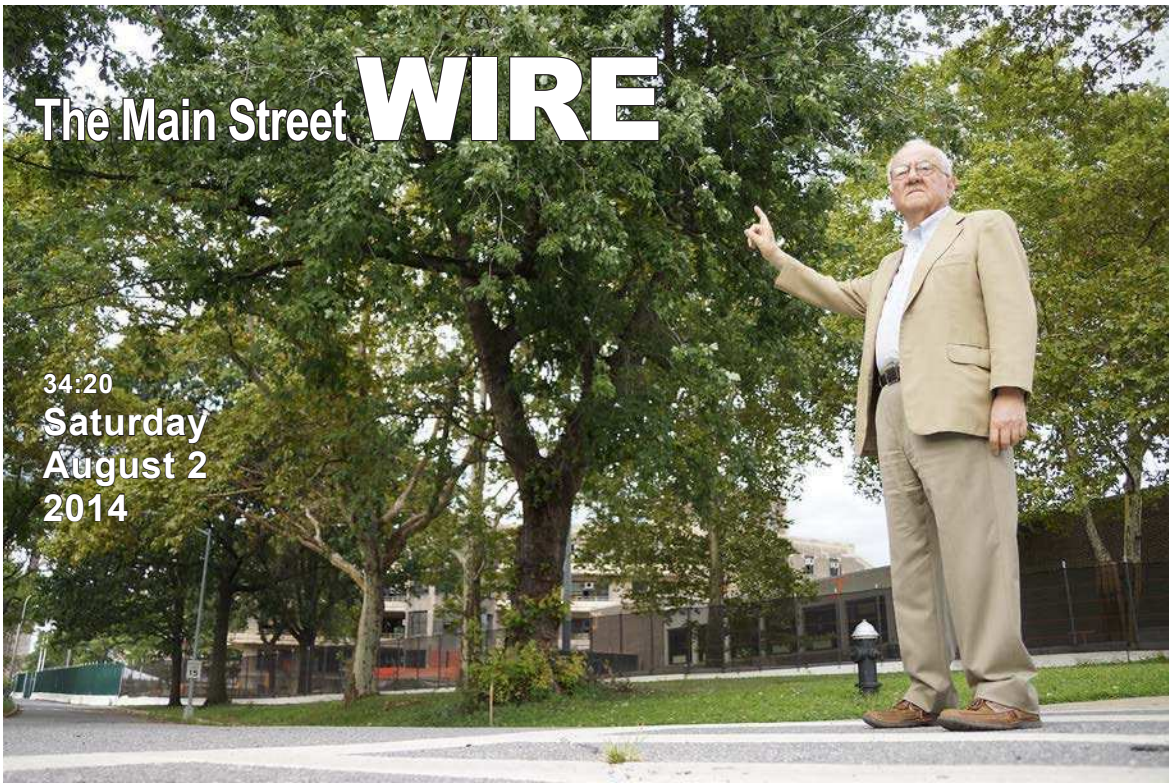




The Main Street **WIRE**

34:20
Saturday
August 2
2014

Transit

Subway and Tram Elevators Down, Disabled and Stroller Parents Struggle

by Briana Warsing
News that the elevators at the 63rd/Lex subway station will be under repair and out of service until February 2015 has many elderly, disabled, and stroller-dependent Islanders concerned about how they will travel to and from Manhattan. It's worrisome because the Tramway elevators have been unreliable for the past year or two, causing much frustration to those who rely on their service for travel.
A Tram Advocacy Group has been formed in response to this concern, to ensure that the Tram

elevators will work while the subway elevator is out. The group started on the Roosevelt Island Parents' Network (RIPN) and expanded from that base.
Members met with RIOC last week. However, since RIOC's Director of Engineering, James Mortimer, was on vacation, many important concerns could not be addressed. A second meeting is being planned for next week.
Tram Elevator
For some time, the Tram station elevators have been an ongoing source of exasperation for many

Islanders, prompting an article on *DNAinfo.com* back in January, *Broken Elevator at Tram Leaves Locals in the Lurch*. The article quoted former Residents Association President Ellen Polivy as saying, "Recently there have been more complaints. It's cold out. People want to get on the elevator and it's broken, or sometimes both of them are broken at the same time."
In January, State Senator Jose Serrano wrote a letter imploring RIOC to replace the elevators now. He said, "I do not believe we have the luxury of waiting any longer to provide the Island with proper accessibility to the Tram."
Serrano's letter characterized "the lack of an adequate elevator or wheelchair lift" as "extremely troubling," noting that, "Wheelchair lifts and elevators provide vital means of accessibility for our disabled and elderly residents of Roosevelt Island. In addition, a properly functioning elevator can be an extremely valuable service for parents of small children who are carrying their children or pushing a stroller."
Last winter, both the primary and wheelchair elevators were out of service frequently and often simultaneously. There are more strollers on the Island than ever, making a working elevator imperative. When only the wheelchair lift is functioning, Tram employees rarely operate it for seniors, parents with strollers, or even those in wheelchairs. (Passengers cannot operate it.)
This has been a problem because the F train service was curtailed on so many weekends in the past couple of years, so Islanders not wanting to rely on the Tram could not take the train, either. Now, with no elevator service at 63rd/Lex, it is as if there is no subway service for many Islanders. This is both a quality-of-life issue and a safety issue.
Eva Bosbach of RIPN and the RIRA Island Services Committee sent a letter to RIOC in February imploring RIOC to find a more immediate solution.
In the letter, Bosbach summed up off-Island winter travel for those on wheels (strollers, wheelchairs, and bikes): "This winter, the elevators on the Manhattan side of the



Parent Grievances Over Tot Lot Safety Continue

by Susana del Campo Perea
It has been a year since the "Tot Lot" east of Blackwell House was replaced by Hudson/Related.
Parents have made numerous requests to RIOC to improve the facility, with some effect. But parents and caregivers in large number say that they can't spend a day there without concern over the unsuitability of the situation for toddlers – both the equipment and the presence of older children, unconcerned with the slower reflexes, smaller size, and restricted capabilities of toddlers.
Parents have made specific suggestions, and RIOC has responded to some. The main concerns are that the equipment is not age-appropriate for toddlers, is cheap, and breaks easily and often. They characterize the structures as boring – less interesting than those provided for 5-to-12-year-olds. As a result,

the children gravitate to equipment intended for older children, leaving the only area where toddlers can play safely.
Parents say the new "Tot Lot" – not a tot lot at all, in their view – was designed completely without community input.
RIOC's Response
RIOC has responded to some demands:
• Removed the built-in ladder that let children climb to the six-foot height of the main structure.
• Installed a railing at the six-foot height, which had been open.
• Replaced the one ADA-compliant swing, adding another baby/toddler bucket swing.
• Added a low tunnel on the structure intended for the 5-12 ages; parents hope it will attract the younger children, and keep them from climbing too high on the
See Tot Lot, page 13

Head of RI Tree Board Trying to Save Five Trees On the Cornell Campus

by Dick Lutz
Five trees. It comes down to five trees.
Dr. Ali Schwayri, who heads Roosevelt Island's Tree Board, wants to save five old trees on the Cornell NYC Tech campus. He describes them as "majestic." He points out that Cornell's plans call for removing 95 of the 134 trees on what was the Goldwater Hospital property. He understands that. "If you want to make an omelet, you have to break some eggs." But Schwayri says these five in particular deserve to be saved from the chainsaw: two Pin Oaks, one Norway Maple, and two London Plane trees, one of which is the tallest tree on the Island. (Nothing outside the roadway is part of the site, so cherry trees are not at risk.)
Andrew Winters, who manages construction for Cornell, says he'd like to save those trees, too, but can't. On Monday, Winters described the lengths he's gone to in an attempt to find a way. In each case, he told a Monday-evening meeting of the Construction and Community Task Force and spectators (including Schwayri), there's some problem – a property line, a crucial part of the plan, a fire department requirement, a mandatory bike lane, some New York City standard... *something*.
The five trees are all on the southwest corner of the property where the southernmost east-west roadway curves right to head north near the entrance to Southpoint Park. Cornell doesn't even plan to build that far south for years, but it's about to fix the roadway as part of Phase I of the project.
Schwayri says the trees are worth saving. *Get a waiver. Make a deal for the necessary few feet of property with RIOC. Move the road. Make an exception.*
Schwayri is no Johnny-come-lately to this kind of effort. He's the original founder of the Tree Board and co-founder of the Garden Club, and he's been active on trees since 1985. He says he's been involved in the planting of over 150 trees on the Island.



