

If you think Roosevelt Islanders and Cornellians are excited about Cornell NYC Tech's project here, you should listen to the project architects. They are excited, too, with a boldface capital X...

See page 3

The Main Street **WIRE**



Kilograph

Saturday,
January 11, 2014
34:08



December 19 – Cornell lease is signed.
Mayor Michael Bloomberg,
City Councilmember Jessica Lappin,
Cornell President David Skorton,
Cornell NYC Tech Vice President Cathy Dove.



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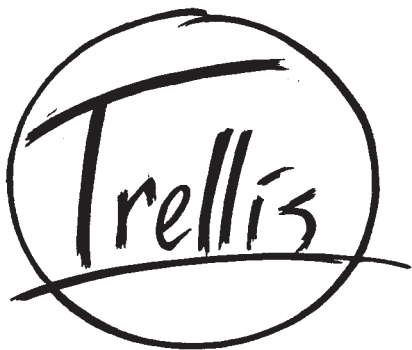
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The Year Ahead...

...will bring our Roosevelt Island community a brand-new Trellis, carved out of imagination and determination – and delayed far, far too long as we’ve worked our way through the many necessary steps. Exactly when? Hard to say. We hope to be closed only briefly, so everything must be lined up and ready to go when we start.

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The Main Street WIRE

Thirty-fourth year as Roosevelt Island’s independent community newspaper



Architects for Cornell Campus Enthusiastic Over Making a Fit With New Academic Approach

by Dick Lutz

If you think Roosevelt Islanders and Cornellians are excited about Cornell NYC Tech’s project here, you should listen to the project architects. They are excited, too, with a boldface capital **X**. They use a whole new catalog of buzzwords to describe what they’re doing – new to the lay ear, anyway.

December 19 was a big day for the project. In the morning, the architects gathered to talk about it before an invited audience. At noon, then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Cornell President David Skorton signed the lease for the land (photo, page 6). It was two years to the day, as Skorton observed, from the date that Cornell was chosen by the City to create a tech campus on Roosevelt Island.

“This campus is designed to break new ground, both literally and figuratively,” Skorton said at the morning session, before introducing a short video. In it, Bloomberg says, “To get an organization like Cornell to build a graduate engineering campus there is one of the most impactful things that we have done.” Cornell Vice President Cathy Dove says, “Part of Cornell’s DNA is community engagement. We’re certainly thinking about that on Roosevelt Island. We have 2.5 acres of open-space that will certainly be open to the community to use.” Hizzoner gets the last word: “If there ever was an organization that knew how to deal with a complex, multi-faceted, very diverse City like ours, it is Cornell.”

As the video features sweeping animations of the buildings to come, the architects describe their intentions for the campus:

- “...a campus that is pedestrian-oriented... to link our public spaces to the public spaces of the Island so

that people will feel like they’re invited... The solution for Roosevelt Island is the tech walk, which will be elevated by the topography; [it] comes right up to the door and into the buildings... [The tech walk] is the tissue that’s going to hold it all together... so it’s not just an ensemble of really great buildings, but is something that is held together by the matrix.”

- “...an architectural hothouse that can make different kinds of people come together...” “a completely catalytic concentration of academia, industry, and innovation in one place...”

But the video was only the beginning. Columbia Professor Vishaan Chakrabarti, director of the school’s Center of Urban Real Estate (CURE), moderated a discussion among project architects. He called the endeavor “the masterstroke in the culmination of the Bloomberg legacy.”

Co-Location Building

If the architects are right, amazing things will happen on the campus, enabled, of course, by the architecture. Michael Manfredi of Weiss/Manfredi said the Corporate Co-Location Building is “very much about bringing industry and the academic together in a very flexible setting. Architecturally, the challenge is very interesting, because we want to introduce the kinds of frictions that make the relationships between the disciplines fruitful... We want to make the architectural sparks fly... Innovations are not solitary pursuits, they are collaborative. Interesting innovations happen at the interstices between disciplines, so what we want to do is create architectural settings that can somehow accelerate the interchanges between people, between disciplines, and often in very spontaneous ways... but

See **Cornell**, page 6

Need for Ferry Service Becoming Clearer With Changes In the Works

by Briana Warsing

It’s deceiving – how close Manhattan looks from the Island. The impression is often forcefully corrected by the trip there. The F train is always crowded during rush hour – sometimes so crowded that a few trains must go through before you can board. The Tram, always full during the rush, isn’t much better. Often, bikes and strollers must wait for the next crossing.

In all this, there is a question: How bad will it be when three new Southtown buildings come on line, and later, when Cornell’s population arrives?

The East River Ferry, which hasn’t yet served the Island, was launched as a pilot project in June

2011. Wildly successful, it was extended for five years as of December 2013. New York City now boasts the highest ferry ridership of any city or metro area in the nation, with around 30 million passengers using the “blue highways,” as they are sometimes called.

Ridership has tripled since 2011, according to a statement by then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and most of the riders are apparently commuters, not tourists.

Does this mean we can finally count on getting a ferry stop to alleviate our own transportation crunch? If so, where and when?

Ferry service has been a saving grace for many of the New Yorkers

See **Ferry**, page 10

Islanders

Call Her Joyce Short – A Personal Rebranding Goes With New Book

by Judy Buck

In November 2013, Joyce Mincheff – as she has been known for years to her Island neighbors – announced her return to her maiden name, Joyce Short. Although the legal change occurred years ago, Short’s recent announcement is the appropriate coda to her just-published book, *Carnal Abuse by Deceit: How a Predator’s Lies Became Rape*.

Short’s book is a groundbreaker – the first to tell a personal story of rape by fraud – combined with a critical look at rape law in the United States. *Carnal Abuse by Deceit* is courageous, powerful, inspiring, and above all, purposeful: written as both personal catharsis and public manifesto for the criminalization of rape by fraud in New York State.

Interviewed over tea in her tranquil apartment, which she shares



with two dogs and two cats, Short speaks quietly. “My second motivation, in addition to bringing my former husband’s behavior to light, was to enable society to understand

See **Short**, page 12



Architects on the Cornell project and others discuss their work: James Corner of James Corner Field Operations (landscape); Gary E. Handel, president of Handel Architects (Residential Building); Kent Kleinman, dean of Cornell’s College of Architecture, Art, and Planning; Colin Koop, senior designer, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Michael Manfredi of Weiss/Manfredi (Corporate Co-Location Building); Thom Mayne of Morphosis (First Academic Building); Marion Weiss of Weiss/Manfredi; Andrew Winters, Cornell Tech’s director of capital projects and planning. At the center, Cornell NYC Tech Dean Dan Huttenlocher, seated at a table, listens. Huttenlocher is the architect of an innovative approach to learning that is at the philosophical heart of the design approach.

The Editorial Page

Turmoil in RIRA

It’s hard enough to run a monthly RIRA Common Council meeting when all attending are on the same page, working together. Recent sessions have often descended into chaos, with business repeatedly suspended while the chair, President Ellen Polivy, struggles with procedure and logistics. Frustrated with such delays and with members’ frequent grandstanding around substantive issues, people grow restless. They strike up multiple side conversations and, on Wednesday night, one shouted argument. Within seconds, it becomes hard to turn disorder into order, and to keep proceedings on track.

Most of this arises from the Hatfields-McCoys behavior of Polivy and her allies versus Frank Farance and his allies, as expulsion proceedings drag out, unresolved, sidelining the Council’s real business.

It’s well past time for it to stop.

DL

Briefly...

• In Wednesday night’s **RIRA Common Council** meeting, expulsion proceedings against Councilmember Frank Farance were held over yet again – this time to the Council’s meeting on Wednesday, February 5. Below, Farance (foreground) casts a vote as RIRA President Ellen Polivy and temporary Secretary Joyce Short count the raised hands.



- **Manhattan Park** residents are organizing over a number of issues, creating the Manhattan Park Residents Association (MPRA). Mark Lyon, who initiated the effort when questions came up about electrical charges, tells *The WIRE* that residents can sign up for email communications by sending an email to info@mprapark.org.
- **Baby & Toddler swim classes** for children six months to 36 months resume Sunday, January 12 (see *ComingUp* continuing events, page 12). Wednesday morning classes will also resume if there is enough interest. Contact Eva Bosbach at eva.bosbach@amu.cz for information.
- **Assemblymember Micah Kellner** is contesting punishments set down by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver – an outgrowth of charges of sexual harassment in the workplace, for which Kellner apologized last year.
- **Cabrini Thrift Shop** is now giving receipts for donations, resuming a practice of some years ago that had been discontinued. The shop is going through a clean-up and fix-up under the new parish priest, Fr. Kevin Malick. But a letter on page 5 anticipates possible closure or displacement of the shop.

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

We are looking forward to a New Year full of changes. Many new construction and restoration projects spearheaded by RIOC will be moving forward, and Cornell University will break ground on their new campus. Bike New York will expand their cycling programs, and many more initiatives led by members of our community will continue to make the Island a diverse and lively place throughout 2014.

