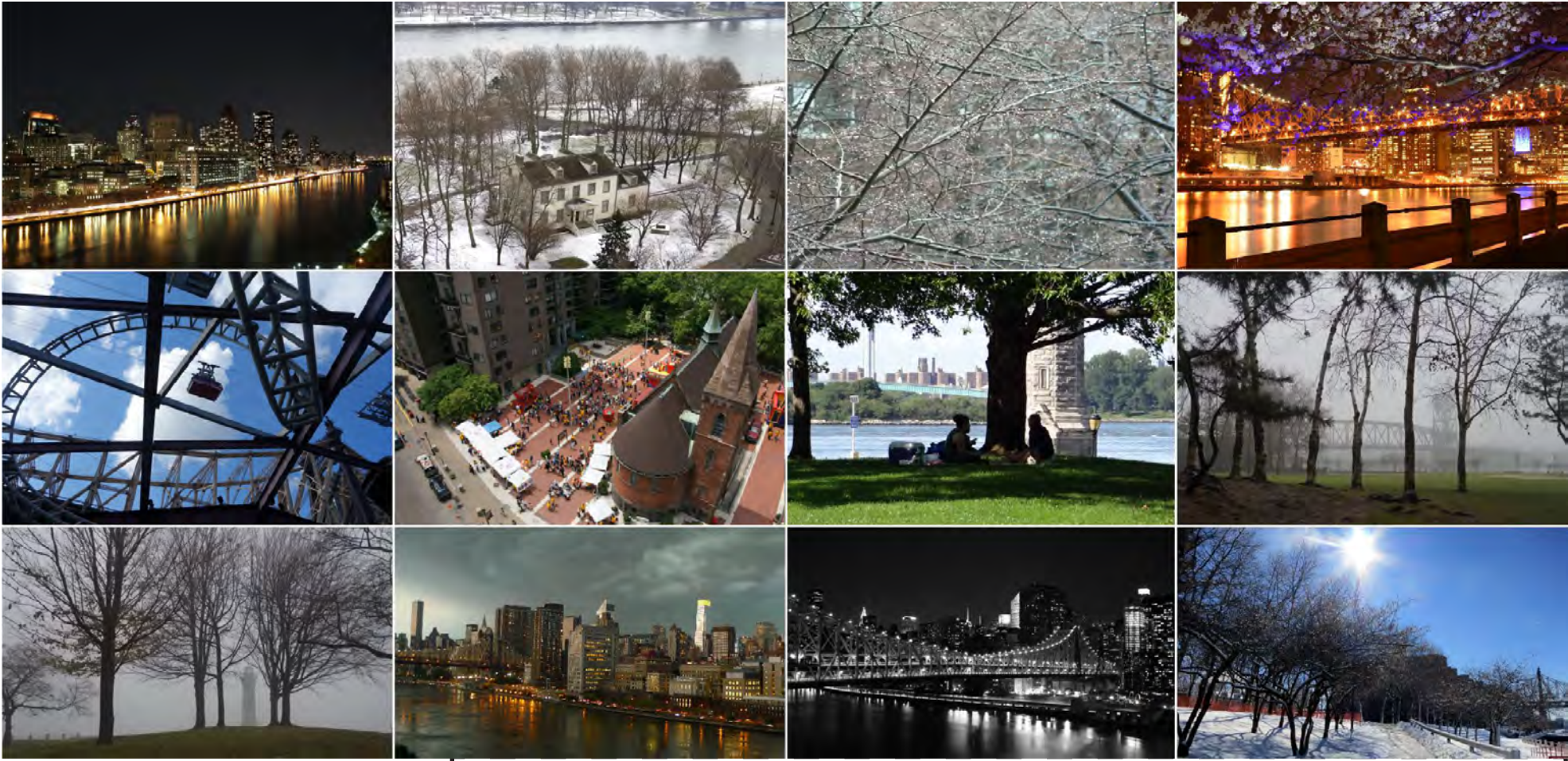


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Saturday Evening, November 30th
The 4th Chanukah Light

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Sunday, Dec 1st
10:30am-12:30pm

The Legacy High School
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Chanukah Cheer

Wednesday, Dec. 4th

11:30am

Senior Center

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Friday, November 22 at 4:15 pm

Friday, November 29 at 4:12 pm*

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December 7 Deadline Seniors Get Advice on Health Choices

Should I change my Medicare?

An overflow crowd of seniors with that question on their minds – and a December 7 deadline – attended a session last week at the Senior Center. According to Senior Association President Dolores Green and Senior Center Director Rema Townsend, a lot of Island seniors have been asking that question lately.