But Winters is no newcomer to dealing with City regulations on construction projects. He goes into detail on the problems he faces, and what he needs to accomplish. He points to conflicting requirements like FDNY's need for a 32-foot roadway width. (Better yet, 34 feet, if that's possible, say the firefighters.) "They want to be able to bring in a large emergency vehicle – the kind that has support feet that extend outward – and still be able to have another emergency vehicle pass." Putting a special curve in the road isn't that simple, says Winters – it has to sweep in a way that satisfies various practical requirements – buses and long trucks – all subject to one City code or another. Not only that, but there's a longstanding need to re-route and re-map the Island's infrastructure south of the Queensboro Bridge. Locations of some utility lines are vague, and that can lead to service outages. (A power break has forced movement of RIOC's Outdoor Movie series from Southpoint Park to Firefighters Field.)
The Trees, and the Effort
Actually, the five trees are in a group of seven, but Cornell arborists have said two of those seven are diseased and should come down anyway. Schwayri agrees on those two, but on Monday night he was adamant that *some* way should be found to save the five healthy trees standing near the
See Trees, page 12

Briefly...

- In RIRA's Roosevelt Island Day **Blood Drive**, the final count was 62 prospective donors registered, 47 pints collected, and 15 deferrals. Those 47 pints is the best score since 2009's 51 pints.
- Islanders are featured in a **short-subject film** that will be shown August 23 at RIOC's Outdoor Movies. Called *A Necessary Music*, the film was made in 2008. The late Helen Roht is featured, and music was provided entirely by Island musicians, including Roy Eaton.
- **Eaton** has a DVD out. It's his May 17 program, *Chopin Meets Joplin Meets Jazz*. There's a preview on line at tinyurl.com/dvdRE0514.
- Islander **Gerald Starlight** has an album out, *Yellow Leaves* (available at the Island library). It is the soundtrack for a YouTube video featuring Tibetan Landscapes, viewable at tinyurl.com/StarlightACF, featuring a photo journal by the staff of the Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art.

Dove Leaving Cornell NYC Tech

Cathy Dove, who has been the central figure in Cornell University's planning for its Roosevelt Island graduate tech campus, is leaving Cornell. At month's end, after 25 years with Cornell, she will become the first female president of Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks.
"Leaving Cornell is bittersweet," Dove said in a Cornell press release issued this week. "I am thankful for the opportunities Cornell has given me [and] grateful and proud to have contributed to the vision that has brought Cornell Tech to life." Dove led the team that beat Stanford University in then-Mayor Mike Bloomberg's competition for the Goldwater property as the site for a new approach to graduate studies in entrepreneurship combined with technology.
At press time, Dove's replacement had not been named.



Assembly Candidates Speak – Tuesday at 8:00, Good Shepherd

Letters

To the Editor:

I just finished reading Donnie Dionne’s first-person account of his time on Roosevelt Island and working for the U.S. Postal Service. It was a delightful read, and I think Mr. Dionne should consider a second career as a humor writer! Thank you for publishing it. He is one of the many people who had made Roosevelt Island the wonderful place I’ve grown to appreciate.

Francine Lange

To the Editor:

At recent outdoor barbecues at Octagon Park, I was amazed by the waste piled up around trash bins. I cannot blame the park crowd, because the trash bins are undersized and too few. Why does RIOC, after experiencing this, not provide more waste containers on weekends? Also, the nearest toilet facilities are near the lighthouse or soccer field, and there is always a line. A portable toilet should be considered. The Blackwell House exterior was redone a few years ago, and the wood deck is already in disrepair. Does anyone take responsibility for the use of public funds? Who signed off on the work? Is there any warranty? Two years ago, there were encouraging articles about Main Street retail. Since then, little has happened. Maybe Hudson/Related should consider lower rates.

I often see an ambulance crew parked under the bridge, sleeping. I understand that they have been assigned here for precautionary reasons. Why not allocate a vacant space in one of the buildings for a small health-care station? The crew could be more comfortable, and the emergency vehicle would not be idling 24/7. The morning commute is terrible. Boarding a train is difficult. (It’s not much better at the Tram.) Almost daily, I see angry straphangers watching packed trains coming from Queens. Is there a way to lobby for better mass-transit service? Public Safety drives around the Island in their SUV fleet, letting delivery guys drive bikes on sidewalks. I single out the Japanese restaurant delivery guy, whose fast electro-bike is ultra-silent and not lit at night – an accident waiting to happen. Are delivery guys exempt from the rules? PSD should avoid parking on the east side of Main Street. Occasionally, the street is totally blocked. The new toddler play area has become a teenage hangout. The new equipment won’t take such abuse for long. If PSD did more walk-arounds in lieu of drive-arounds, they might even see what’s happening here. The plaza between 425 and 455 Main Street is now a skateboard field. Teenagers maneuver their boards among tots, stopping only when PSD is in view. Terrified parents cut short their visits, for safety reasons.

Goran Jovanovic

To the Editor:

September 11 has heavy meaning to New Yorkers, personalized by loss of firefighters from the Island. A memorial tree was planted just west of the Good Shepherd Community Center to memorialize the loss. In 2007, friends in Oklahoma City recognized the loss in New York as a companion to their tragic loss in the bombing at the Federal Building there. They brought us a small elm – an offspring from the trees that had graced the place where Oklahoma citizens had died. It was planted near the west promenade at the southwest corner of the Island House management office by RIOC Landscape Manager Fernando Varga. Unfortunately, the site chosen meant that the care of the tree was turned over to contract landscapers hired by Island House management. Unfortunately, the contractor’s employees cannot read English, so, year after year, an employee uses a power-brush trimmer to hack the now-10-year-old tree in an apparent effort to make the elm tree into a bush. Fernando Varga has promised to take steps to bring this awful action to an end. Whether the commemorative tree can be given a new lease on life remains to be seen.

David Bauer



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

To the Editor:

Who is Eleanor (as in Eleanor’s Pier)?

Mary Cavanaugh

David Kramer of the Hudson Companies responds, “Eleanor and Franklin were a genuine New York power couple, and we didn’t think Franklin should get all the credit on the Island. Over the Fourth of July weekend, we applied for a liquor license for Eleanor’s Pier and needed a name for the entity; we came up with the name Earl Miller’s Wines & Spirits. For extra credit, who was Earl Miller?”

To the Editor:

I feel so grateful to have had Nina Wintringham as a neighbor. Nina had very special qualities of kindness and thoughtfulness. She brought neighborliness, friendliness, and joy to so many people on Roosevelt Island. People were happier because of her. She made a difference. Her passing is such a great loss. She leaves a void. But after saying goodbye to Nina at her wake, I thought that instead of being discouraged, I should accept the responsibility of filling the void she leaves with her kind of friendliness and kindness. I felt I should follow her example. If we all do this, if we all come together to fill this void, we are giving back what she gave us. She would want us to do that.

Corinna Kell

To the Editor:

I was told that Dr. Flannigan, the chiropractor, had to put up \$75,000 in improvements to his office. He could not afford that amount of money – Roosevelt Island does not provide that level of business. So he gave up. His belongings are still there. Around the same time, he lost his mother and had a fire in his home that destroyed many of his belongings. He has put his license in inactive status, and is wondering how he will be able to put his children through college, etc. What a horrible way to treat a doctor who has helped a lot of people on the Island. Obviously, this was a way of clearing him out of the office, whose appearance is perfectly fine. We didn’t go to him for decor. Islanders should voice their outrage to the president of RIOC. Since Dr. Flannigan has not yet removed his belongings, it is not too late to rectify this outrageous behavior by Hudson/Related.

Name Withheld

Arianna Sachs Rosenberg, project manager for Hudson/Related, says that Dr. Flannigan asked to be released after signing a new lease and failing to pay rent for several months, then became unreachable despite multiple emails and phone messages. Formal eviction followed.

Roosevelt Island was originally developed under the Mitchell-Lama (ML) Housing Program. The idea was that non-market-rate development would foster inclusiveness, diversity, and a truly mixed-income community. Diversity would smash the usual patchwork or sorting of communities that was unfortunately the rule in those days, because it meant that people of all income levels would live in the same community – often in the same building. Unfortunately, the original ML formula was not followed in subsequent developments (Manhattan Park, The Octagon, Southtown). Now it is difficult, if not impossible, for someone seeking affordable housing to find it here.

been lost, according to a recent report by City Comptroller Scott Stringer, if not for New York State’s Tenant Protection Unit, which has returned 28,000 apartments to rent regulation after discovering that their owners had circumvented laws intended to protect rent-regulated housing.”