Construction and Restoration

Work on the north entrance of the Good Shepherd Community Center is currently scheduled to commence later this month and be completed in approximately four weeks. Restoration of the west entrance is projected to be completed in the subsequent four weeks. Interior renovations are scheduled to be finished during a final four-week period. The Community Center will remain accessible to the public for the duration of the restoration process.

Repairs on the West Pier are in progress, and are expected to be completed by mid-February. Lighting renovations and re-striping in the Motorgate Garage are proceeding according to schedule, and are expected to be completed by April 2014.

Work on the footbridges inside Lighthouse Park is scheduled to begin within the next several weeks. Construction is expected to be completed within approximately 60 days, at which point the park will be reopened to the public. Plans are also moving forward for the Roosevelt Island Cultural Center – repairs and renovations are projected to be finished by the end of summer 2014.

Many large capital projects will be moving forward in the coming year. Plans are being prepared for improvements to the helix ramp, and the design for the Southpoint seawalls will be developed. RIOC will continue to maintain and develop the Island’s infrastructure to ensure readiness for the future.

Red Bus Fare Elimination

We are pleased to announce that beginning April 1, 2014, the Red Bus will be free to ride. Please be aware that any unused fare change cards must be used by March 31, or they will lose their value. The removal of the fare will allow for faster boarding times at each stop, as well as encourage the use of mass transportation.

Bike New York

Roosevelt Islanders can look forward to more bike education classes, events, and community involvement from Bike New York this year. The nonprofit organization will continue to offer free indoor cycling classes

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.

It is difficult to write a column on Monday reporting news that will be stale by the time it is read. This issue is particularly daunting. The Common Council is midway into a two-part expulsion process that was delayed in December by a vote to remove it from that meeting’s agenda. This process is written into the RIRA constitution and cannot be dismissed so simply. It is back on the agenda for this month’s meeting [Wednesday, January 8]. I cannot predict the outcome, nor what parliamentary maneuvering the opposing group will use. However, by the time you read this column, we will know what transpired. I can predict that it will be a very tense meeting. The Council is dealing with a behavioral issue that has been vexing us for at least 13 years.

Expulsion

I would have hoped that Frank Farance, having had two months to digest the complaints against him, would have been quieting his incivility. Instead, he has gotten emboldened and more accusatory. I fully expect some letter to the editor from him in this *WIRE*. Unfortunately, Mr. Farance represents his opinions as the voice of the Council and, by doing so, quiets the collective voice of the rest of us. Whether he remains on or off the Council, his opinion is only one of many. He does not represent the opinions of the Council. When the Council chooses to weigh in on an issue, we discuss it, vote, and then publish a statement. At times, the president will write a letter.

Mr. Farance’s endless opinions are almost always negative and contrary to any sense of civility and collegiality. They usually devolve into personal attacks on people’s ethics, motivation, intelligence, and skills. Why has it taken so long for us to deal with character assassination of Council members?

Code of Conduct

A small committee has produced a draft outline of a

The RIOC Column

at Sportspark (250 Main Street), and will expand their program in spring 2014 to include after-school activities, summer camps, and more free community events. Bike New York is also looking for residents who would be interested in teaching classes or volunteering to help out on the Island. If you would like to get involved, please contact their Community Outreach Manager, Caitlin Goodspeed, at cgoodspeed@bikenewyork.org. RIOC and Bike New York are looking forward to a safe and bike-friendly Roosevelt Island in the future. Bike New York’s next class on Roosevelt Island is Bicycling Basics on January 15, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at Sportspark. For a full listing of their free classes, check their website at www.bikenewyork.org/learn/classes-workshops/overview.

Winter Storm Hercules

Many thanks go out to those employees who worked through the night during Winter Storm Hercules to ensure that roads and pathways were clear. While most pathways were cleared with relative ease, exposed areas, such as the lawn south of Rivercross, were subject to high winds that continually blew snow onto the path, necessitating multiple cleanings. During this icy season, please be aware that rock salt is less effective during extremely cold weather. Finally, while the MTA is responsible for snow and ice removal areas around the station, we encourage residents to let us know about any issues of this nature so that RIOC can quickly notify the relevant parties. Residents are advised to continue to use caution while traveling during the winter months.

Classes at Sportspark

If you are looking for an enjoyable way to stay fit for the New Year, Sportspark (250 Main Street) offers a variety of indoor classes all year. Currently, the gymnasium offers yoga and zumba classes three times per week, open basketball sessions, ping pong free play, and the Young Adult Program on Friday and Saturday nights. The pool is available for Open Swim seven days a week, and offers several swimming and aerobics classes. For information about Sportspark’s offerings, check online at rioc.ny.gov/Sportspark.htm or call 212-832-4514.



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

code of ethics and conduct. Built by combining codes of conduct from other organizations, I hope it was shared at Wednesday’s meeting.

New Year Goals

The Common Council is reviewing its collective goals. If you have ideas, please send them to me at RIRAPresident@gmail.com.

We will continue to advocate and collaborate with RIOC for the betterment of the community, encourage volunteerism and involvement, reach out to the community to elicit needs and opinions, and produce a variety of special events.

You can reach out to your building delegates at RIRAonline.com.

RICC and Cornell Construction

Judy Buck, my newly elected co-chair on the Roosevelt Island Community Coalition (RICC), has asked me to add this update:

As 2014 begins, so does the life-changing construction of the Cornell complex on Roosevelt Island. In order to make this transition as painless, and as scrupulous, as possible, RICC renews its pledge to advocate for the community and its organizations.

RICC will work to hold Cornell responsible for its written and verbal promises to our community (most of which came from RICC’s term sheet), to hear and address members’ concerns (including new ones), and to stay connected to elected City officials, RIOC, and Cornell Community representatives, when appropriate.

See **RIRA Column**, page 14



Ellen Polivy, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
RIRApresident@gmail.com

COMING UP

submit events to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com

— This Weekend —

Weekend subway disruption: No service from Manhattan to the Island **Fri Jan 10** 9:45pm to **Mon Jan 13** 5am. (**Same next weekend.**)

Island Girls, a play about women incarcerated on Welfare Island (today’s Roosevelt Island), now playing with performances **Thu-Sat** 8pm, **Sun** 3pm, Theatre for the New City, 155 1st Av. (betw 9th/10th). Runs through **Jan 26**, with a **Sun Jan 19** 3pm benefit for the Roosevelt Island Historical Society. Info: 212-254-1109 or TheaterForTheNewCity.net..

Deadline for Public Purpose Funding applications. **Fri Jan 10** 11:59pm.

Painted Mountains, paintings by Stafan Umaerus, Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St., through **Sun Jan 19**. Gallery hours 9am-9pm daily.

Baby & Toddler Swim Classes start, **Sun Jan 12** 11am or 11:30am and continue for eight weeks to Sun Mar 2, Sportspark. \$5.

In With the New, group show by members and guests of the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association, continues through **Sun Jan 26**, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm, **Tue & Thu** 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm.

Art Spa with the New York State Reflexology Association, **Sun Jan 12** 1-5pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Learn about reflexology and enjoy a relaxing and rejuvenating session. Fundraiser for RIVAA; \$2/minute, 10-minute minimum.

— The Coming Week —

Islander Chloe Hayat’s play, *Electric Blues*, **Mon Jan 13** 7pm, Cherry Lane Theatre, 38 Commerce St., Manhattan. Winning play in national competition.

Welfare Island’s Convalescent Camp, history presentation by Judy Berdy, **Tue Jan 14** 6:30pm, Library. (Story, page 7.)

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

Weekend subway disruption: No service from Manhattan to the Island **Fri Jan 17** 9:45pm to **Mon Jan 20** 5am.

Beacon Girl Scouts Blood Drive, **Sat Jan 18**, 10am-2:30pm, PS/IS 217, co-sponsored by the New York Blood Center. Sign up at PS/IS 217 Beacon desk **Mon-Sat** 9am-3pm. Info: IslandGirlScouts@gmail or call 212-527-2505.

Benefit performance of *Island Girls*, play about women incarcerated here, **Sun Jan 19** 3pm, for the Historical Society, Theatre for the New City, 155 1st Av. \$25. Info: 212-688-4836. (Story, page 7.)

— Regularly Scheduled Events & Meetings—

See separate listing, page 12.

— Future Weeks —

Microsoft PowerPoint advanced class, **Tue Jan 21** 10-11:30am, Library. Pre-requisite, beginners’ class. Free. Register by calling 212-308-6243.

Women’s Movie Group screens *Orgasm, Inc.*, **Thu Jan 23** 7pm, party room, 425 Main St. Story of a video editor who realizes her pharmaceutical company employer intends to exploit women. Suggested minimum donation \$7; bring healthy snacks for six. RSVP to riwoman-movie@gmail.com.

Snapshots, exhibit of photos by Mircea Nicolescu, opening reception **Sat Jan 25** 6-9pm, Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St. Runs through Mar 2. Gallery hours 9am-9pm daily.

Roosevelt Island Bridge Testing, **Wed Jan 29**, starting 10am, 8-12 minutes per closure.