To provide answers, they brought in Island internist Dr. Jack Resnick and representatives of Medicare insurance companies. Resnick led off with a discussion of the available kinds of plans (see chart below):

- **Original Medicare**, which has an annual deductible of \$147, then a 20% patient co-payment for each service, with no coverage for drugs. Supplemental insurance (Medigap policies) is available to cover both the deductibles and drugs (Part D of Medicare).
- A person with Original Medicare can see any doctor and does not have to get approval to get tests or see specialists.
- **Medicare Advantage Plans** provide drug coverage and cover substantial portions of the deductibles, but patients must use doctors in their insurer’s network and get permission for certain tests and procedures, or to see specialists.
- A **Medicare-Medicaid** combination requires little or nothing in patient payments, and no permissions are required for tests or to see consultants, and there are no network restrictions. These seniors are not subject to the December 7 deadline, and they have the freedom to change their coverage on a monthly basis. However, in the first half of 2014, they will have to make a choice in a new kind of New York State health plan – a Fully Integrated Dual Advantage plan. (Starting July 1, 2014, anyone who has both Medicaid and Medicare coverage will be enrolled in one of these new plans.)

Companies

Insurance company representatives also made presentations.

- UnitedHealthCare, a for-profit insurer, sells policies branded United, Oxford, and AARP.
- Wellpoint, also a for-profit insurer, is represented by Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield.
- HealthFirst (not for profit) is owned by a consortium of metro-area hospitals.
- Fidelis (not for profit) is owned by the Archdiocese of New York.

Picking a Plan

Resnick provided advice on picking a plan.

- “For people who can afford the cost of supplemental insurance and Part D drug coverage, Original Medicare is the best choice,” Resnick said, pointing out that it puts no barriers in the way of people seeing the doctors they prefer or getting tests and treatments. He added that supplemental coverage policies, which are tightly regulated by the federal government, can be chosen easily on the Internet. There are 12 packages, labeled A through L, accessible via tinyurl.com/ShopMedigap. Resnick suggested that the F plan – with a high deductible of \$2,400 – is the most comprehensive and least costly choice for those able to handle the deductible. Another website, accessible via tinyurl.com/Plans-Premiums, provides access to charts of all the insurance companies offering plans in a zipcode area. Resnick advised seniors to

	Original Medicare	Medicare Advantage	Medicare & Medicaid
Deductibles & Copay	not covered	may be covered	covered
Drugs	not covered	may be covered	covered
Choice of MDs	unlimited	limited to network	unlimited
Tests	unlimited	need prior approval	unlimited

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Example Medicare Claim			
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			If you have Plan F+, the \$20 you pay is applied to your deductible.

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2010 ProCare Plan F+ Average Claim Amount*			
Ages	65-67	68-72	73+
Average Claim Amount	\$525	\$593	\$705

*First UA policies. Per Company records Dec. 2011.

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**Monthly premium, all ages. Per Company records Dec. 2012. For illustrative purposes only.

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Policy Form NYMSHDF10. Benefits from Plan F+ begin after out-of-pocket expenses exceed the Medicare calendar-year deductible, \$2,110 in 2013. Additional Medicare Supplements available, which may be better suited to customer’s needs. These policies meet the minimum standards for MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE as defined by the New York State Department of Financial Services. The expected benefit ratio for this policy is 65%. This ratio is the portion of future premiums, which the Company expects to return as benefits, when averaged over all people with this policy. IMPORTANT NOTICE – A CONSUMER’S GUIDE TO HEALTH INSURANCE FOR PEOPLE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE OR FROM THIS INSURER. First United American Life Insurance Company is not connected with or endorsed by the U.S. government or the federal Medicare program. This is a solicitation for insurance. You may be contacted by an Agent representing First United American Life Insurance Company. ***The rating refers only to the overall financial status of the Company and is not a recommendation of the specific policy provisions, rates, or practices of the insurance Company.



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choose the least expensive, since the benefit packages are identical. For drug coverage under Part D, he provided medicare.gov as the appropriate website; entering a medication list and providing a pharmacy name brings up the available insurers and premiums.

- For the less costly Medicare Advantage Plan, Resnick advised:
 - Make sure that your physician is in the plan’s network,
 - Favor not-for-profit plans, considered less likely to stint on care,
 - Find out whether the plan is flexible in adding consultants into the network.

The deadline for making choices or changing plans is December 7.

Resnick’s website is TheRooseveltDoctor.com and he can be reached by phone at 212-832-2310.

ComingUp, from page 3

Pre-requisite, MSWord. Free. Register in person or by calling 212-308-6243.

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

Deadline for Public Purpose Funding applications. **Fri Jan 10** 11:59pm. (See *RIOC Column*, page 2.)

Welfare Island’s Convalescent Camp, history presentation by Judy Berdy, **Tue Jan 14** 6:30pm, Library.