Helen Chirivas

Rising rents are a fact today in New York City because of the real estate boom. Landlords are using every imaginable way to remove regulated tenants in order to jack up rents on new market-rate tenants. This is a true war on moderate-income people, who sometimes are forced to live in rubble (tinyurl.com/NYTrubble) following sabotage of housing units. Yes, the methods that landlords use sometimes amount to wanton destruction of their own property to force out regulated tenants. Newly gentrifying areas like Crown Heights, Brooklyn, are in the cross-hairs of this sort of “forced” gentrification. Legislation has been introduced to curb landlord excesses by criminalizing landlord sabotage of their own property (tinyurl.com/RENTsabotage). I am not accusing any particular landlord on Roosevelt Island, but we must be alert to the possibility that landlords, seeing dollar signs dangling, may not always treat the remaining regulated tenants in a fair manner, may use tricks such as the intimidation of an eviction notice even if the tenant is regularly paying the rent, or may add arcane clauses to leases (legal booby-traps) to get regulated tenants to leave.

To the Editor:

Late in June, I misplaced my wallet – something I discovered while in a checkout lane at Gristedes. I called Public Safety, where I was greeted with, “Nina! We were just getting ready to bring your wallet to your doorstation and call you. Your neighbor Pearl [a jewel of a human being] found it on the counter in the Gristedes pharmacy and brought it to us.” Meantime, our Gristedes manager was ringing up my groceries and telling me to go get my wallet and come back later, when a lovely woman of a certain age, in dark glasses, who declined to identify herself by name or phone number, paid for my groceries and told me not to worry about it – about \$30 worth of not worrying! So, one 30-minute episode of panic later, the good people of our Island had rescued me. A week later, I got to return the kindness by helping, with the assistance of Public Safety and the NYC FDNY EMTs, a young man having a seizure at the stationery store. And I lost my keys. The kind folks at Duane Reade found them and returned them to me immediately. In the 31 years I have lived here, I have always enjoyed (and occasionally criticized) the community that is here to support me and be supported by me. In the last half of June, I experienced both the not-so-great and the best of our community.

I was severely parking-challenged one day in June, when I rented a car and needed to discharge my passengers and unload in front of my own building, and RIOC and Public Safety folks had put up barricades for Roosevelt Island Day – 24 hours too early. I was profoundly affected, in a way I did not expect, by the unexpected June death of our dear Nina Wintringham, and extremely moved by the community turnout for her memorial event, and, to a greater extent, by the support shown by our community for the Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance, an Island institution of great importance. I think that is why I have not moved off the Island, and why, no matter how housing costs or minor inconveniences increase, I will not leave – because we are a caring community. Many of the younger folks who have come here with their families get it, and we longtimers – well, we knew all along.

Nina Lublin

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 to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net, or on a disk left at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to The WIRE. If you email, expect a confirming response and, if you receive none, resend and call 212-826-9056 to alert us. Alternatives: Typed copy left at 531 Main Street (allow extra time for typesetting); clearly handwritten letters will be considered, if brief. We are not able to take telephone dictation of letters. All letters are subject to acceptance and editing for length and clarity. Recommended maximum length, 350 words; longer letters will be considered if their content, in the judgment of the editors, merits the required space.

**Letters deadline
for Aug. 30 issue:
Tue, Aug. 26, 5:00 p.m.**

Happy summer, friends and neighbors! The “dog days” are truly upon us, and the Common Council hopes that the season thus far has been a safe and healthy one for you, full of outdoor fun, family, and memories. This is a magical time on Roosevelt Island, and our little ship in the East River is abuzz with the excitement and energy that only summer can bring.

Kicked off in June with another successful and well-attended Roosevelt Island Day, the activities continue to roll on. With outdoor movies on Saturday nights at Southpoint Park or Firefighters Field, family workshops at the FDR Memorial Park on Thursday mornings, informal neighborhood picnics and barbecues at our parks, and the R&R Family Concerts at the Good Shepherd Center, there has never been so much to do (or not do). We hope that you continue to explore all that the Island has to offer during the waning summer days.

As fall approaches, election season draws near. This year will be pivotal for Roosevelt Island – our District will be electing a new Assemblymember to represent us in Albany. The Democratic primary for the seat is Tuesday, September 9. Understanding its importance, the Government Relations Committee of the Residents Association Common Council is sponsoring a Town

Meeting on Tuesday, August 5, at 8:00 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Center, to give all of you the opportunity to meet the candidates. Come and directly ask the tough questions of Gus Christensen, Ed Hartzog, David Menegon, and Rebecca Seawright, to see if they truly understand the stakes here on the Island, and if they have what it takes to represent us.



Jeffrey Escobar, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
president@riraonline.com

Council members will determine RIRA’s direction and initiatives for the next two years. Issues of Council
See **RIRA Column**, page 16

Speaking of elections – for many months now, I have asked that each of you consider giving back to our community by serving on the Common Council. In September, the Council will reconvene after the three-month summer hiatus, and its activities will include the arduous task of conducting November’s Island-wide election for Council members and executive officers. The new Council members will determine RIRA’s direction and initiatives for the next two years. Issues of Council
See **RIRA Column**, page 16

This summer has been a very busy time on Roosevelt Island. Several capital projects have been completed. The Octagon Tennis Courts have been resurfaced, the Tram stations have been repainted, the entryway of the Good Shepherd Chapel has been restored, and the northern tip of Lighthouse Park has been reopened for public enjoyment. Many improvements to the Island are still in progress at locations such as the Tram stations and the Cultural Center, and on all Island roads.

In addition to construction projects, the Outdoor Summer Movie Series and other free public events continue to take place on the Island. For up-to-date information about these and for other community notices, you may

sign up for RIOC Advisories email alerts on our website: www.rioc.ny.gov.

New at Public Safety: Lynda Marmara
RIOC would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest member of our staff, Lynda Marmara. Marmara has joined us as the new Deputy Director of Public Safety, and is quite familiar with Roosevelt Island, having been assigned to the community in the past as a NYC police officer. She comes to us with decades of experience in police work and a strong background in emergency management. Marmara previously served as the Director of Public-Private Initiatives for the NYC

Office of Emergency Management, and most recently owned and led her own security company, Strategic Planning and Security Services, Inc. We are very pleased to have her on our team and look forward to her work on Roosevelt Island.

Preparedness Training
Next week, the NYS Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will be offering a free Citizen Preparedness training workshop. In addition to valuable information about how to prepare for natural or man-made disasters, each family participating will receive a free Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Starter Kit for attending. The kit includes a first aid kit, emergency food and water, AM/FM radio, flashlight, and more useful items.



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

Center (8 River Road) at 6 p.m. While this session
See **RIOC Column**, page 12

The training will take place on August 6 at the Manhattan Park Community Center (8 River Road) at 6 p.m. While this session
See **RIOC Column**, page 12

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer! At Cornell Tech, we have had several great community meetings since we last checked in, most recently our Cornell Tech Community and Construction Task Force meeting on Monday. [Stories, pages 1 and 12.]

At the Task Force meeting, we were very pleased to introduce everyone to Cornell Tech’s Director of K-12 Education, Diane Levitt. Diane has great experience with K-12, and is already making an impact at Cornell Tech and in the broader NYC educational community.

Prior to joining Cornell Tech, Diane was the Director of Corporate Social Responsibility for Belkin, the global consumer electronics organization. She managed the company’s philanthropy, community engagement, and

employee volunteerism, and served as an advisor to the Chairman and CEO. She helped develop Belkin Education, products designed to maximize the learning opportunities that technology offers, and was deeply engaged in supporting the growth of high-achieving schools for low-income students in Los Angeles, including several STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) schools.

In the United States, there are 1.4 million computing jobs, yet only 400,000 computer science students. Implementing computer science programs in our schools is critical to our City’s and country’s future. Diane has been working closely with the principal, teachers

and PTA at PS/IS 217 to identify programs that will enhance computational literacy learning in middle-school classrooms, to help students gain an understanding of software and hardware. This summer, a middle-school math teacher is attending professional development on Bootstrap, a curricular module that teaches algebra and geometry concepts through computer programming. Diane is also working with the school to identify a coding/computational-thinking curriculum for students, and looking for great tech-rich afterschool options for The Beacon Program. We



Cathy Dove, Vice President
Cornell NYC Tech
cathy.dove@cornell.edu

hope to test new computing curriculum and professional development with PS/IS 217 teachers and students during the 2014-15 school year.

Roosevelt Island Day
Cornell Tech and several other Cornell organizations were pleased to participate in this year’s Roosevelt Island Day. I know we join many Islanders in thanking Urban American, RIOC, and the many Roosevelt
See **Cornell Column**, page 15

COMING UP

– This Weekend –

Master Swim Class registration for August now available at rioc.recdesk.com / Eddie.Perez@rioc.ny.gov / 212-832-4569. Classes **Mon** and **Wed** 7:30pm, through Aug 27.

Reduced Tram service, Fri Aug 1 6am-2am; one cabin operates – 15-minute intervals between trips from each end.

Weekend subway suspension: No direct service from Manhattan to Roosevelt Island, **Fri Aug 1** 9:45pm to **Mon Aug 4** 5am. Tram service to be normal or expanded; no effect on Manhattan-bound trains.