Cornell Tech Construction & Community Task Force meeting, **Wed Jan 29** 6-8pm, 12th floor meeting room, 546 Main St.

The Main Street WIRE— **Sat Jan 25**. **Advertising deadlines:** Display ads, **Wed Jan 15**; decision date for circulars/inserts, **Tue Jan 21**; 5,500 copies due **Thu Jan 23**. **Future issues:** 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 & classified): **917-587-3278**.

WIRE

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*.

Ben Kallos is sworn in as City Councilmember representing Roosevelt Island, **Sun Jan 26** 12noon, 92nd Street Y, 1935 Lexington Av. Info: 212-860-1950.

Black History Month art exhibit, **Sat Feb 1-Sun Mar 2**, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm, **Tue & Thu** 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm. **Opening reception Sat Feb 8** 6-9pm.

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

Presentation and Community Discussion anticipating **Cornell construction kick-off**, **Wed Feb 5** 6-8pm, Manhattan Park Community Center., 8 River Rd.

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.

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

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

Cornell Construction & Community Task Force meeting, **Wed Mon Apr 28** 6-8pm, 12th floor meeting room, 546 Main St.

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

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

Cornell Construction & Community Task Force meeting, **Mon Jul 28** 6-8pm, 12th floor meeting room, 546 Main St.

To the Editor:

Just reading your December 14 article on the phone lines being cut. My copper phone line was not restored until December 13.

That’s over a month. Every time I called Verizon, I was told there was an outage in the area and they were working on it, and refused to give any further information.

I finally got fed up and filed an online complaint with the Public Service Commission. The very next day, the Verizon office on Long Island called me twice, and the next day, my line was restored.

Next time there’s an outage, I won’t wait even a day before filing a complaint. I’m also immensely curious how everyone else had their lines back by November 12.

Beverly Shutes

To the Editor:

On December 16, President Ellen Polivy of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) told the RIRA Common Council [in an online communication], “No one will discuss accusations of wrongdoing in a public session. Check *Robert’s Rules*. The *only* reason I have allowed a public discussion of Frank’s wrongdoings is that you and he would have screamed ‘lack of transparency’ for not making it public. Therefore, we have to smear Frank publicly just like he does to everyone else (which is why we are trying to expel him). Read *Robert’s Rules*. It is very specific. If you have a complaint, you deal with it *privately*. *Quietly*, without an intent to embarrass or humiliate.”

So Ms. Polivy wants fellow Common Council members to “smear” another Council member (me). At least she was kind enough to explain that this has simply been a smear campaign and, according to some Common Council members, her rabid dislike has guided her decisions for months. In the last *WIRE*, Ms. Polivy was quoted saying, “I want to point out that the expulsion for Frank is not dead. Just extended. They did us a favor. Now we can drag out the process.”

Some of us wondered about these baseless charges and wasted time: “They did us a favor” – to whom was favor done? Not the Common Council nor the residents. When Ms. Polivy looks to “drag out the process,” why is that an advantage to anyone?

Ms. Polivy is unhappy about the work I’ve done for the community: “You [Frank] like to wave around your RIRA Planning Committee credential like it means something.” I guess Ms. Polivy thinks none of RIRA’s committees matter, though she is happy to cheerlead for RICC and RIOC.

At the last meeting, the Common Common denied Ms. Polivy a reimbursement for a political fundraiser donation, because RIRA isn’t permitted to do that. Since then, without Common Council awareness nor approval, she has insisted that the RIRA Treasurer get her her own debit card, i.e., she can make purchases without advance authorization from the Common Council. According to her, the card is necessary so she can pay for web hosting, but, at about \$5/month, she

To the Editor:

Although the word “virtual” means “for all practical purposes,” I believe that the Verizon representative you spoke to about the telephone outage which started on November 7 was exaggerating.

In the December 14 article about the incident, John Bonomo claims that service was restored with “virtually all customers back in service by November 12.” I have spoken to several people whose service was not restored for weeks and mine took three appointments (one was a “no show” plus two more to get it right) over a three-week period.

To add insult to injury, I received a bill for that period which included incorrect charges and no credit for three weeks of lost telephone and internet service.

Thank you for listing the telephone number Bonomo provided to ask for a rebate of service charges. I called and it was satisfactorily handled. Although Verizon is well aware of the outage thousands of Islanders experienced, I am writing to alert my neighbors to the fact that you evidently do have to call to let them know you think it unfair to pay for services not received. The number again is 800-837-4966.

Linda Heimer

can just submit a bill like the rest of us for small expenses. Why is it necessary to have another outlet of spending that lacks financial controls? And why open up a bank account without the Common Council’s awareness?

Now we hear that all the money made from the Cherry Blossom Festival (CBF) was intended to go to the victims of Hurricane Sandy (Ms. Polivy received a plaque from Assemblymember Kellner), yet the donation of RIRA funds was not approved by the Common Council. There is no record of it being discussed with the Council, nor in Ms. Polivy’s *RIRA Column*. According to her, there was a cup at the CBF for donations for Hurricane Sandy. Ms. Polivy insisted that this money could not be spent on anything else – except for one of the CBF co-chairs getting reimbursed for expenses (again, without Common Council awareness). So either the donations are covering our internal expenses or they are not, but it shouldn’t be the case that only some members’ expenses are covered by donations.

Ditto for the recent RIRA Showcase. It was billed as a fundraiser. Donations were solicited, but someone in Lynne Strong-Shinozaki’s Social, Cultural, and Educational (SCE) Committee decided to give the money away to the performers. Thus, it wasn’t a fundraiser, it was a loss, just as the CBF is now a loss with the latest money giveaway (without Common Council approval).

The problem isn’t whether or not to spend money on worthy things or reward showcase performers, the problem is the severe lack of financial controls as furthered by Ms. Polivy’s, Ms. Strong-Shinozaki’s, and others’ actions/inaction. RIRA should have a consistent policy for events, with advance agreement on

To the Editor:

It’s amazing how things happen on this Island.

The new priest, Fr. Kevin Mallick, has dedicated himself to renovating the Thrift Shop.

Renovation began December 24 amid the downpour of a leak – from the apartment above was one explanation from Urban American; another was that it was coming from the amphitheater that’s way behind the area in question.

Through all this, the shop was painted.

Luckily, the place didn’t go up in flames. The leak is just above a lighting fixture.

Today [Wednesday, January 8], Hudson/Related was in the store showing the property to some potential tenants.

We can’t lose the Thrift Shop. It’s an integral part of this Island – one that benefits a lot of people.

Urban American never did send anyone to fix the leak; it’s been 16 days and counting.

Alexis Villafane

it. The RIRA Council is the only entity that can authorize spending, and it should be transparent to the Common Council.

Within the past week, Ms. Strong-Shinozaki is attempting yet another “smear” attack with all sorts of purported wrongdoing by me. According to Ms. Strong-Shinozaki, she has contacted an ABC News producer about such things as my stalking/bullying tactics against cars (!) when I reported in *The WIRE* several years ago about the lack of parking spots on Main Street due to bogus placards and uneven parking enforcement. (*The New York Daily News* covered it, too.) Ms. Strong-Shinozaki has captured scores of blog posts where I’ve complained about Public Safety Department (PSD) abuse of Anthony Jones and complaints about its then-Director Keith Guerra. ABC News covered the story with my Deli videos and PSD research.

Why is Ms. Strong-Shinozaki complaining of my reporting of PSD problems that *actually* happened? (Many of us complained about them, and RIRA had resolutions against PSD.) If you see this from the perspective that this multi-year problem of PSD points back to [RIOC Board member] Mike Shinozaki’s RIOC Operations Advisory Committee (which oversees PSD) and [RIOC Board member] Howard Polivy’s involvement (he sat in RIRA and RIRA Public Safety Committee meetings with reports of abuse, then he did nothing and feigned lack of knowledge of PSD abuses), then it’s just RIRA wives protecting their RIOC husbands on the poor jobs they did.

Ms. Strong-Shinozaki seems to be oblivious to the conflict of interest with her husband that is the root of many of these problems. The conflict of interest is that the wife’s decision-making in RIRA is influenced by her interest in her husband – which, in fact, has happened with her (the NYS ethics review requested Ms. Strong-Shinozaki not participate in the RIRA

See **Letters**, page 14

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters of local interest to the community, and to/from officials. Requests for a *Name Withheld* signature will be considered, but the writer’s name, address, and phone number must be provided for verification and for our records; letters submitted anonymously will not be published. Submit letters by email text (or as an attached MSWord or WordPerfect file) to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net or on a disk left at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. If you email, expect a confirming response; 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.

Letters deadline
for January 25 issue,
Tues., Jan. 21, 5:00 p.m.

Or comment now on
Website NYC10044 at
nyc10044.com

Cornell, from page 3
also allows them to slow down, talk with one another, and see what their colleagues are doing.”