Book Discussion, *The Passage of Power* by Robert A. Caro, **Thu Jan 16** 6:30-8pm, Library.

Microsoft PowerPoint advanced class, **Wed Jan 21** 10-11:30am, Library. Pre-requisite, beginners’ class (see Jan 7 listing). Free. Register in person or by calling 212-308-6243.

First Sunday Jazz Salon, **Sun Feb 2** 5-7pm, Gallery RIVAA. \$5 donation; refreshments.

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

Book Discussion, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman, **Thu Feb 20** 6:30-8pm, Library.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association

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

Book Discussion, *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini, **Thu Mar 20** 6:30-8pm, Library.

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

Book Discussion, *The Silver Linings Playbook* by Matthew Quick, **Thu Apr 17** 6:30-8pm, Library.

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

Book Discussion, *Proof of Heaven* by Eben Alexander, **Thu May 15** 6:30-8pm, Library.

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

Book Discussion, *Mom & Me & Mom* by Maya Angelou, **Thu June 19** 6:30-8pm, Library.

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Farance, from page 1
based upon cashing out on State-subsidized property, that the rest of us Island residents will be paying back.” Farance charges there are conflicts of interest for RIOC Board members who are also Rivercross residents. “These concerns are important because it seems that RIOC Board members are making decisions that prioritize their own personal interests rather than the benefit of RIOC... or the Roosevelt Island community.”
[Residents associated with the Rivercross privatization point out that all facets of the proposed plan, on which residents will vote early in December, were negotiated with RIOC and other State agencies, including the Attorney General’s office.]
At length, Farance recounts a timeline related to nomination, by community election, of RIOC Board members, effectively charging that the timing of such elections was manipulated to serve the cause of Rivercross privatization. He also charges that the Rivercross board of directors took out a “\$50 million 10-year loan with interest only and a balloon payment” that “sets up Rivercross as being forced into a market-rate buyout, *i.e.*, backing into a market-rate conversion without negotiating it directly...”
• **“Hypocrisy in RIRA’s freedom of speech pronouncements:”** In criticizing RIRA President Ellen Polivy, I was doing what I’m elected to do.” He compares his letter to *The WIRE* criticizing her (October 12 issue, online at tinyurl.com/wire3403) to public criticisms of former Public Safety Director Keith Guerra, who resigned after a campaign directed at him and his management of RIOC’s Public Safety Department (PSD). In this section of his defense, Farance also criticizes the chair of RIRA’s Public Safety Committee, Erin Feely-Nahem, whose son had a summer job with RIOC. In this and

in other relationships between RIOC Board members and Common Council members, Farance also sees conflicts of interest that he considers unacceptable or, at the very least, questionable.
• **Farance’s formation of a separate committee on Island law enforcement.** (An item in the Bill of Particulars against Farance said, “This group is in competition with RIRA’s Public Safety Committee.”) Farance responds, “Some of us had difficulties with [that] committee,” adding that RIRA President Polivy “would attend some meetings and invariably say something that would give the victims the sense that she did not believe, was not interested [in], or did not support the victims’ concerns/stories.” Farance sees a conflict of interest in that Polivy’s husband, Howard Polivy, is on the RIOC Board of Directors. Similarly, he sees a conflict in Lynne Shinozaki’s presence on the RIRA Common Council while her husband, Michael Shinozaki, serves on the RIOC Board and chairs the board’s Operations Advisory Committee, “which oversees the RIOC Public Safety Department.”
Farance goes on to defend his separate public safety committee by pointing out that, free of what he sees as constraints on the activities of RIRA’s Public Safety Committee, his group was able to demonstrate that noise problems outside M&D Deli were a result of poor PSD patrolling. “Ms. Feely-Nahem down-scoped [the] RIRA Public Safety Committee,” Farance writes. He goes on to point out that a resident with a concern about Public Safety might get nowhere bringing it to the attention of the RIRA Government Relations Committee, because that committee is chaired by RIRA Common Councilor Joe Strong, who is the son of Lynne Shinozaki.
“As a resident, if you feel you want to start your own committee, should you expect expulsion from RIRA?” he asks.
• **The Cherry Blossom Festival.** (As much as anything, Farance’s criticisms of the handling – or reporting – of the Cherry