Opening reception for *Camera, Brush, and Chisel*, Sat Aug 2 6-9pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Painting and sculpture by RIVAA member artists; exhibit continues through Sep 7. Gallery hours Sat-Sun 11am-5pm, Tue & Thu 1-5pm, Wed & Fri 6-9pm.

– Regularly Scheduled Meetings and Events –

See separate listing, page 15.

– The Next Four Weeks –

Reduced Tram service, Mon Aug 4 – Fri Aug 8 6am-2am, one cabin operates – 15-minute intervals between trips from each end.

Clinic on Housing Law, Mon Aug 4 and regularly on first & third Mon 3-6pm, district office of City Councilmember Ben Kallos, 244 E. 93rd St. RSVP & questions to 212-860-1950 or RSVP@BenKallos.com.

35th Annual Midsummer Poetry Readings, Mon Aug 4 7:30pm. For location, RSVP to ngale@aol.com or 212-688-4722.
Campaign Town Meeting – Candidates for State Assembly, Tue Aug 5 8pm, Good Shepherd Center.

Citizen Preparedness Training Program, Wed Aug 6 6pm, Manhattan Park Community Center. Each family attending gets a dozen items for its go-bag. Advance registration required at www.prepare.ny.gov/training-events.

Family Workshop: My Model Monument, Thu Aug 7 10:30am-12noon, FDR Four Freedoms Park. Ages 6+. Register at tinyurl.com/fwFDRpark.

Outdoor Movie Series shows *The Hobbit: Desolation of Smaug*, **Sat Aug 9** sundown, Firefighters Field (change of location). For rain-date info, see rioc.ny.gov.

Islander Roy Eaton plays piano **Mon-Fri Aug 11-15** 12:30pm, Bryant Park (Sixth Av. at 42nd St.); **Thu** performance is at 2:30pm.

Pokemon the Movie 2000 (for children), **Tue Aug 12** 3pm, Library.

Family Workshop: FDR’s Floating White House, Thu Aug 14 10:30am-12noon, FDR Four Freedoms Park. Ages 6+. Register at tinyurl.com/fwFDRpark.

How Things Work – From Planes to Silly Putty (ages 13-18), **Thu Aug 14** 3pm, Library. Registration required. Also see Tue Aug 19.

Premiere production of *Eros & Psyche*, a new comedy by Donna Spector presented by the Xoregos Performing Company, directed by Shela Xoregos, **Sun Aug 17** 5:45pm (90 minutes), Eastwood Amphitheater (behind 520 Main Street). Free. Blankets and picnic fare recommended.

How Things Work – From Planes to Silly Putty (ages 13-18), **Tue Aug 19** 3pm, Library. Registration required. Also see Thu Aug 14.

Family Workshop: Our Panoramic Skyline, Thu Aug 21 10:30am-12noon, FDR Four Freedoms Park. Ages 3+. Register at tinyurl.com/fwFDRpark.

Girls Are Heros, Too (ages 5-12), **Thu Aug 21** 11:30am, Library.

Outdoor Movie Series shows *Goldfinger*, **Sat Aug 23** sundown, Firefighters Field (change of location). For rain-date info, see rioc.ny.gov.

R&R Concert, Late Summer Lyricism, Mon Aug 25 7pm, Good Shepherd Center. Ralph Allen and Salley Kou, violins; Junah Chung, viola; Iris Jortner, cello. Free. Contributions welcome.

Delta Force at Library Movie Night (adults), **Tue Aug 26** 6pm, Library.

The Main Street WIRE– Sat Aug 30. Advertising deadlines: Display ads, **Wed Aug 20**; decision date for circulars/inserts, **Tue Aug 26**; 5,500 copies due **Thu Aug 28**. **Future issues:** Sep 13 (starts *WIRE*’s 35th year), 27; Oct 11, 25; Nov 8, 22; Dec 13. **2015:** Every 2 weeks starting Sat Jan 10. **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**.

Family Workshop: A Mobile for My Room, Thu Aug 28 10:30am-12noon, FDR Four Freedoms Park. Ages 3+. Register at tinyurl.com/fwFDRpark.

– Future Weeks –

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Sep 10** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.

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

Book Discussion, *Spies of Mississippi* by Rick Bowers, **Thu Sep 18** 6:30pm, Library.

Women’s Movie Group shows *Anita: Speaking Truth to Power*, **Thu Sep 18** 7pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. RSVP to riwomenmovie@gmail.com.

The Big Red One at Library Movie Night (adults), **Tue Oct 14** 6pm, Library.

Book Discussion, *I Am Malala* by MalalaYousafzai, **Thu Oct 16** 6:30pm, Library.

Live and Let Die at Library Movie Night (adults), **Tue Oct 21** 6pm, Library.

Cornell Construction & Community Task Force quarterly meeting, **Mon Oct 27**, 6-8pm, 12th floor meeting room, 546 Main St. Open to public.

Jaws at Library Movie Night (adults), **Tue Nov 11** 6pm, Library.

Book Discussion, *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor, **Thu Nov 20** 6:30pm, Library.

The Cotton Club at Library Movie Night (adults), **Tue Nov 25** 6pm, Library.

Coffy at Library Movie Night (adults), **Tue Dec 9** 6pm, Library.

Senior Center listings are on page 17

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*.

The RIRA Column

The RIOC Column

The Cornell Column

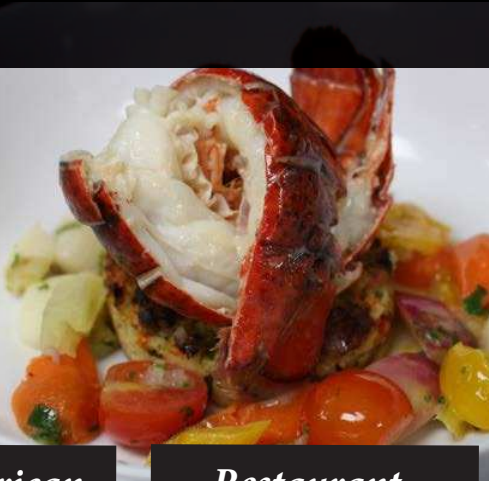


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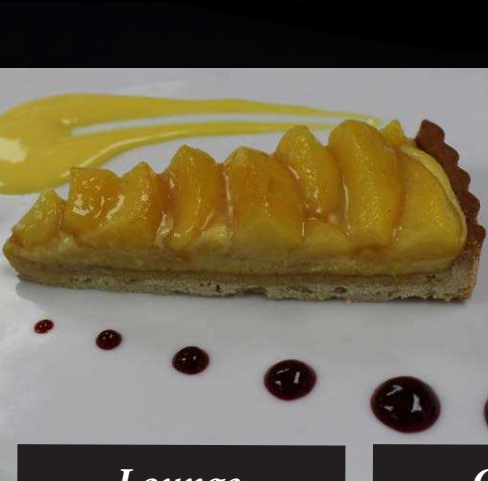
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In Memoriam: Nina Wintringham

A Vision of Community

by John Dougherty

A lot has been written in *The WIRE* about my wife, Nina Wintringham, who passed away on June 21. She was profiled in two articles, on March 9 and June 29, 2013, (both on line at MainStreetWIRE.com). The only thing I might add is to describe, if possible, her vision of the Roosevelt Island community as exemplified in her words and actions.

Our little family moved to Roosevelt Island in 1989. We were seeking a more relaxed, connected, and diverse community in which to raise our young daughter, Rebecca. The Island offered a slower pace, more playgrounds, less traffic, more children, and more affordable rents. Equally important, we found people from every walk of life. This lively community was no monoculture. We told friends that you could name practically any language, nation, race, religion, color, or orientation, and you could likely find neighbors on Roosevelt Island to match. Better yet, neighbors seemed to be actively engaged with one another, not settling for separate enclaves.



Community is not a spectator sport. We soon found ourselves engaged and invested. There was a welcoming attitude: *So glad you're here. Join in!* There were abundant opportunities: community organizations, local issues, volunteer projects, festivities, and celebrations. I got involved with the Tennis Association and the Boy Scout Troop. Nina had a busy worklife and the responsibilities of motherhood, but she found herself being drawn to be active in the community.

Rebecca started taking classes at the Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance: acting, dancing, more dancing. In successive stages, Nina became a theatre parent and board member, and then took the hot seat as President of the Board. She relished the fact that MST&DA brought together kids and adults from all over the community. It was a meeting ground. She also relished the can-do spirit of an arts community. Maybe it is the tradition of “the show must go on,” but when disasters strike, like Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, the theatre community responds with optimism and energy.

Nina had a talent for connecting people and discovering what energized them. She was interested in what neighbors thought, what mattered to them, what they might enjoy being part of. She got a thrill out of connecting people who shared an interest or who had complementary talents. She thought everyone had useful talents and a contribution to make, and would blossom in a supportive environment and with the right encouragement.