His partner, Marion Weiss, added that the co-location building “carries the DNA and ambitions of the campus. We want to catalyze relationships that are unexpected between the entrepreneurial ambitions of tech companies and the huge innovations that academic and industry research can do... to concentrate those in one crystal-line petri dish that has river-to-river views. In one nucleus, it is possible to catalyze all kinds of dialog.”

Manfredi cited “non-programmed areas where people need to bump into each other... [so that] a group can’t just fly off and go from A to B. They must somehow cross paths... The areas of the building that become more porous are the places where that kind of interchange will occur.” Weiss added, “The challenge when a building becomes vertical, and not lateral, [is] how you create the same sort of intersections that are so easy on the lateral... to make that attractive with broad stairways and intermediate landings where people hang out to talk to each other, and at all the perimeter edges...”

Thom Mayne of Morphosis emphasized that point, even adding a new *-esque* to the language. “In the last decade, we realized within the academic community that the corridor is no longer a corridor... it’s an interaction space... A sofa and a couch here, there an opening to a conference room, open, Bloombergesque. It might be the most important space in terms of the openness, with transparency, that is so essential to the intellectual capital that this place is producing. [We will have a] 350-foot galleria that connects the more general open lab space with the digital [space]...” He explained that portable computers have led to a “transformation from the specificity of spaces to particular functions [to] the digital environment where, more and more, [the spaces] can be very open, flexible, non-specialized.”

“This is an incredible environment,” Mayne said. “With co-location, with housing, the future hotel... They’re interchangeable with the learning environment... There’s a hierarchy of these open-spaces throughout the buildings... It all has to do with human communication... It seems to me [that], more and more, the academic world needs openness and flexibility and then, [even] with that, you don’t know really where you’re going to be. If you ask what’s going to happen in 10 years, the answer is, we’ll find out when we get there.”

Moderator Chakrabarti agreed. “It seems like everything is headed in this direction. For years, we designers built these very specific

typologies having to do with program, and now, almost any conversation you have about virtually any kind of program, it is about flexibility and this kind of openness of use going into the future.”

Dean Kent Kleinman of Cornell’s College of Architecture, Art, and Planning was enthusiastic about the pedagogical drives behind the architectural design. “The innovation is very profound... What Dan [Cornell NYC Tech Dean Dan Huttenlocher] has done is suggest a different way of producing knowledge, which really has to do with where do the questions come from...”

“Undergirding the spaces that Thom and Marion and Michael are talking about is a different pedagogical philosophy... The students, with their faculty and their industry collaborators, will decide what the questions and the problems are, and then they’ll form teams and collaborations, and that’s an inversion – a change for engineering. The closest analogy is the art studio where the students are formulating the nature of the question itself and then bringing the resources together... It is wonderful that all the raw disciplines of the artist actually may hold the kind of practice that the engineers are now seeing [as advantageous].”

“When there is spatial democracy,” Weiss said, “leadership happens anywhere. Anybody can lead.”

“That’s a very different notion,” Mayne responded. “A lot of people think that architects control the destiny of the aesthetics, and to some extent we have something to do with that. But what we really do is locate where architecture is in that particular project, and this one is... radically performance-driven. A lot of people think that architects produce the first driving moment, and it’s not that at all. It’s responding to the very clear performance demands of the building, and then that continues as you look at the academic demands for performance [and other factors]. This is really being built for a design community, and it starts with the realization that learning doesn’t stop at the end of the classroom day. We talk about person-to-person interaction, so the Tech Residence will be the center of residential life and home to about 540 master’s and PhD students and post-docs, fellows, and faculty, and so the goal is to actually have the residential portion of the campus be a place where they can continue that interaction, so it will be a social mixer for the various students, and something that attracts the faculty.”

“One of the things we’ve learned in our research is that faculty don’t necessarily like living with their students – they like to get away, so we’re trying to give [faculty members] great apartments with



Cornell President David Skorton and then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg shake hands after signing the lease for the Cornell campus on Roosevelt Island.

fantastic views of Manhattan, to attract them into it so that interaction can continue throughout the day.

Landscape

Landscape architect James Corner talked about the role of the setting in contributing to the mission: “When you think about campuses around this country in particular, they all have a character, and that character comes in part not only from the buildings but from the open-space. The open-space functions as this kind of matrix, the glue, the tissue that lends that campus its particular character.”

“The first part of our task was to think about how, on this 12-acre site that will [eventually] have eight to ten different buildings, we can create an open-space vocabulary that holds all this together at the level of the pedestrian walker... I think we can describe this campus as being open in four ways. (1) As a framework plan, it has to flex. Any overly rigid frame will suffer, so this will have to adapt – change its geometry for the different programs as they evolve... (2) There will be no gates, no fences, no walls. Everything is permeable... There will be a lot of invitations around the perimeter of the campus; [but] we try to signal not so much perimeter; it more signals *come on in*, so that people arriving to visit the parks are invited to walk through this campus on the way to those destinations. It’s porous in terms of how it treats the edges. (3) It is literally porous. We are using a new paving technology where, if you pour a glass of water, it goes right through, and so all the stormwater that falls on this site and on the buildings will be collected and stored in cisterns.

We have a series of stormwater gardens that will visually showcase the work of hydrology. (4) It’s socially porous. The open-spaces [are] where everybody comes together. So there’s a whole series of spaces that are designed with generous furnishing. Some are very small, some are mid-scale, and some are quite large, which gives the campus the flexibility to have festivals or markets or cultural events that will activate the campus.

“The issue of dimension and scale is pretty key. There are issues with dimensioning hard surfaces and pathways so that they feel sufficiently generous, are comfortable, but not overly scaled to the point of being windswept and barren. You want a spectrum of scales of space. It’s not all one big, open platform. Within the open platform are nested a series of mid- and small-scale spaces that we hope will foster the kinds of interaction we hope [for]. Little spaces are totally important to doing something that is about creating new knowledge. There is a principle in physics called Boyle’s Law, which basically talks about

energy and density – that the more you compress, the more interactions occur, and there is more heat. I think that’s a model for how interaction can occur – to actually bring people into rather tight spaces.

City Scale

Architect Colin Koop of Skidmore Owings & Merrill, and Andrew Winters, who serves as the director of capital projects for the Island campus, discussed ways that the campus will involve the city as a whole.

Winters: “The way to bring people to the Island and to the campus is really through programming... thinking beyond the traditional tech type of [expected] audience, which will be coming to the Island anyway. How do we reach beyond the tech community? Food is a huge attracter of people. We live in an age of curated food experiences, and we’re right next to the most diverse county in the country... We are trying to work with our development partners to create a food experience that will be a reason to come there.”

“Art is another. We’ve seen huge success at Governor’s Island, where

See **Cornell**, page 7



Islanders Have Plentiful Choices in Yoga

by Briana Warsing

“Roosevelt Island is a perfect place to practice yoga,” says yoga teacher Jax Schott. “Yoga means union, Roosevelt Island is a community, and classes become a community as well.” Lauren Blankstein, another teacher, agrees, describing her classes as “a community gathering; that is what yoga is really supposed to be about.” A third teacher, Keren Messer, says, “I find that our community is thirsty for yoga, for movement – for something other than the gym.”

At Sportspark

There is now yoga at Sportspark – on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Each class costs \$5, and mats are available. (See *ComingUp* Continuing listings, page 12, for listings of this and other yoga classes.)

At PS/IS 217

Yoga may be new to Sportspark, but it’s not new to the Island. Lauren Blankstein teaches at PS/IS 217 on Thursday evenings as part of the Beacon program. Her classes are free. She teaches hatha, Vinyasa, and kundalini yoga. “I try to teach the same sequence because my class is only once a week. Keeping it the same, with little tweaks, makes it easier for people to get familiar with the poses and shapes.” She says that her teaching goal is a program accessible for everyone.

Blankstein’s class is taught in the school cafeteria. “The custodian cleans it perfectly,” she says, by way of reassurance. “The thing I love about teaching there is the lights of the city at night. Everyone’s mat faces the big windows, and they can see the skyline. I have music and fake candles, and the cafeteria becomes a beautiful studio. It’s so peaceful, with a really nice energy.”

Sixty-six-year-old Bikram (hot) yoga devotee Gloria Herman loves Blankstein’s class. She says, “Lauren’s class is soothing and the room always smells nice. Lauren will give you a slight push to get you down further. She has quite a following, with varied age groups, and challenges you no matter what your level is. She’ll give you different ways to accomplish the same stretch, depending on your level.”

Blankstein’s attendees are typically women and regulars. Newcomers do come, though, and according to Blankstein, once in a while, “a handful of men will come through.”

Blankstein is passionate about the fact that Beacon yoga is free, accessible to everyone.

At Island Kids

Jax Schott teaches her class at Island Kids on Wednesday evenings for \$15. “I teach a style called Vinyasa, which literally means *movement connected to breath*,” she explains. “There is a fluid sequencing that feels almost like a dance, with a focus on holding a pose for proper alignment and to build strength. Throughout class, you will hear me emphasize ‘the core,’ which means engaging your abdominal muscles, to help with balance and back problems. I try to tailor the class to the students who are there. It is an open-level class, which means there is something for everyone.”