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Blossom Festival’s finances raised the hackles of those who worked on the project. At least one participant felt she had been accused of criminal behavior.) Farance charges, in his defense or explanation, that “there were many irregularities” and “As an officer of a non-for-profit [sic] corporation, this is screaming AUDIT.” He states that former RIOC CFO Steve Chironis said, “It was the biggest event that ever happened on Roosevelt Island. Bigger than the Fourth of July fireworks.” Earlier in Farance’s materials, he says that Chironis said, “You have 10,000 people here, 15 vendors, people lined up for an hour selling alcohol and food, you know how much money was made? For what? And who’s responsible... for the cleanup, security... It wasn’t RIRA... It was RIOC.” Farance writes, “RIOC spending was out of control with no reimbursement of costs.”
Continuing, Farance writes, “It seems very problematic: the wife [Lynne] Strong-Shinozaki has a party that involves ‘everyone here’ from RIOC. Her husband Mike Shinozaki is the chair of the RIOC Operations Committee

that oversees Public Safety, groundskeeping, etc. – all the staff necessary for the party. In the end, RIOC is left with expenses (over \$90K?), the vendor did not pay the remaining \$2,000 due... So with tens of thousands of dollars in extra costs and with Ellen Polivy as the RIRA President... are we expecting her husband Howard Polivy to lead the RIOC Audit Committee towards review/investigation of these extra costs?”
• In his fifth topic, Farance discusses **“a hostility to hearing concerns,”** suggesting that RIRA officers and councilmembers are aggressively unwilling to be questioned.
Available Online
As noted, Farance’s defense, which runs to 7,000 words in 121 paragraphs, is longer than this newspaper can publish, but it is available on *The WIRE*’s website, nyc10044.com, and accessible via tinyurl.com/FF111913. The matter of Farance’s possible expulsion from the RIRA Common Council will continue to play out when the Council next meets – Wednesday, December 4, at 8:00 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Community Center.

Calendars as gifts!
(for friends who’ve moved away)
See page 5

Seltzer, from page 1
the firm of William Gehron, which was at 101 Park Avenue, in what was then the Architects Building. William Gehron was the architect of the Convalescent Camp.”

The camp was created in response to the misery of the Depression. In 1935, Fiorello LaGuardia was New York City Mayor. Dr. S.S. Goldwater was the City’s Hospitals Commissioner. Robert Moses was Parks Commissioner. All participated in the hotly debated process that created the Convalescent Camp – with Moses in opposition. In 1935, LaGuardia’s Commission on City Planning recommended that Welfare Island acreage be devoted to public health. In 1937, the New York Academy of Medicine approved Goldwater’s master plan to “relieve the shortage of facilities for convalescence for persons unable to pay for care.”

In June 1939, *The New York Times* called the Convalescent Camp “the first of its kind in this country.” Developed with WPA funds, it occupied 15 acres, and included a 2,000-foot walkway, a reflecting/wading pool, gardens of lilacs and barberries, and oriental plane trees. The administration building contained recreation and dining facilities, and eight bungalows featured large windows on southern exposures and terraces on three sides.

Each bungalow housed 50 patients, released from hospitals but too ill to work. The camp especially welcomed children recovering from infantile paralysis, malnutrition, diabetes, and heart ailments. Each guest stayed for a medically prescribed period. Defined by Goldwater as “a new field of public health work,” the camp was concerned with both physical and mental health.

Gil Seltzer recalls, “I was hoping for a bigger, better assignment at William Gehron, but the only job left – I was in the drafting office – was working on the Convalescent Camp, about two weeks’ work. I was 22 years old – a kid. The two men running the site were Mr. Dean and Mr. Jones. After two weeks, Mr. Gehron asked how things were going, and he wanted the truth, and I finally told him the project was in terrible shape. Gehron told me to take it one drawing at a time – they were ink on linen – and change as necessary.”

With no experience, Seltzer was then put in full charge of the entire construction project. Nervous? No. “This was a great chance,” he says, “every young draftsman wants to get on the site.”

Inevitably, just like in the movies, the tough-guy supervisor of the site gave the new kid a hard time – at least until he ran into a hard time himself. As workers dug the site of the camp’s administration building, they were stopped cold by an immovable object: a giant boulder, 14 feet in diameter. For technical reasons, they couldn’t dig around it, there were no explosives available through the WPA, no authorization to buy any, and no explosives available on the Island, not even from the Welfare Hospital for Chronic Disease, later called Goldwater Memorial Hospital, then under construction.

What Seltzer did was create a trench around the boulder, in which he lit fires that were kept burning for 24 hours. “The next morning,” he says, “that rock was red hot.” He ordered all workers behind barricades except for one man, who trained a fire hose on the boulder. “Shrapnel flying all over the place!” booms Seltzer. “Like an explosion! The water cracked the rock into smaller pieces which could then be removed.” Was he sure this would work? He laughs. “No!”

It took approximately eight months to construct the camp, and Seltzer understood from the first that this was an important experiment, demonstrating the City’s concern for

Top of page: In a news agency photo, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia speaks to nurses and others in a dedication ceremony – June 29, 1939.