Over time, Nina became a leader in our community. To her, that meant listening more than talking, serving more than directing. Because of our diversity, there will always be a multiplicity of opinions. It would be foolish to believe that one has a privileged purchase on the truth. Nina felt that we must make allowances for those differences. She had strong opinions on some subjects, but she felt that preserving the bonds of community was more important than having her opinion prevail. She saw nothing to be gained by being right at the cost of alienating a neighbor.

Our Island community has suffered some blows in recent years. The spirit of optimism and inclusiveness has frayed. Some of our community organizations have faced profound crises. Yet the spirit of community is very much alive. If Nina's example will serve, we preserve and enhance that spirit by caring about and valuing our neighbors, listening to each other, making allowances, and serving each other when we can.

Gary Yee

Born-September 1, 1964. End of Watch – June 29, 2014.

Lt. Gary Yee was born in New York to Ying and Suey Yee on September 1, 1964. He was a dedicated member of the Roosevelt Island Public Safety Department for over 20 years. Gary was well liked by many Island residents as well as his co-workers. He worked countless hours and went beyond the call during many of his encounters with Island Residents.



Gary was a motorcycle enthusiast who loved to celebrate life. He enjoyed sci-fi films and video games, which he often donated to Island youths.

Lt. Yee was preceded in death by his mother and father, Suey and Ying Yee. He is survived by his sister, Julia Yee of Brooklyn New York, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Lt. Yee – “Gary” – will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues.

The following statement was issued by RIOC President Charlene Indelicato. “RIOC and the Roosevelt Island community lost a valued member of our team. Lieutenant Gary Yee of the Roosevelt Island Public Safety Department passed away on the morning of Sunday, June 29. We are deeply sad-

dened by this loss and honor him for his 22 years and 4 months of dedicated service to the Roosevelt Island community. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time.

The WIRE strives to publish an obituary for current and past members of the community at large when they pass away. Surviving relatives are urged to provide a large (or high-resolution) photograph with text, with *The WIRE's* promise that it will edited lightly and gently. Submit to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net.



Myron I. Michels

Myron Michels, known to many as Mike, volunteered at Goldwater Hospital for over 25 years, and served as president of the Volunteer Council there. He died on Wednesday, July 16, at age 91.

A Rivercross resident since 1983 with his wife of 60 years, Neda, Mike was born in New York City. He attended the University of Wisconsin prior to World War II, then served from 1943 to 1946 in the Navy Seabees. After service in the Navy, he attended the Columbia School of Pharmacy. He then operated retail pharmacies in Manhattan for the next 40 years.

Mike and Neda have a son, Robert Michels of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and grandchildren Allie and Eric Michels of 595 Main Street, Roosevelt Island.

Pauline and Patrick Sheridan

The Sheridans were among the Roosevelt Island pioneers, moving to Eastwood from Queensbridge in 1978 for a chance at a better life. Their youngest children, Tony and Pete, were enrolled in PS/IS 217, where they flourished.

Patrick and Pauline, known to all as Pat and Paula, were always involved in numerous community activities, including the St. Frances Cabrini parish, its thrift shop, and the youth soccer league. They loved the Island, its marine air, and the many, many friends they made here.



Pat had worked in the beverage and food industries, but was disabled from severe arthritis. He was known by his signature cane on his walks to the Meditation Steps, and by the friendly grin that hid behind his stern visage.

Our mother Paula, always a bundle of energy, used a cane and a walker in her later years, and it was a struggle to get her to slow down for her own safety! She especially relished her role as a grandmother and aunt, with two nieces now living in Australia.



Pat passed away in 1993, age 67. Paula died on June 7, 2014, aged 85. We appreciate all the friends we have had on the Island, and all the support our family received over the decades.

–Paul, Patricia, Mary Ann, Anthony, and Peter Sheridan

Herbert E. Berman

Former RIOC President Herb Berman died on July 6 at age 80 after a long illness. He is survived by his son Russell Berman, daughter Shari Berman, sister Bernice Grader, and three grandchildren.

Prior to serving as RIOC President, Berman was Southern Brooklyn's City Councilmember for 26 years, ultimately becoming chair of the City Council's finance committee. In that capacity, he was also Governor George Pataki's ambassador to the Jewish Community.

Berman was appointed to the RIOC presidency in 2003 by Governor George Pataki, and served until Elliot Spitzer was elected governor in 2007.

“I was surprised when I came here to find a place as beautiful as it is,” Berman said after arriving on Roosevelt Island for his RIOC tenure.

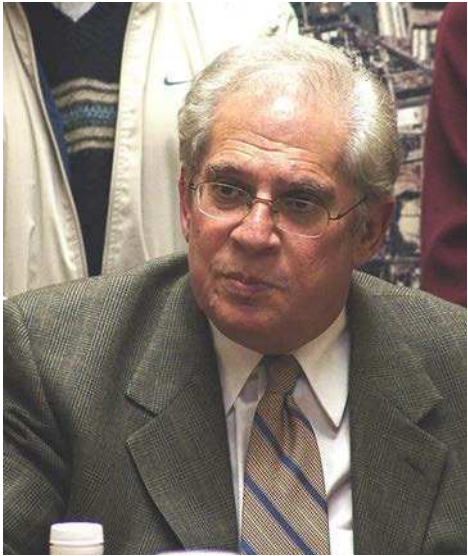
In his first RIOC column, he wished Islanders a happy new year and answered their questions ranging from broken streetlights all the way up to the Island's Orange Alert status, as determined by the Department of Homeland Security.

During Berman's RIOC term, the Tram started accepting the MetroCard, the Island bought hybrid mini-buses, Southtown buildings 1 and 2 came online, Eastwood was privatized, The Octagon came online, both Trams were stuck midair for 11 hours and then out of service for nearly five months for repair, and multiple \$2,000 trash cans were purchased at an expense of \$80,000.

- Ongoing issues at the time included:
- Tramway elevators – a new provider was chosen, and a new elevator for handicapped passengers was installed.
 - The location of the Youth Center – it was denied the space at 504 Main Street.
 - The Octagon – RIRA filed a lawsuit against RIOC to keep that space as parkland, and lost.
 - Lighting on the Island was a constant problem, with some tallying the Island as 40% dark at night.
 - Formulation of an Island comprehensive emergency response management plan was ongoing for many of those years. Steve Marcus and Matt Katz were RIRA presidents during Berman's time in office.

After leaving RIOC, Berman was special assistant to the president of the City University of New York Graduate Center. Steve Shane succeeded Berman as RIOC President.

The funeral took place July 8 in the Riverside Memorial Chapel in Manhattan, with burial in Beth Moses Cemetery in Farmingdale.



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- August 7: My Model Monument, ages 6+
- August 14: FDR's Floating Whitehouse, ages 6+
- August 21: Our Panoramic Skyline, ages 3+
- August 28: A Mobile For My Room, ages 3+



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Every Thursday in August, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
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Farewell Nina

We bid farewell to a dear friend of Roosevelt Island
and The Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance.
Nina Wintringham passed away on June 21st.

As President of the Board, Nina worked tirelessly to help keep
MST&DA a vibrant part of the diverse community that she
loved. She will be greatly missed.



RIOC Communications Falling Short – Still a Lot to Learn

by Janet Falk

Between July 1 and July 22, RIOC issued more than 40 advisory notices in emails to residents and other subscribers.

- The flurry of activity was higher than usual, due to:
- notices regarding July 4 activities, associated changes in parking, and the fact that the annual fireworks, which have not been visible on Roosevelt Island since 2008, would still not be visible locally;
 - notices regarding loss of elevator and lift service at the Manhattan Tram station and resumption of service;
 - notices regarding suspension of subway service and delays, after it was restored;
 - notices regarding temporary suspension of Tram service due to inclement weather;
 - occasional one-time announcements.

For communications to be truly effective, writers should:

- convey information succinctly;
- take into account the perspective of the reader;
- satisfy any and all questions the reader may have.

Most RIOC announcements fall short on one or more of these standards, with the second being most common – probably because the sender lives elsewhere and isn't able to imagine herself/himself in the position of a resident.

RIOC subway-related advisories, for the most part, parrot the raw information provided by the MTA, without considering how Island residents and local workers are affected and how they might use the information to plan their transportation.

Take, for example, the multiple notices for the past few weekends regarding the suspension of Queens-bound subway service on the F train between Manhattan and Roosevelt Island. The RIOC advisories dated July 3, 11, 17, and the first of three dated July 18, do not mention that, as an alternative, subway riders might use the Tram between Manhattan and Roosevelt Island, which runs on a modified weekday schedule. Instead, the notices suggest the Q102 bus to Queens Plaza for subway service to Queens. Also, they suggest that riders who want to go to Queens should go to Manhattan and then turn around to go to Queens.