Schott says, “I try to bring a theme, reading, quote, or mantra, and weave that into what we do in class. This gives the student something deeper to connect to in order to dive beyond the body and into the mind.”

For Annika Schuenemann, “Jax’s class has the right mixture of intensity and relaxation, spirituality and physical exercise. I have tried lots of different yoga classes in New York – Bikram yoga, Strala yoga, yoga works, and even anti-gravity yoga, and some outdoor classes on the Hudson piers and at Socrates Sculpture Park.” Schott’s goal for teaching is, “I want the students to leave feeling lighter, more relaxed, and proud they took this time for themselves.”

Susana del Campo Perea attends both Blankstein’s and Schott’s classes. She says, “Lauren’s class is excellent for beginners like me, seniors, and anyone who wants a relaxing environment. And you are always able to speak to Lauren about doubts and positions after the class. Jax’s is totally different. The space is much more intimate and the group smaller. She corrects and improves your posture in every exercise.”

Elsewhere

Keren Messer teaches two classes that are open to the community at large, on Mondays and Tuesdays. Location information is available from Keren at 212-614-9181 or KerenMs@gmail.com. She also teaches children as part of Island Kids’ kindergarten after-school program, and offers sessions in residential buildings where only that building’s residents may attend.



“I teach hatha yoga,” explains Messer, “but I vary it between classes. One class might be Vinyasa, moving with the breath, enjoying the flow and sweating the toxins out. Other times, I focus on a peak pose, where I prepare the students for it through teaching the process, anatomy, and alignment. Other classes can be semi-restorative, where I get students deep in five or six poses – for example, hip opening – where the muscles get a chance to really stretch and relieve tightness.”

“I would say that 20% of my students are male,” she says, breaking down the demographics. “Ten percent are teenagers, 20% are over 50, 40% are 35-45, and the rest are under 35. These numbers have been pretty consistent for the past five years,” she says, adding that 40% say their physical therapist recommended yoga.”

Student Rachelle Summersford says, “I’ve been doing yoga seriously for the past two years. I started at Keren’s classes at The Octagon to help me lose the weight I gained when I was pregnant with my three kids. Since then, I have lost close to 50 pounds.” Summersford is now a yoga teacher herself.

Another Messer student, Yannick Anglade, started practicing at age 38, and attends two classes a week. Of Messer and yoga, she says, “I found out that yoga could be much more intense and challenging than I expected, but Keren always emphasizes that we should be compassionate with ourselves, and that everyone has a different body. By stretching and strengthening my muscles, I feel much better after every session, and I have more energy for the rest of the week. It is also a way that I focus on myself and reduce stress.”

More Yoga

The teachers believe that Islanders want more yoga offerings and a dedicated space for yoga that is affordable. To make the point, Schott says, “Four Freedoms Park offered

it free this summer and the turnout was great! Every week, more and more students arrived. I would love to offer more classes, but renting space through RIOC is very costly. The turnout at Four Freedoms this summer proved that the Island needs, wants, and enjoys yoga.”

The students concur. Anglade says, “It would be great to have a dedicated space for this type of activity on the Island. It would allow people to spend more time on the Island with local people, rather than taking their yoga classes in a studio in Manhattan.”

Summersford says, “I prefer to practice here on the Island, so I don’t have to waste a lot of time traveling to a class off-Island. I would love to see a dedicated space here, with lots of classes in the evening – and with child-care during daytime classes.” In fact, cooperative use of a space is likely to work. According to Schott, “Yoga is non-competitive, and so are those who teach it. I look forward to taking classes from other teachers, to learn more and be inspired. I don’t believe there is one teacher for an entire community, or one style. That is why studios usually have multiple teachers to offer different styles and levels.”

Cooperation

All three teachers live here, and they have collaborated successfully before.

They held a 2013 Summer Solstice yoga event on the PS/IS 217 playground in June. Blankstein, Schott, and Messer created a 108-minute event of different yoga styles, with each leading a 30-minute moving meditation, followed by deep relaxation.

“The importance and beauty of the solstice event was to introduce ourselves as teachers, give a glimpse of our styles and personalities, and bring a community together for some who have never even tried yoga before,” says Schott. The students were arranged in a large circle. The suggested donation was \$20 a student, and the money was raised for the Beacon Program, Island Kids, and the Day Nursery.

In August, the 10 free classes offered by Four Freedoms Park featured the same Island teachers. Suzy Brown, the Director of Visitor Experience there, said, “I was very fortunate to come across three wonderful certified teachers who were Roosevelt Island residents. They brought their own unique teaching styles to their classes, and participants had overwhelmingly positive comments about all of their classes.” Blankstein says, “The weekend classes were packed. Four Freedoms is such a beautiful place for yoga.”

In November, the three joined together again, leading a donation class benefiting victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan, which caused significant damage to the Philippines earlier that month. Patricio Paucar from Ecuador played live music at the hour-long class held on Good Shepherd Community Center’s second floor.

Yoga student Laura Palermo describes the fit between Roosevelt Island and yoga succinctly when she says, “Since this is Roosevelt Island, over time the practice becomes not only a yoga class, but also a moment of joy among friends.”

History

Island’s Convalescent Camp

In 1937, hospital patients who returned to their residences in tenements were hard-pressed to recover from serious illnesses, due to miserable living conditions in their homes and neighborhoods.

Dr. S. S. Goldwater, New York City’s Hospital Commissioner, conceived the idea of a day camp for these patients, to be located on Welfare Island – today’s Roosevelt Island. From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., participants received nourishing meals and attended sessions in arts and crafts, occupational therapy, and sports, along with other fresh-air activities. They were transported to and from the camp, located in what is now Manhattan Park, by a ferry at East 79th Street. From 1939 to the late 1940s,

the camp’s services saved thousands of lives.

Historian Judith Berdy will recount the little-known history of the Convalescent Camp, its construction, patients, and the fate of its structures, in a lecture on Dr. S. S. Goldwater and the camp sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society, at the New York Public Library Branch on Roosevelt Island, on Tuesday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m.

The event is free, and is the first in a series of spring lectures sponsored by the Historical Society.

The Historical Society promotes awareness of our Island’s unique story and pursues preservation of its landmarks and artifacts. For more information, please visit www.rihs.us.

More History

Penitentiary For NYC Women Here

Welfare Island’s prison for women is the setting for *Island Girls*, a play being presented by Theater for the New City (see *ComingUp*, page 5).

The play, set in 1927, is running now, but a performance to benefit the Roosevelt Island Historical Society will take place Sunday, January 19. Tickets are available from RIHS by phoning 212-688-4836 or by checking in at RooseveltIslandHistory@usa.com.

The plot of the play makes a newly-minted social worker confront her biases amid women of varying ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds, all of whom have found themselves on the wrong side of the law.

Cornell, from page 6

they’ve attracted hundreds of thousands of people to experience public art projects. We’re looking at a very innovative and experimental way to showcase this incredible, unique site, through artists. And a third is the community itself. A lot of people don’t realize it, but there’s a community of more than 10,000 people who live on Roosevelt Island already, so the best way to attract a crowd is to start with the people who are there already.”

Koop: “And I will say that the underpinning of all of this is the physical development of the campus. One of the great legacies of the master plan for Roosevelt Island

is the esplanade – the incredible four-mile [promenade] on both sides of the Island. When you’re on that esplanade, it should feel very easy to walk into the campus; you shouldn’t feel like you’re leaving the public space to come onto the campus. So programming is the key, but having that physical environment that draws people in and makes them feel really comfortable is important.”

Connecting

Moderator Chakrabarti opened the subject of a broader reach for the campus. “I think it’s important to remember that the mayor initiated all of this not just to bring the

institutions here, but to diversify our economy – to make it much stronger and resilient in a number of ways... The F line is now colloquially called the Silicon Subway, but we do need other forms of infrastructure, everything from more direct connections to the [Queensboro] bridge to thinking about other bridges or ferries.” He asked the panel, “What does it mean in terms of the relationship between a network of structural connections and this idea of these spin-offs?”

This gave Michael Manfredi a chance to relate the development to Queens and Manhattan. “In the past, people thought of Roosevelt

Island as [being] on the edge of Manhattan. But within 800 feet of this Island there are about 4,000-6,000 units coming on line that will probably be built out within two years. There’s probably another 12,000 units that have just been built [to the] north along Hunter’s Point, so that constitutes a significant town, in itself. We did a very quick study. If you look at the mega-hospital complex – about 800 feet to the west of us (Cornell, Sloan[-Kettering], Rockefeller University), there’s about 26,000 researchers – incredible intellectual capital. So, between that and Queens, all of a sudden, what used

to be an island that was very much on the edge now has this magic of being in the middle of this incredibly dense [situation]. Queens is certainly able to absorb an incredible amount of activity.

“There are a couple [of new connections] that are incredibly obvious,” added Thom Mayne, “a pedestrian bridge to Long Island City, and the reactivation of the walkway on the Queensboro Bridge. I can imagine that it would be highly likely that one or both of those would happen in the near future.”