At right, a fountain on the grounds of the Welfare Island Convalescent Camp.

Below, a game of croquet at the camp.



these patients. “This was surprising to me,” he says. “It was admirable.”

Every day, about a hundred indigent patients took the 79th Street Ferry to Welfare Island, where, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., they enjoyed sunlight, fresh air, hygienic surroundings, and treatment that included one large meal at midday, and lighter refreshments twice. *Times* articles from 1939 show baseball fields, sitting rooms, gleaming kitchens, beds facing large, light-filled windows, cheerful dining areas, outdoor tables, occupational therapy, sports, crafts, and the teaching of subjects such as civics and Native American lore. The camp was open every day except Sunday, but closed in winter.

The experiment was successful. Patients got stronger, ready to return to their lives, and they were grateful. Many of them approached Seltzer to shake his hand. “It worked,” says Seltzer, “the way it should have worked.”

Gil Seltzer continued his career with William Gehron, and was working on a clinic for the City’s Harlem Hospital when he was drafted. As a Canadian, he had other options, but chose to serve. He was selected for the elite 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, a unit that used inflatable rubber tanks, among other things, to deceive the enemy in Europe after D-Day. It was a deception so secret – so strange – it was not revealed by the U.S. government until 1996.

Known as The Ghost Army, Seltzer’s unit was part of the overarching Allied deception strategy – code-name Bodyguard – that duped the Germans about the time and place of the crucial Allied invasion of Normandy.

The Ghost Army didn’t perform its unique form of action until after D-Day. It was their mission to create the illusion of a massive American presence where none existed – and thereby prevent the return of German troops to Normandy and other battlefields. This they accomplished through creative fakery, such as rubber tanks, dummy aircraft, artificial airstrips, special sound effects, deliberately poor camouflage, fictional traffic signs, phony radio transmissions – and “drunken” slips in local bars.

“Even my wife didn’t know what I had done,” recalls Seltzer. “We were really a suicide outfit. Our job was to draw fire.”

In 1945, Seltzer returned to William Gehron, where he was invited to a partnership discussion that lasted until 1952, when Seltzer, his terms satisfied, was named partner in Gehron & Seltzer. (In 1958, the firm became Seltzer & Associates.)

Gehron & Seltzer worked on major projects that included the \$200-million University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, where there were three architects on the job, with Seltzer the partner in charge. Another of the firm’s major works, with the sculptor Albino Manca, is the East Coast Memorial in Battery Park.

But the project in which Seltzer takes most pride is his own firm’s Utica Memorial Auditorium, now 50 years old. He hired structural engineer Lev Zetlin, who created a groundbreaking, reputation-making cable suspension roof. “This was the first successful use of cables for a roof structure,” says Seltzer. Zetlin was to become a world-famous engineer whose projects included the Roosevelt Island Tram. Photos and renderings of the Utica Memorial Auditorium are on permanent display at the Museum of Modern Art.

“I’m very happy that most of my work was for colleges,” says Seltzer, thoughtfully. “City College NYC, Denison University, William Paterson University, New Jersey City University, West Point, and the Merchant Marine Academy. Some were designed from scratch, some were additions. I would not want to design houses or storefronts, not because they’re beneath my dignity, but simply because they’re not interesting to me, whereas colleges and education are very important.”

As a child, Seltzer wanted to be an artist, and that desire simply shifted to architecture, about which he was “really stupid. I knew nothing about it. And I loved it! I was a lucky kid.” Lucky, perhaps, but Seltzer was also hard-working, brilliant, aggressive, original, not at all timid – and highly ethical. He gestures vehemently: “Here’s my belief: You don’t take advantage of other people to get where you want to go. You don’t steal anything from anyone.”

Seltzer leans back and smiles, flashing white teeth and significant dimples. “My physician calls me a phenomenon. Everyone does. I’ve had a very interesting life and a very interesting career, and I’m grateful for both. I’m blessed with a great memory. I can easily recall the interesting parts of my life and I find that gratifying. At 99, I’m not supposed to walk erect, have my marbles, and have the fun that I’m having. I have a lady friend. We go to the opera, the New Jersey Symphony, plays, concerts, lectures. I am making a conscious effort to enjoy the last few years.”

As the November afternoon darkens, Seltzer rises from his desk to locate the birthday banner on which his colleagues had inscribed greetings. One of them said: “To Gil, who has been a gentleman longer than anyone.”

President Judy Berdy of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society assisted with research materials in the preparation of this story. She will give a presentation on the Convalescent Camp on Tuesday, January 14 (see *ComingUp*, page 8.)