But if you are already in Manhattan and wish to travel to Roosevelt Island, that notification is utterly *useless*. According to RIOC's incomplete notice, you are stranded in Manhattan, unless you want to take the F to Roosevelt Avenue and then turn around to arrive at Roosevelt Island.

Same for the notice of July 18 at 10:08 a.m. regarding suspension of Manhattan-bound subway service on the F line. This notice was quite incoherent: *For service to Roosevelt Island, take the F-train to 47- 50 Sts. and transfer to a Jamaica-bound F- train.*

The advisory was soon updated at 10:54 am and corrected at 11:19 a.m. to indicate no Manhattan-bound service to and from Roosevelt Island.

How does repeating the MTA's memorandum inform Island riders, residents, and local employees? Not at all.

It was not until the second of the three announcements on July 18 that RIOC referred to the Tram service as an alternative to the suspended F subway. *The Tram will run on a rush hour schedule from 7 AM until 10 PM to accommodate any increase in traffic.*

The July 10 advisory refers to suspension of Tram service. It suggests that readers *Consider alternate travel plans*. Does the advisory suggest what those plans might be – perhaps taking the F train? Hardly. Readers are left stranded in Manhattan.

Leaving the subway and Tram suspension notices, we turn to the July 10 and 11 announcements regarding bus service for residents wishing to attend the July 11 movie in Southpoint Park. The subject line is *Summer Movie Series: Shuttle Bus for Seniors & Limited Mobility*. Setting aside the omission of the words *People with* in front of *Limited Mobility*, one has to wonder whether this email reached its intended audience. It is possible that a large number of people for whom this transportation service would be of most value do not receive email or do not check email daily. RIOC should consider transmitting these notices to the doormen of the various residences so that the information might be shared among residents of those buildings that have a central bulletin board.

This observation regarding secondary distribution of announcements of interest to seniors also applies to the July 3 announcement of the Senior Center serving as a cooling center during a period of a heat advisory.

Several events were held at Firefighters Field. Because there is no sign marking the field, and it is located at a considerable distance from the FDNY's Special Operations Center at 750 Main Street, a helpful phrase regarding the field's address might be in order. *Firefighters Field is located at 400 Main Street. It is near Tramway Plaza and across from 405 and 415 Main Street. It is the location of prior summer movie series events.* Any of these short identifiers would be appropriate.

From: RIOC Advisories [mailto:RIOC.Advisories@rioc.ny.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2014 10:09 AM
To: RIOC Advisories
Subject: Planned MTA Subway Service Suspension

Notification issued 7/18/14 at 10:08 AM. The MTA has advised that from 11:15 PM Friday, July 18 until 5:00 AM Monday, July 21 Manhattan -bound F Train service from Roosevelt Island will be suspended. For service to Roosevelt Island, take the F-train to 47- 50 Sts. and transfer to a Jamaica-bound F- train. Please plan your travel accordingly and visit <http://mta.info> or call 511 for more information.

From: RIOC Advisories [mailto:RIOC.Advisories@rioc.ny.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2014 4:32 PM
To: RIOC Advisories
Subject: Planned MTA Subway Service Suspension

Notification issued 7/17/14 at 4:31 PM. The MTA has advised that from 11:15 PM Friday, July 18 until 5:00 AM Monday, July 21 Manhattan -bound F Train service from Roosevelt Island will be suspended. For service to Roosevelt Island, take the F-train to 47- 50 Sts. and transfer to a Jamaica-bound F- train. Please plan your travel accordingly and visit <http://mta.info> or call 511 for more information.

From: RIOC Advisories [mailto:RIOC.Advisories@rioc.ny.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 3:30 PM
To: RIOC Advisories
Subject: Planned MTA Subway Service Suspension

Notification issued 7/11/14 at 12:55 PM. The MTA has advised that from 9:45 PM Friday, July 11th to 5:00 AM Monday, July 14th, there will be no Queens-Bound F train service at the Roosevelt Island station. For service to Queens from Roosevelt Island, take the Q 102 to Queens Plaza, E, M, R station where F train service is available, or, take the Manhattan- bound F train to 47-50th Sts. and transfer to a Queens bound F train. Please plan your travel accordingly and visit <http://mta.info> or call 511 for more information.

From: RIOC Advisories [mailto:RIOC.Advisories@rioc.ny.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2014 11:21 AM
To: RIOC Advisories
Subject: CORRECTION: Planned MTA Subway Service Suspension

Notification issued 7/18/2014 at 11:19 AM. The MTA has advised that from 11:15 PM Today, Friday, July 18 until 5:00 AM Monday, July 21 MANHATTAN-bound F Train service to and from Roosevelt Island will be suspended. The Tram will run on a rush hour schedule from 7 AM until 10 PM to accommodate any increase in traffic. For alternate routes and updated information, please visit <http://mta.info> or call 511 for more information.

Notification issued 7/29/2014 at 9:30 AM. We are currently experiencing technical difficulties with our email advisory system, which has resulted in duplicate emails with conflicting information. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may cause. We are monitoring the issue and will send out a clarifying email after any duplicate message is sent. Thank you for your patience as we resolve the problem.

Finally, the advisories regarding two swimming classes at Sportspark are hilariously incomplete. The Mommy and Me class does not indicate the age ranges for the children, nor does it indicate whether dad, a grandparent, or a babysitter might attend the class with the child. It does not specify the time the class will be held. This same information is missing from the indicated website. If a father wishes to attend with a three-year old, he will have to call for more information to get the schedule.

As for the Master Swim Class, there is no date nor time when the sessions will be held. The class is not listed on the website.

In sum, regarding the criteria of succinct information, and the reader's perspective and questions, RIOC advisories fall short; they frequently overlook the interest of the reader; and they rarely satisfy any and all questions.

RIOC advisories would be much improved by indicating alternative modes of transportation when subway and Tram service is suspended; by providing addresses and complete details of classes and schedules; and by arranging complementary distribution channels for notices of interest to seniors. They would accurately and effectively inform the residents and employees who rely on these updates to plan their transportation, entertainment, exercise, and other activities on Roosevelt Island.

Janet Falk is editor/writer of more than 100 meeting announcements distributed annually to 16,000 members of a global professional association.



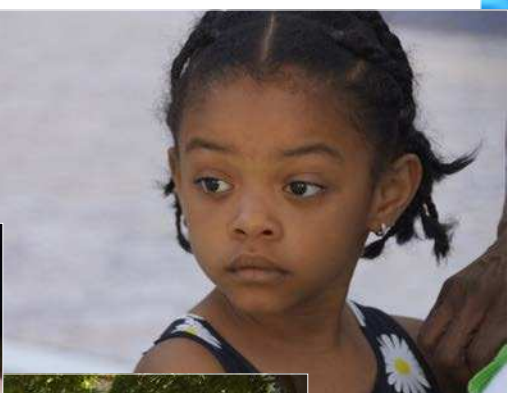
And the MTA? How does the MTA do? Posters currently in the local station advise Roosevelt Islanders who want accessible service to/from 63rd/Lex to take the E or the M, or an impractical combination of buses and trains. The Tram? Not mentioned.



Roose



...and the gang's all here!



The WIRE's coverage of Roosevelt Island Day 2014 is supported by UrbanAmerican.

Photos by Bluebeard Creative,
MainStreetWIRE.com, and others



Transit, from page 1

Tram kept breaking more and more frequently, often both at the same time. With the weather very cold, and the stairs slippery with ice, [and] no assistance to get down the stairs from the Tram platform on the Manhattan side, the whole Tram travel experience often became a nightmare for families, bikers, and wheelchair-users. The F Train is out of service most weekends, so the only option for Islanders who rely on elevators is to take the Q102 bus to Queens Plaza [to get] a train into Manhattan.”

Of the point made in her letter, Bosbach says, “To my knowledge, nothing has changed since then; except for the elevator being now out of service at the 63rd Street Station, which only makes the Tram elevators situation more urgent for parents with strollers and wheelchair-users. Using the escalator with a stroller is not safe and not permitted by the MTA. For those in wheelchairs, it isn’t even worth a try.”

RIDA and RIPN sent RIOC a letter about this in April. It included a time-stamped chart of the downtimes of the wheelchair lift, and explained that, from March 16 to 21, there were many reports from parents that the lift was not being operated for them. It added that parents have complained about a lack of informational signage on the Island.

RIOC does post a sign regarding the status of the elevators – the result of a suggestion from Bosbach. Even then, according to parents, the notice isn’t always accurate. RIOC also sends out email bulletins when the elevator is down, but they are often confusing (see separate story, page 9). At times, one of the many outages has left disabled Islanders – and some with children in strollers – effectively stranded in Manhattan.

What Happens Now?

An additional ADA-compliant elevator is in the RIOC budget for next year. It’s scheduled to be ready by February, about when the subway elevators are supposed to be back in service. But what do

Islanders on wheels do until then?