“[And] the ferry seems like a no-brainer,” said Chakrabarti.



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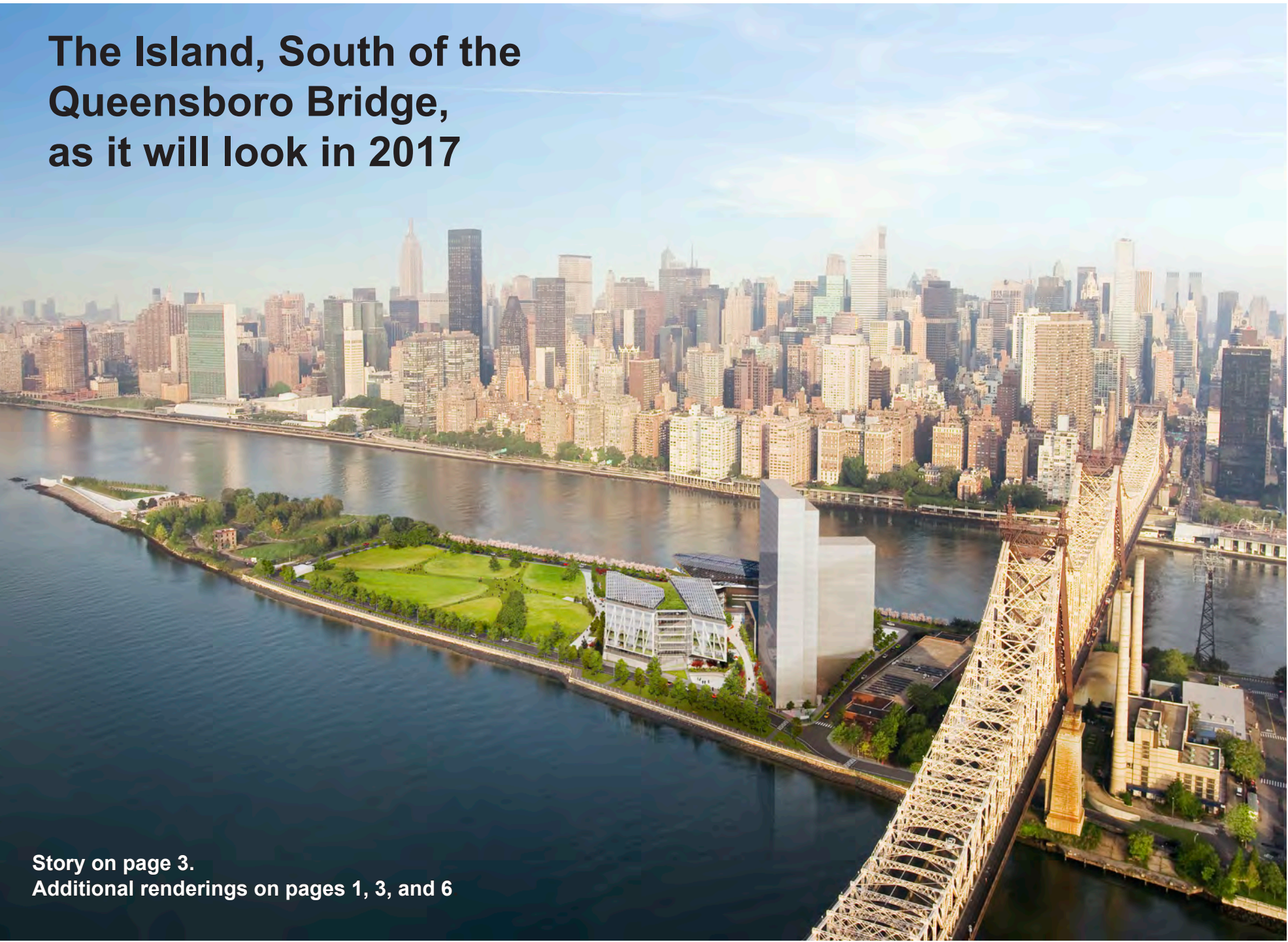
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The Island, South of the Queensboro Bridge, as it will look in 2017

Story on page 3.
Additional renderings on pages 1, 3, and 6

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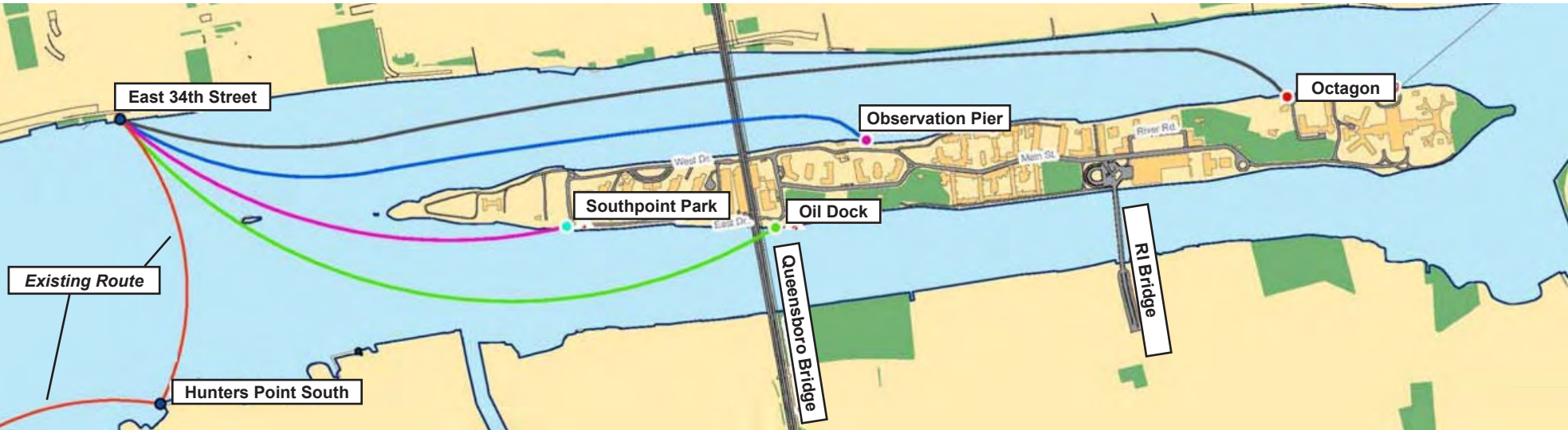
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who live in neighborhoods not served by public transit. It was instrumental post-Sandy when subways were not running. Despite all the weather in recent weeks, it’s run consistently, unlike the trains and buses. Furthermore, there’s never any track work to be done.

Although ferry service seems obvious for an island, we don’t qualify as “underserved” because we have options – the bridge (and buses) to Queens, the Tram to Manhattan, and the subway to both. Yet, with increased population and activity here, it’s bound to become more difficult. The F train already absorbed a 37.6% increase in ridership between 2009 and 2010 – the second-highest in the City. The Island station clocks over 2.5 million rides a year.

In December 2012, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation commissioned Ocean and Coastal Consultants to assess the feasibility of ferry service here. They were tasked with evaluating the proposed landing sites and preparing a report (online at tinyurl.com/FerryStudy).

The sites evaluated were the Observation Pier near the subway station, the old Oil Dock (under the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge on the east edge of the Island), The Octagon, and Southpoint.

The Observation Pier would provide the shortest commute – six minutes – to the 34th Street Dock in Manhattan. Of all the possible landings here, it has the lowest estimated travel time. It was judged to be the most suitable location.

As for the other sites, the Oil Dock is relatively close to the Tram and subway, and to the Cornell campus. But it would take the longest travel time of all the choices because of the east channel’s no-wake zone.

A ferry ride from The Octagon to East 34th Street would only take eight minutes, and it already has the permits required for a landing. Its proximity to The Octagon and Manhattan Park would give those residents and Coler Hospital workers a welcome alternative to making their way to



the Island’s transportation hub, over a mile away.

A Southpoint Park landing would be very convenient for the Cornell population but, since the construction completed in 2017 will solely consist of the northern buildings, the Oil Dock would be even more convenient than Southpoint Park. Nor would the Observation Pier be a difficult walk.

The service considered by the consultants was to East 34th Street. Riders would be able to transfer to other ferries for destinations further south, and could take the free East River Shuttle bus, which takes travelers as far west as Sixth Avenue and as far north as 48th Street. On return trips, the shuttle bus stops for those who hail it, and the ride is free.

The consultants’ study is the most concrete discussion to date, but it was conducted before the four-year East River Ferry extension, so it’s possible that Island service could be

more extensive.

The consultants affirm that Roosevelt Island ferry service is a priority in the next wave of service. In April 2013, Senator Charles Schumer urged the federal government to prioritize funding to expand East River ferry service. “The East River Ferry expansion project can become a ‘Nerd Boat’ that connects our rapidly-expanding tech hubs, like Dumbo and the Brooklyn Navy yard, with the new Cornell NYC’s Applied Science Campus,” said Schumer in a press release. “It will also maximize ferry use throughout the City and better connect these waterfront neighborhoods to public transportation, benefitting the local economy and that’s why projects like this should be considered for STEP [Strategic Transportation Enhancements Program] funding.”