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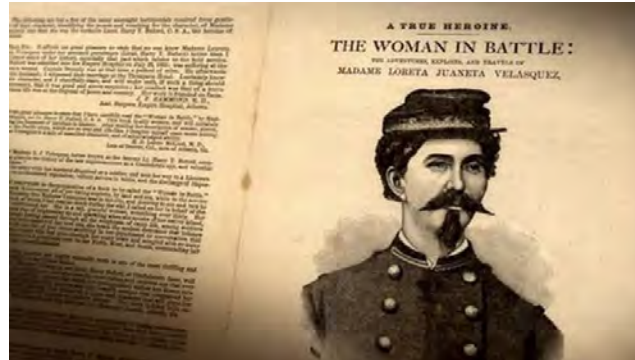
Women's Movie Group to Show Documentary on Woman Who Fought as Civil War Soldier

Films as varied as *The Vagina Monologues*, *Eleanor Roosevelt*, *Top Secret Rosies*, and *Table for One* have been shown at the Women's Movie Group. The group, started by Janet Falk and Sheila Berger Chazin, has met four to five times a year since April 2010. It offers Roosevelt Island women and their friends the opportunity to view films on topics ranging from political, social, and sexual themes to psychological and cross-cultural issues. In the optional, informal post-film discussion, attendees share their reactions to the movies and how they relate to the stories and topics.

Falk told *The WIRE*, "It started as an opportunity to gather with a group of women friends, plus their neighbors. It's like a book club, but without the reading assignment. In viewing movies, we share experiences that are varied and, at times, intimate." That was why she sought out Chazin as a co-facilitator. "As a long-time Island resident, Sheila knew many women to invite. And as a professional therapist, workshop leader, and educator, she was experienced at leading group discussions that can become personal." For her part, Chazin added, "I immediately thought this was a great idea. There had not been a group like it before on the Island – a chance for women of various backgrounds and ages to get together, share an activity, and discuss our experiences."

Falk, former president of a women's organization in the congregation where she worships, has founded and participated in many women-only groups. "Roosevelt Island is a community of home-grown organizations. If you build it, they will come. It's gratifying that the group continues to meet, and that, at each session, new members join. Multi-generational and varied cultural membership makes for lively discussion, and mutual respect among the members ensures privacy."

For each session, participants bring healthy snacks to share.



A \$6 fee covers the purchase of films and the cost of the meeting space. The group moved from a Southtown room to Gallery RIVAA, to offer financial support to the Gallery.



"Should there also be a men's movie group?" Falk asked rhetorically, answering, "Why not?"

All Island women and their friends are welcome to attend the next movie, *Rebel: Loretta Velazquez, Secret Soldier of the American Civil War*, on Thursday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main Street. The film re-creates the story of a woman who fought as a Confederate soldier while

disguised as a man. She later moved to the Union side, where she was a spy. Her autobiography recounting her work for both armies was published in 1876 and was denounced, perhaps because its story was so unconventional.

To join the Women's Movie Group, contact RlwomenMovie@gmail.com.

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Subway, from page 1

action on those hidden tracks was train storage. Now, there’s construction, too.

In May, the orange walls were removed (and replaced with the blue-board barriers) to allow those tracks to be drafted into active service. That’ll happen by December 2016, according to the MTA. Cross-platform transfers between the F and Q will be the Phase One evidence of the coming Second Avenue subway line.

But this is not your father’s Q line.

In its new incarnation, the Q will run down Second Avenue from 96th Street, stopping at 86th and 72nd before veering west to 63rd/Lex, where Q riders will be able to transfer across the platform to the F (whose route won’t change). The Q will no longer serve Astoria. (See map on page 1.) These three new subway stops and the introduction of the Q constitute Phase One of the Second Avenue subway line.

Four new entrances at Third Avenue and 63rd Street will provide access to the existing station at 63rd/Lex. Judlau Contracting, which describes itself as “a leader in the heavy construction industry,” will build the new entrances, and will also convert the upper- and lower-level platforms from one-sided to islands. At Third Avenue, the new entrances and control areas will have five elevators and two escalators. The station work is to be completed by January 2015, says the MTA in its Second Avenue subway newsletter.

East Side Access

Even then, weekend subway disruptions will continue.

That’s because the transportation master plan includes a transfer connection, at 63rd/Lex, with the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR). That part of the plan also has some history.

The 63rd Street tunnel, an engineering marvel that runs 3,140 feet along the bed of the East River and through the bedrock under Roosevelt Island, was built with two levels. There are subways in two directions on the upper level, and the LIRR’s future East Side Access service on the lower level. That LIRR service will curve across to Park Avenue and down to Grand Central Terminal. Those operations are scheduled to start in 2018, and, in 2019, to move to a new terminal below Grand Central. Plans call for 24 trains an hour during peak morning hours, with an estimated 162,000 passenger trips to and from Grand Central on an average weekday. Connections to the AirTrain at Jamaica Station will facilitate travel to JFK Airport from Manhattan’s east side.