RIOC President Charlene Indelicato submitted a July report from RIOC’s Director of Engineering, James Mortimer, explaining the elevator’s current status. “We replaced the interior elevator door on the passenger elevator at the Manhattan Station. We have also scheduled our maintenance crew to clean the track... every Friday. This should insure [that] the passenger elevator provides reliable service for the foreseeable future.”

Regarding the wheelchair lift, Mortimer affirmed, “At the end of June, [the contractor] serviced the red [handicapped] lift. That service, coupled with the repairs made [prior] to that service, which corrected problems with the door contact, should insure reliable service.”

Speaking with *The WIRE* this week, Indelicato summed up RIOC’s intent: “The elevators are old and we are doing our best to keep them in service until the new elevators are installed.” (The nature of the contract has changed, as well, to provide more regular service.)

The proposals for designing and building new elevators at the Tram were due July 21. According to Mortimer, “After evaluation of the bids and an award of the contract, we will be able to give you a timeline for this work. [It] will be sequenced so [that] the red lift will be replaced first, followed by the existing passenger elevator, so one elevator will always be in service. Upon completion of the work, the Manhattan Station will have two new ADA-compliant passenger elevators.”

The problem now is that, according to Indelicato, no proposals were received by the July 21 due date. But Indelicato reaffirms her commitment that, “We are in the process of reviewing our options to ensure that the replacement elevators will be installed as soon as possible.”

Not surprisingly, Bosbach and crew have some suggestions for RIOC.

OnLine at MainStreetWIRE.com

Cornell Expert Sees Critical Need for A Greater Commitment to Tech Ed

“Our kids acquire tech savvy while the rest of us are still trying to figure out how to update the operating system on our iPhones.”

That’s Diane Levitt, Director of K-12 Education for Cornell NYC Tech, as she spoke Monday evening to the Cornell Community and Construction Task Force. Cornell’s Jane Swanson, who runs those committee meetings, described her as “a real superstar – and we’re thrilled to have her.” She came from Belkin, a well-known tech company.

The text of Levitt’s talk, with supporting slides, is available online at MainStreetWIRE.com.

Levitt is working with PS/IS 217 and a dozen other schools to develop and test curricula in computer science. Her mission relates to the country’s need to deal with a shortfall in computer science talent that has led, in part, to the export of a lot of tech work that could be done domestically. Only about a third of the U.S. jobs in computer science are represented by a student enrolled in a related college curriculum; a shortfall is inevitable.

Levitt points out that the Advanced Placement examination in computer science is offered by only 10% of the schools in the United States. In 2012, about 440,000 students took such exams in U.S. history, but only 10,000 took them in computer science. And, she added, “There are more jobs in computers than there are in history.”

Other notable quotes that accompany Levitt’s presentation now online at MainStreetWIRE.com:

- “We don’t give [kids] the tools to innovate.” Students crave relevancy. By ignoring technology, we miss the opportunity to give them something that will connect them to school.
- “Across the board, minorities, including women, are in the tech force at half the rate they are in the workforce in general.”
- “We must all get to the place where we understand the basics of computing.”
- “We are going to change this part of their education from listening to doing.”

1. Expedite replacement of the elevators.
 2. Provide additional personnel on the Manhattan side of the Tram to assist residents in going up and down the stairs.
 3. Provide Red Bus service to and from Manhattan when both elevators are out of service.
 4. Provide a phone number for an on-demand car service.
 5. Install a security camera to monitor and record the turnstile and gate area when a single employee is on duty on the Manhattan side (and primarily concerned with attending to platform access).
 6. Provide accurate and timely signage on the Island side.
- To join the Tram Advocacy Group, contact Eva Bosbach at Eva.Bosbach@amu.cz.

Trees, from page 1

western curving corner of the road. Winters’ problem is a roadway to be preserved, property lines to be respected, and all those regs.

As of Monday night, the best hope for the five trees seemed to be some quick deal with RIOC – a little extra property outside the roadway boundary that would allow some change in the roadway – which brought the issue to a meeting of one component of the bureaucracy, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation Board of Directors’ Real Estate Advisory Committee.

Bureaucracy

The *what?* Yes, RIOC, the entity that runs most of the Island, has a board of directors – mostly residents appointed long ago, before Governor Andrew Cuomo started ignoring the community’s RIOC Board nomination elections that were respected by his predecessors – and that board has a committee that advises RIOC management, appointed by the State administration in Albany, on real estate matters. Could it be any simpler? (Yes.)

Dealing with this sort of thing is frustrating for dedicated tree-huggers like Schwayri. His attitude can be summed up as *Screw the regulations! Just save the damned trees!* Winters’s problems in complying can be summed up as *But... but... but... but...*, with every “but” backed up by a complicated and well-reasoned explanation: *Why don’t we? We can’t because of the...* [insert item(s) from list: FDNY, NYC, RIOC, regs, laws, requirements].

Larry Parnes, a retired city planner, pointed out in Monday’s meeting that changes in Cornell’s plans could require a re-running of the ULURP process. That’s Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, a multi-step, multi-month slog through forms, hearings, committees, approvals. Such processes run counter to a Cornell need to *get on with it* and a conservationist’s *just save the doggone trees* attitude.

RIOC’s Role

Schwayri drew applause when he made his plea Wednesday night at a public meeting of the Real Estate Advisory Committee. He pointed out that the Island had 1,525 trees until Hurricane Sandy destroyed over 30, and Cornell is taking out 102.

The committee gave Schwayri a warm reception. By then, members of the Board had visited the site to view the trees. “Destruction is not *fait accompli*,” said Committee Chair Howard Polivy. “Cornell will undertake to see about moving the footprint of the road over two, three, four, five feet to save those trees. It will involve some engineering, the ULURP, and a mapping process.”

Polivy said he hopes that a simple amendment to the ULURP process will be enough to deal with the problem. Since the roadway remains RIOC’s property, moving it a few feet will not involve a land transaction.

“RIOC has developed a good working relationship with Cornell,” Polivy added. “I’m very hopeful that an amendment can be made to the process, and a location found to shift the road several feet to the south and west to accommodate that segment of the roadway, but we don’t have a conclusion right now.”

Cornell’s Progress

In Monday evening’s Task Force session, Winters reported on other parts of the Cornell demolition and construction process. About a third of the Goldwater buildings, starting from the north, have been gutted. Each is a shell, ready for big equipment capable of pulling away facades, chopping through steel beams, turning history into rubble to be hauled away on barges.

But some of the history is being preserved. Some murals produced during FDR’s WPA (Works Progress Administration) days have been removed and put into the care of preservationists, who are removing unwanted lead in an effort to avoid loss of the art involved.

Winters said that barging demolition waste away has avoided a couple of thousand Main Street truck trips, each of which would have involved use of the helix that takes vehicles from the bridge level down to Main Street. He said barging would continue into the construction phase for the First Academic Building (to be known as FAB) that is likely to be under way by early 2015.

RIOC Column, from page 3

is free, participants must register in advance at www.prepare.ny.gov/training-events in order to attend. We hope to see you there!

Summer Movies

RIOC’s Outdoor Summer Movie Series (now located at Firefighters Field) continues on Saturday, August 9, with a screening of *The Hobbit: Desolation of Smaug*. Come out to the field at 7 p.m. for music, film trivia, and a night of movie fun under the stars. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. On Saturday, August 23, don’t miss the final screening in the series, featuring the James Bond movie *Goldfinger*, as well as a locally produced short, *A Necessary Music*. This unique short film was shot on Roosevelt Island, and features 17 of our residents as actors. We hope to see you there!

Lighthouse Park

We are extremely pleased to be able to reopen the northern tip of Lighthouse Park for the community’s enjoyment. Contractors are currently completing a construction checklist and addressing a few final items to bring the project to completion, so expect to see workers in the vicinity of the park’s footbridges. While certain areas may be intermittently cordoned off to allow work to take place, the park area surrounding the Lighthouse will remain open to the public.

Cultural Center

Work on the Cultural Center at 504 Main Street has progressed. Demolition and removal of the water-damaged materials inside the Center was completed over the summer, and the floor fill has been poured to create a solid foundation. Contractors are currently re-framing the walls and performing electrical work. This project is scheduled to be completed in December 2014. We know how important the Cultural Center is to the community, and we look forward to reopening a new and improved space for public use.

Tram Elevators

Bids for the design and construction of new elevators at the Manhattan Tram Station were due last week on July 21; however, no proposals were submitted.

This project is a very high priority for RIOC, and we are committed to finding a skilled contractor to carry out this important work. We will continue to explore our options and will push to keep this project moving forward on schedule.