History

The New York Times first announced impending East River ferry service between Roosevelt Island and Manhattan back in February 1981. It was to start that summer.

In 1986, ferry service finally arrived, running from the Oil Dock to Pier 11 at South Street Seaport. Casco Bay Lines, which started the service as a two-month experiment, charged \$2.50 for the 30-minute trip. The equivalent trip by Tramway plus subway was \$2.00 (two fares, no transfers) and took an hour. Three boat trips left Roosevelt Island during the morning rush, and two trips departed Pier 11 in the evening at 4:00 and 5:40. It was the first such service in 30 years, but it was not a success.

Even earlier, before the Roosevelt Island Bridge was built in 1955, there had been regular ferry service to various docks in Manhattan. Until 1880, rowboats were used.

Nutrition Program, Open to All, Offered at Senior Center

Cornell University Cooperative Extension is providing a free nutrition course, complete with meal preparation, at the Senior Center, 546 Main Street. It’s free. The next program will start Tuesday, January 21 (6:00-8:00 p.m.) and run for eight sessions. It is open to all individuals, parents, caregivers, youth, and seniors. The workshop is interactive, intended to help participants make healthier nutrition choices, become more physically active, and use food dollars wisely. Each week includes preparation of a specifically nutritional, inexpensive recipe.

For more information or to register, contact Wendy Hersh at 212-752-1518 or Barbara Parker at 917-951-4137.



Nutrition Workshop participants, left to right: Nancy Brown, Nina Wintringham, Lisa Evan, Wendy Hersh, Richard Moreno (Nutrition and Health Program Educator of Cornell University Cooperative Extension), Diane Lindeman, Mary Coleman, Aleena Hawkins, Marilyn Atkins, Gloria Herman, Virginia Granato, and (not present for photo) Barbara Parker.

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MEMORIAL

Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign



The first memorial to celebrate FDR's accomplishments despite his disability will be built at Southpoint Park—with your help. The sketch above is by the **SCULPTOR, MEREDITH BERGMANN**



See the video at Indiegogo to learn about the close relationship between FDR, polio, and Roosevelt Island's history.

HELP BUILD THE FDR HOPE MEMORIAL GO TO [IS.GD/FDRHOPE](http://is.gd/fdrhope) BY TUESDAY, 1/14

RIGHT HERE ON ROOSEVELT ISLAND—A PROJECT THAT WILL INSPIRE PEOPLE WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS AND PERSEVERE

Only a few days left to go. The crowdfunding campaign ends Tuesday, January 14. **Select your perk** and inspire others.

**\$10
Helping Hand**
Your name will appear permanently on the Memorial's web site and its mobile app, with our heartfelt thanks.

**\$100
Site Supporter**
Your name will be made a permanent part of the site. It will also appear permanently on the Memorial's web site and in its mobile app, with our heartfelt thanks.

**\$350
Art Lover Supporter**
You will receive a print of an 8"x10" sketch from the Memorial process by artist Meredith Bergmann. The print will be one of an edition, but yours will be individually inscribed to you and signed by the artist. You and your fellow Art Lover Supporters will also be invited to a Q&A with the artist about the memorial. In addition, **your name will be made a permanent part of the site.**

**\$10,000
Benchmark Donor**
Your name will appear on a bench on the site, as well as major recognition on the web site.

Or designate another name instead of your own: honor someone whose determination in the face of challenges, like FDR's, is an inspiration.

Contributions are tax-deductible. Visit indiegogo.com and search FDR or go to is.gd/fdrhope Roosevelt Island Disabled Association Jim Bates, President

COMING UP

– Continuing Events & Activities – ART EXHIBITS

Painted Mountains, paintings by Stafan Umaerus, Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St., through **Sun Jan 19**. Gallery hours 9am-9pm daily.

In With the New, group show by members and guests of the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association, through **Sun Jan 26**, Gallery RIVAA. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm **Tue & Thu** 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm.

Events in the coming week and immediate future are listed on page 7.

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 (except Jul-Aug) 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 – WaterAerobics, **Mon** 12-1pm, **Wed & Fri** 9-10am, Sportspark.

Yoga (open-level), **Mon & Thu** 6:15-7:15pm, **Sat** 11:15am-12:15pm, Sportspark. \$5. Mats available.

Yoga with Keren Messer, **Mon & Tue** 8-9pm. \$17; multi-session rates. Location and other info: KerenMsr@gmail.com or 212-614-9181.

Yoga with Jax Schott, **Wed** 7:30-8:40pm, Island Kids, 536 Main St. \$15.

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

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 (listed Sat-Fri)

Swimming classes (age 3-up), **Sat** 3-4pm, Sportspark. \$15 or \$100/10 weeks. Questions/registration, ryansherrill84@gmail.com or 917-261-2771.

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 & Toddler Swim classes (6-36 mo), **Sun** 11am & 11:30am (through Mar 2), Sportspark. \$5. Info: eva.bosbach@amu.cz.

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.

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

Island Kids Baby Group (0-14mo), **Thu**

10am, 536 Main St. Info: IslandKidsRI@gmail.com.

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

Music with James (4 mo-4 yrs), **Fri** 4:30pm, 475 Main St. lounge. Info: MusicWithJames@aol.com.

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.

Beacon After-School Program for 1st-8th-graders, **Mon-Fri** 3-6pm, PS/IS 217. Free. Info: 212-527-2505 or RooseveltIslandYouthProgram.com.

Open Gym for high school students, **Mon & Wed** 6-8pm, PS/IS 217.

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

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

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

SENIORS (also see page 26)

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 24th Av., Astoria.

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

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.

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

OTHER

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

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**.

The Website: nyc10044.com

Srinivas Muktevi



Srinivas Muktevi, known to his many friends as “Srini,” passed away in his home here on Monday, January 6, at age 52. He was born in Hyderabad, India, in 1961. He came to the United States to attend Syracuse University, where he received his undergraduate degree. He then earned a master’s degree at the City University of New York, and began to pursue a doctorate.

A fiercely proud resident of New York City for more than three decades, Srini became well-known and highly respected as an Information Technology training consultant, managing major projects for prominent institutions throughout the United States.

Srini’s true loves were always apparent and visible – first, his aspirations as an author, enthusiastically producing multiple novels and children’s books. His other signature pastimes included a fervent devotion to his family, an unending appreciation of and affection for lovely women, his never-miss-a-day devotion to *The New York Times* crossword, and his energetic devotion to a Hindu-based all-encompassing and expansive philosophy that he loved to expound upon to his admirers – and he had many admirers. He was kind and generous to friends, acquaintances, and total strangers. He will be missed by many – particularly children, for whom he was always a delight.

Srinivas Muktevi is survived by his mother, brother, sister, and other family members, all of whom reside in India.

Short, from page 3

rape by fraud – and create laws to deter similar conduct in the future. I hope the next person will not have to bare their soul by writing a book in order to seek emotional relief from rape by fraud.”

What exactly is carnal abuse by deceit, or rape by fraud? It is not mere seduction, nor is it the casual lie, “I love you.” Rape by fraud occurs when a sexual partner lies to his or her victim about name, age, religion, marital status, communicable illness, military service, education, or employment. The key is truthful identity. In such cases, the offenders either hide their actual identities from their victims or otherwise mislead them into an intimate physical relationship.

It occasionally happens to men, but usually to women – even smart women like Joyce. Young, brilliant, and stunning, in 1972 Short was single in Manhattan and highly successful in her career as a junior bond trader for Salomon Brothers, a major investment bank, in an era when very few women had the authority to buy or sell for their firm’s profit or loss.

One cold February evening, she met a tall, handsome stranger – an elegant man, who appeared to be educated and successful, who seemed to share Short’s values, enjoyed the outdoors as she did, and charmed her family and friends – who brought love, joy, and commitment into her life.

And then shattered her life.

Carnal Abuse by Deceit is a chronicle of lies and hope, abuse and betrayal – of physical, emotional, and moral violation that endured for many years, and remained unresolved for many more. Short leans forward. “When I first started writing, I wanted to come up with a term for what happened to me: ‘emotional rape.’ Had this been used before? Well, I found it instantly; it was a known entity! Seeing that it was an actual phrase, used by others, was so validating, so poignant. Once I understood that I had been emotionally raped and raped by fraud, I understood why I grappled with it for so many years.”

Short writes, “Rape of any sort, including rape by fraud, violates the victims’ core sense of sexual autonomy, leaving them feeling violated and defiled. Our body of laws, principally fashioned by men, fails to recognize the aspects of all forms of rape, including rape by fraud.”

Glancing at her river view, she says, “Women find it difficult to admit to rape by fraud, for reasons of embarrassment, but also because it is a difficult experience to express. Because I am a reasonably articulate human being, I thought it was my role to speak.” She exclaims, “What gives anyone the right to take your sexual sanctity away from you? To take something that doesn’t belong to him? If you stole a pet pig, you could go to jail for it.”