Activation of the subway tunnel under Roosevelt Island did not come without pain to Island pioneers, who had to wait until 1989, when subway service got started just a month shy of 20 years from its construction start date. For the 24 years since, the orange walls have been up at 63rd/Lex, and the lower level has been dormant. So dormant, in fact, that in the course of recent construction, workers discovered a man who had made himself at home for years at 63rd/Lex in an overlooked room that he equipped with stolen power, a hot plate, and a flat-screen TV.

The East Side Access project is likely to increase passenger loads on the already overcrowded Lexington Avenue line (4, 5, and 6). It’s the busiest rapid transit line in the United States, with more daily riders than Boston, San Francisco,

and Chicago combined. That underscores the need for the Second Avenue line.

The Second Avenue Subway

Phase Two of the Second Avenue subway project will extend the Q to 125th Street, adding stations at 106th, 116th, and 125th. Phase Three will introduce the Second Avenue T line and extend it down to Houston Street. And someday, the final phase will complete the T line, far downtown at Hanover Square.

Unfortunately, F-riding Islanders who want to use the T will have to either walk down to its 55th Street station from 63rd/Lex, or cross over at 63rd, take the Q one stop uptown to 72nd, then cross over to board the downtown T.

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney has been a champion of the Second Avenue line. In a July press release, she stated that Phase One will be completed by its scheduled end date of December 2016. She adds that all necessary funds for Phase One have been committed.

But there is no timeline for the rest of the Second Avenue

subway project, and no funds have yet been committed. That is worrisome when taking into account that it was first suggested by New York State Public Service Commission Chief Engineer Daniel Turner in 1919.

The Second Avenue subway was delayed by the Great Depression, World War II, and the 1975 financial crisis, to mention a few factors. It’s had more than its share of groundbreakings. “So tangled is history, that when ground was broken on April 12, 2007, for its latest incarnation, no one was sure whether this was the third or fourth ground-breaking for the subway,” say the authors of *The Wheels that Drove New York: A History of the New York City Transit System*.

A rerouted Q, cross-platform transfers between the Q and F, 63rd/Lex station entrances at Third and 63rd, an LIRR connection, a new terminal under Grand Central, the Second Avenue T line – they’re all part of a grand plan, and, for now and the foreseeable future, the reason behind Roosevelt Island’s oft-curtailed weekend subway service.



This is what you’d see if those blue-board construction barriers were down at 63rd and Lex. It doesn’t look like much now, but in a couple of years, the tracks will carry the Q train, and passengers will be able to transfer cross-platform between the F and the Q.

Arc of cavity top gives a sense of the size of the T/Q line’s 72nd Street Station in this MTA photograph. More are exhibited on its flickr site, accessible via tinyurl.com/2ndAvMTA.



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

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Tuesday
10:20 **Shoppers’ Bus**
10:30 **Building Strength** (not Tue 11/26)
11:00 **Blood Pressure**
1:00 **Paint & Sculpt**
6:00 **Nutrition Workshop**

Wednesday
9:30 **Yoga Stretch**
10:20 **Shoppers’ Bus**
10:30 **Salsa**
10:45 **Spanish**
12:00 **Bridge**
1:30 **Scrabble**

Thursday (No lunch or classes 11/28)
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**
10:30 **Computers**
10:30 **ESL**
10:30 **Tai Chi**
1:00 **Korean Games**
2:00 **Art with John**
2:00 **Pokeno with Dolores**
7:00 **Games (RISA)**

Special Events
Annual Dinner, Sat Nov 23, 6pm. Mem- bers \$8, non-members \$16.
Chanukah Cheer, Wed Dec 4, 11:30am, Senior Center.
Holiday Bazaar, Sat-Sun Dec 7-8, 9am-4pm. (Vendors needed; see Pilar.)

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SPORTSWIRE

The 2013 Youth Center Soccer fall season is coming to an end – with a big bang! Semi- final games were held last Saturday and on Tuesday. There are games today for the cham- pionship titles.

Minors:
James Brown’s and John Evans’s teams won the first round of semi-finals, and faced the top-seeded teams coached by James Highsmith and Tony Leon on Tuesday (November 19) in the second round. All six games were fantastic, and will be remembered for a long, long time!