Her book reveals that “All states provide deeper penalties for charges of rape than for assault, reflecting an acknowledgment of the deep emotional turmoil and injury that intimate physical contact with a victim, without knowing consent, causes. Yet they fail to acknowledge the profound invasion created by rape by fraud.”

And rape by fraud is difficult to prove. The losses sustained by physically assaultive rape can be tangible, at least some of the time. But no matter how profound the damage, it is impossible to physically see damage inflicted on someone’s soul or psyche. Currently, only a few states have laws that touch on rape by fraud, and those laws are inadequate.

“Of course,” says Short, “society tends to blame the victim. Also, when you have a strong impression, or belief, in a romantic partner, you become angry at anyone who tries to correct that impression. You

defend your belief. Then, when you ultimately reach out for help, sometimes the people closest to you have been ‘appropriated’ by the predator you yourself have defended.”

Why does a sophisticated, professional woman stay in such a relationship? Short follows the arc of the bridge visible through her window. “This was a question in my mind, too. It is so easy to judge people. In fact, there is a chemical connection that exists and becomes a toxic glue. What we don’t see is that the chemical workings of romantic love are not unlike the chemical addiction of drugs or alcohol. But the chemicals are created internally, within our brains.

“When a betrayal occurs,” she explains, “that will change the relationship, but what you feel is a longing for the good feeling again. I call it ‘the chemistry of betrayal.’ Longing and craving are chemically induced states – especially where there is betrayal – that can keep victims connected long after they become aware of the injuries they have sustained. Oxytocin is actually keeping you attached. Even when there is a cessation of love, you are compelled to continue the relationship to get the ‘drug.’ Like an addict. Logic doesn’t help at all. And while it is going on, you don’t necessarily understand that you are being betrayed. It’s devastating. Adrenalin is another example. When you share an experience that raises your adrenaline level, like a roller-coaster ride, it heightens your bond with that person.”

She reflects, “I was dealing with someone with disordered moral reasoning, which is extremely difficult; and in my case, there was a child involved, which made it all the more difficult. It would be nice if these people breathed fire from their armpits, but they appear normal. Sociopaths can be very charming. Although they do not have affective (emotional) empathy – the capacity to feel for someone else – sociopaths do have cognitive empathy, meaning that they are intellectually able to read you and your needs accurately, brilliantly, and use this understanding to their advantage.

“If you are a person who has normal empathy, you simply don’t perceive that there are people who do not. You will project your own empathy on to the predator in your life and treat him according to your own moral code. But the fact is, four percent of the population has no empathy. Psychopaths, narcissists, people with personality disorders, they’re all spokes in a wheel, and manifest in different ways. It’s a spectrum.”

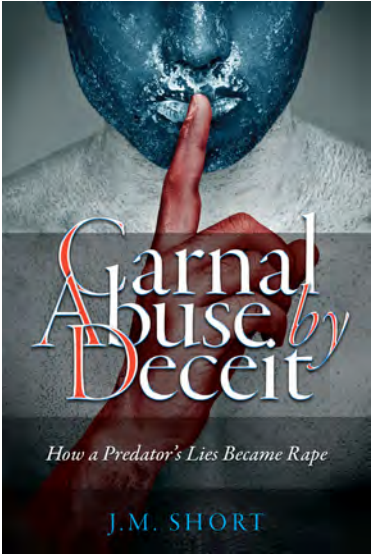
“There are two things from which people never fully recover,” Short muses. “One is rape. The other is the loss of a child. Either one can extinguish quality of life. You never fully recover, but you have to learn how to cope with it so you can get some joy back in your life.”

Did writing help? “Yes! That’s why I wrote the book. To make sense of it, to stop ruminating. I feel much better.”

Carnal Abuse by Deceit includes guidance for victims of predators and for readers wishing to understand and help victims. The book provides a reading guide, a list of websites, and explicit steps toward recovery.

Carnal Abuse by Deceit is available in paperback and for the Kindle on Amazon.com, where it is receiving five-star ratings. *BookDaily*, a publishing service that introduces both new and established writing to an audience of over 50,000 readers, has chosen *Carnal Abuse by Deceit* as its first distribution for the New Year. On January 1, it was featured as a “Biography/Autobiography from an emerging author.”

Joyce Short has created a blog to help others survive the sorrow of betrayal and unravel the hardship of rape by fraud: www.CADalert.blogspot.com.



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

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ADVERTISE HERE for Results!

RIRA Column, from page 4

At the moment, we’re working on ideas that include a here-and-now term sheet that reflects the needs of all of us, including disabled, children, and seniors. And we’re identifying ways to bring home some of the tax money the City will receive from Cornell co-locations.

Construction Starts Now

The first phase of construction, the demolition of Goldwater Hospital, is planned for mid-January 2014. We urge you to follow the construction process, so that Cornell, RIOC, and NYC know that Roosevelt Island is present, alert, and watching.

RIOC urges residents to express questions and concerns directly to Cornell, and then to copy them to RIOC on the RIOC website so that they can follow up with Cornell.

Informational websites include tech.cornell.edu/construction (for ongoing information about construction) and construction.tech.cornell.edu/contact/ (to express your questions and concerns).

Demolition

Goldwater debris will be removed via barges anchored off the seawall on the east side of the river. Some details (such as continuity of the Red Bus to Southpoint Park) are to be worked out, but RIOC has control over the process. Bulk materials will be loaded into 40-foot containers for barging. Each barge will transport 40 containers, saving 40 truck trips. Asbestos is to be removed by hand, as required, into special containers for barging. Demolition of structures will occur from south to north.

The East Road will close temporarily, limiting the scope of “the loop.” At a later point, the West Road will close, leaving the East Road open. Cornell will reconstruct the loop, and pedestrian access will remain. Metered street parking is planned (possibly limited; to be worked out). Cornell will protect their site, including guard booths, barrier fence, roadway barriers, and air quality monitors. RIOC will ensure a Public Safety presence, and has an independent engineer for oversight.

How RICC Helped

RIOC negotiated an extremely complex deal, and this is a significant victory. It is also a win for RICC. When Charlene Indelicato

(overlap with RIRA Housing Committee) are not objectionable in RIRA. In other words, inherently, there is nothing prohibiting overlap of outside community committees, but when that outside committee (RILEC) can gain an unfiltered view of RIOC (whose husbands would be affected), that’s when it transforms into expulsion proceedings.

Contrary to *The WIRE*’s editorial [November 23 issue, online at tinyurl.com/wire3406ed], the cross-interests of the spouses of RIOC Board members really bollix up things in RIRA. Are future Common Council members to worry that, if they disagree with the spouses of RIOC Board members, they will be “smeared?” Is RIRA about accountability and transparency, or is it now about cover-ups and smearing those who complain?

Frank Farance

took office as RIOC president, the RICC board provided her with a detailed list of all community issues, a history of each request, and a priority list, for which Ms. Indelicato thanked us. When negotiations got under way, she hit the ground running.

Ongoing Cornell Connections

Cornell will keep us updated as they continue the approval processes at the design commission and during demolition and construction. Cornell has planned a series of presentations on the Island to show residents plans for each phase of construction. All are invited.

The Cornell Tech Construction & Community Task Force, originally proposed by RICC, was reshaped by Cornell and New York City. It was created to ensure that Cornell meets commitments made during the City’s Uniform Land Use Review Procedure. The public and press may attend meetings, but may not speak. Minutes from the first meeting are posted on the Cornell website: tech.cornell.edu/construction. See *ComingUp*, page 5, for the next meeting.

Community Board 8 has designated a Roosevelt Island Committee to review Cornell design and construction plans. The committee votes on whether or not designs will be passed on for review by the full Community Board. Numbers count! Please “blast” your members and friends. A sea of faces sends a powerful, public message! The Cornell Town Hall presentation is on Wednesday, February 5, at the Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Road, 6:00-8:00 p.m. The community needs you to attend this meeting.

Senior Center

Monday
10:00 **Zumba**
11:00 **Computers**
5:00 **Yoga**

Tuesday
10:20 **Shoppers’ Bus**
10:30 **Building Strength**
11:00 **Blood Pressure**
1:00 **Paint & Sculpt**
6:00 **Nutrition Workshop** (restarts 1/21)

Wednesday
9:30 **Yoga Stretch**
10:20 **Shoppers’ Bus**
10:30 **Salsa**
10:45 **Spanish**
12:00 **Bridge**
1:30 **Scrabble**
6:00-8:00 **Computer Lab**

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**
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)**



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Monday – Thursday: 11 a.m. to 9p.m.
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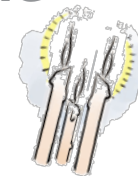
B"H



Friday, January 10 at 4:29 pm

Friday, January 17 at 4:37 pm

Friday, January 24 at 4:45 pm



Blessing: Boruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom A-sheer Ki-de-sha-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Ve-tzi-vo-nu Le-had-lik Ner Shel Sha-bos Ko-desh.

Translation: Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the light of the holy Shabbat.

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