Semi-finals round 1
James Brown – 3, Marc Block – 0
John Evans – 3, Dan Sadlier – 0

Semi-finals round 2
James Brown (won on penalty kicks) – 1, Tony Leon – 1
John Evans – 2, James Highsmith – 1

Noteworthy players: A trio from James Brown’s team – Amin Robello, Miles Brown, and Emilia Brown – practiced the perfect corner kick, and scored using this technique. Also noteworthy are the following players: on Marc Block’s team, Miguel Conciello, Hannah Block, Isabella Tejada; on Dan Sadlier’s team, Nemanja Prokic, Isaiah Sadlier, Diego Olivo; on John Evans’s team, Sebastian Navarro, Mack Massey, Lydia Evans, Ethan Baahboakye. In the later game on Tuesday, these players from James Highsmith’s team stood out: Elyes Bouchik, Nelle Gray, Byron Jones. And from Tony Leon’s team, we noticed Momar Gaye, Giulia Cartegni, and Heaven Leon.

The championship game will be played today, Saturday, November 23, at 9:30 a.m.

Juniors:
The Juniors games were inevitably filled with excitement and team play! The season was abundant with beautiful and skillful goals. Two teams battle for the championship today at 11:00 a.m. – Johan Marfey’s team vs. Jessey Krieg’s. Jack McManus’s and Patrick Reidy’s teams play the consolation game at 9:30 a.m. today.

Stats:	Points	Rank	Goals
Jessey Krieg	25	1st	38
Johan Marfey	21	2nd	41
Jack McManus	12	3rd	33
Patrick Reidy	6	4th	13

Noteworthy players: Patrick Reidy’s team – Madison Rodriguez, Jared Pazmino, Daniel Joffe, Maya Levanon. Jesse Krieg’s team – Muad Kurer, Galen Bennie, Frederick Weachter, Anika Amin, Madison Luna. Jack McManus’s team – Isiaha Dickens (in his new role as goalie), Kaia Keaton, Emilia Farance. Johan Marfey’s team – Amir Ghirany, Kyla Pilgrim, SeeYoung Lee.

Seniors:
As expected, the Seniors games were intoxicating, filled with action and advanced skills. The games were a marvel to watch. The victors playing today at 1:00 p.m. in the champion- ship game are the teams of Frantz Enama and Boris Lissassi. The consolation game between the teams of Cesar & Marianna vs. Daniel Folla is at 3:00 p.m. today.

Stats:	Points	Rank	Goals
Frantz Enama	24	1st	37
Boris Lissassi	14	2nd	44
Daniel Folla	13	3rd	31
Cesar & Marianna	6	4th	36

Noteworthy players: Cesar & Marianna’s team – Jaden Perry, Mephram Yugyel, Luis Te- jada. Frantz Enama’s team – Daniel Wlczuk, Laura King, Nadia Affolter. Boris Lissassi’s team – Ian Chapman, Ez Malik, Jaden Luna, Aron Pazmino. Daniel Folla’s team – Peter Suggs, Tatiana Dickens, Muhammad Elbadri, Nonso Nwaokolo.

Please take a moment to congratulate coach Boris on the birth of his baby girl, Nia Akemi Lissassi!



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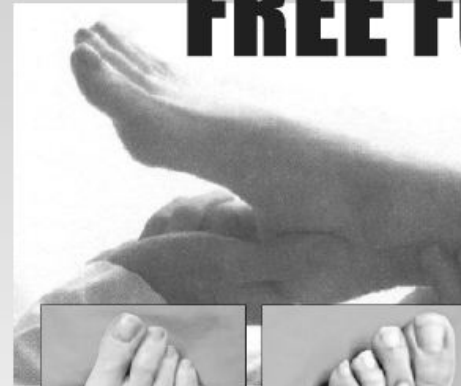
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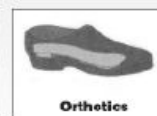
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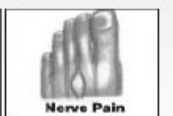
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Spent \$25 or more in one shopping visit and receive \$5 off. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and is not valid on prior purchases. \$25 total before beer, milk, tax, gift cards and manufacturers coupons. Limit one coupon per shopping family. Valid ONLY at Gristedes on Roosevelt Island. Reproductions not be accepted. Expires 12/6/13 #8031

GRISTEDES PHARMACY COUPON

PHARMACY HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-9PM; SATURDAY 9AM-6PM; SUNDAY 9AM-3PM

NEW OR TRANSFERRED PRESCRIPTION

\$20⁰⁰ OFF

Waiving Of Fee Of A Co-Payment Or Reduction Of Out-Of-Pocket Expense On Any Prescription Without Coverage

Limit 1 coupon per prescription. Limit 1 per shopping family. Not valid on third party insurance co-pay. Not valid where prohibited by law or contract. Not valid on mail order. Cannot be used with GST Card. Valid ONLY at Gristedes on Roosevelt Island. Ex. 12/6/13 #8034

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