Road Re-Striping

Over the past few weeks, the Island’s streets and Helix Ramp have been re-striped by contractors working with our Engineering Department. Refreshing the paint job helps ensure that important street markings, especially at crosswalks and stop signs, are highly visible to both vehicles and pedestrians. Further re-striping work is scheduled to take place in the near future.

Playground Swing

At the Blackwell Park Children’s Playground, a low toddler swing has repeatedly been tampered with. After repairs to the swing were made on July 7, the strap and related hardware were entirely removed from the area. RIOC will make repairs shortly and again restore the swing for young children to use. In the interest of safety, we ask that visitors to the park refrain from removing any hardware at the playground, and contact us immediately to report any repairs that need to be made. If you have any information related to the play equipment’s disappearance, we encourage you to contact the Roosevelt Island Public Safety Department at 212-832-4545.

Tennis Permits

The newly resurfaced Octagon Tennis Courts are open for permit holders. If you would like to play, you may purchase a Tennis Permit online through the RIOC website – please visit us at rioc.ny.gov/tenniscourts.htm for more information or to apply.

Tram Changes

Leitner-Poma, operator of the Roosevelt Island Tramway, has advised that both Tram cabins are undergoing a comprehensive safety inspection. The tests began on Monday, July 28 and are scheduled to be completed by Friday, August 8. One Tram cabin must be taken out of service during the inspection, requiring a change to its operating schedule. Please visit our website (rioc.ny.gov) for an updated operating schedule.

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ROOSEVELT ISLAND DAY NURSERY

Serving Roosevelt Island families since 1979

Tot Lot, from page 1
structure intended for the 5-to-12-year-old set.

- Fixed the fence and gate surrounding the playground.
- Added signs on the gates asking users to keep them closed.

RIOC's responsiveness to some of the parents' concerns has been appreciated. But neither RIOC nor RIRA has addressed parents' main concern: *What happened to the promised replacement tot lot? When is RIOC going to make it official, and install signage that the new playground is for 5-to-12-year-olds — as most of the equipment states?* Emails to RIOC and RIRA have gone unanswered.

Parent Needs
The Roosevelt Island Parents' Network has asked parents what they want. Most requested are:

- Age-appropriate equipment for toddlers.
 - More swings.
 - A toddler-only play area.
- That last request stems from a belief that it is much safer for smaller kids to be in playgrounds with children near their own age, away from older kids who play rougher, run faster, and may not be aware of the risks to smaller children. KidsHealth.org recommends that "Younger children should not play on equipment designed for older kids because the equipment sizes and proportions won't be right for small kids, and this can lead to injury. Likewise, older kids shouldn't play on equipment designed for younger ones. Smaller equipment and spaces can cause problems for bigger kids."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year more than 200,000 children 14 and younger make a trip to the emergency room with playground-related injuries. Over 8,000 of those are under two years of age.

Parents also cite a liability issue. Even if older children were excluded from the existing playground to reduce the danger to the little ones, playground manufacturers have not deemed this apparatus appropriate for those under five. If a three-year-old is injured, there would be no recourse against the manufacturer.

The overall complaint? A tot lot was promised, and what was provided is not a tot lot.

The Island View, 1978



GUS CHRISTENSEN

Democrat ★ Assembly

Dear Residents of Roosevelt Island,

My name is Gus Christensen and I would be honored to represent you in Albany. I am a proud progressive with a concrete vision for making New York into a city where middle class families and seniors can live comfortably and securely. I will fight for affordable housing, for good jobs, and for investment in our local public schools and in our mass transit systems. I will also fight to insure that Roosevelt Island gets the representation and respect that it deserves from Albany. I hope that you and your fellow voters will choose me on September 9th.

I am a lifelong New Yorker and a passionate advocate for our community. I serve as President of the Lenox Hill Democratic Club and as a director on several non-profit boards, including the New York Landmarks Conservancy, which has been integrally involved in the preservation of historic structures on Roosevelt Island such as the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

We need to fight to keep Roosevelt Island an affordable bastion for the middle class. Albany needs to get more actively and productively involved in dealing with the exodus of island buildings from the Mitchell-Lama program, focusing on the interests of residents as well as the preservation of as much affordable housing as possible. Given the island's small size and limited commercial business community, RIOC needs to be more financially supportive of local community activities, such as the arts and athletics.

I believe my background and my abilities uniquely prepare me to overcome the hurdles we face. Together, we can achieve better jobs for working New Yorkers, we can preserve and create more affordable housing, and we can build a better New York, where seniors, working families and the middle class can all live with dignity, and where all of our children have the same opportunity to succeed.

I hope to have your vote this fall and to earn the honor of representing you in Albany.

Sincerely,



Gus Christensen



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COMING UP

— Continuing Events & Activities —

A listing of **repeating** meetings & events

(See page 3 for other events scheduled for this weekend and in coming weeks.)

ART EXHIBITS

Camera, Brush, and Chisel, exhibition of **painting and sculpture** by RIVAA member artists, Gallery RIVAA. 527 Main St. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm **Tue & Thu** 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm. Through Sun Sep 7.

Bonnie Sherk’s ***A Living Library*** on Roosevelt Island exhibits in **FOODshed, Art and Agriculture in Action**, Smack Mellon Gallery, 92 Plymouth St. at Washington, Brooklyn. Info: smackmellon.org.

Bonnie Sherk’s ***A Living Library*** on Roosevelt Island exhibits in ***Vegetation as a Political Agent***, Parco Arte Viviente, Centro Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy. Through November 2. Info: alivinglibrary.org.

PARKS

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

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

FDR Four Freedoms Park open **daily** 9am-7pm. **Closed Tue.**

CLASSES

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

MUSIC (listed Sat-Fri)

Jazz Salon, 1st Sun (except Jul-Aug) 5-7pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. \$5 donation.

Drum lessons for 5th-9th-graders, **Tue & Thu** 3:30-5:30pm, Youth Center, 506 Main St. Info: Call **212-527-2505** or email info@RooseveltIslandYouthProgram.com.

Piano lessons for 5th-9th-graders, **Wed & Fri** 3:30-5:30pm, Youth Center, 506 Main St. Info: Call **212-527-2505** or email info@RooseveltIslandYouthProgram.com.

EXERCISE & SPORTS (alphabetical)

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

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

Bike New York Pop-up Bike Shop, **Sat** 10am-2pm, under helix, through September.

Pilates with Karen, **Tue & Thu** 7:15pm; **Wed** 8:45am, 10am; **Fri** 9am, 10am; **Sat** 10am. Info 212-750-6223.

Pilates, **Wed & Fri** 6:30-7:30pm, PS/IS217. Free.

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

RI Moms on the Move walk and exercise program, **Fri** 11am, Visitor Kiosk in Tramway Plaza. Free. To confirm time: Eva.Bosbach@gmail.com.

Sportspark extended hours (ages 16-25), **Fri-Sat** 9pm-midnight. Weight-lifting and basketball. Free. **Note:** *ID and proof of Island residency are now required.*

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

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

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

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

Yoga (Hatha/Vinyasa), **Mon** 10am, Four Freedoms Park.** Lauren Blankstein / Keren Messer.

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 (Prana Vinyasa Flow) for kids, **Thu** 5pm, Four Freedom Park.** Jax Schott.

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

Yoga, **Fri** 6pm, Four Freedoms Park.** Keren Messer / Lauren Blankstein.

Yoga, **Sat** 9:45am, Four Freedoms Park.** Jax Schott.

(**Free for members and children under 12; \$5 for non-members.)

Zumba, **Mon** 6:30-7:30 and 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. (Replaced with Pilates until new instructor is found.)

BIRTH THROUGH TODDLER (listed Sat-Fri)

Mommy and Me Swim Classes (0-3yrs), **Sun** 11-11:30am through Sep 21, **Wed** 10:30-11am, through Sep 17.

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

Baby Playtime (0-18 mo), **Mon** 11am, Library.

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.

Toddler Play Time (18-36 mo), **Wed** 11:30am, Library.

Island Kids Baby Group (0-14 mo), **Thu** 10:30-11:30am, 536 Main St. Info: IslandKidsRI@gmail.com.

Movies for Toddlers, **Thu** 11am, Library.

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

OLDER KIDS (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**, 10-11:30am, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. \$10 suggested donation; materials supplied. No reservation required.

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.

Free Summer Meals for kids continues **Mon-Fri** through **Aug 29** 8-9:15am & 11am-1:15pm, PS/IS 217.

Teen Time (ages 13-18), **Mon-Fri** 3pm, Library.

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.

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

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

Crafts, **Thu** 11am & 3pm, Library

Reading Aloud (children), **Fri** 3:30pm, Library.

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

SENIORS (also see page 16)

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 Center.

Book Discussion, **3rd Thu** 6:30-8pm, Library.

OFFICE HOURS

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

Constituent Service Hours for State Senator Jose Serrano and/or staff, **Tue**, alternating between Senior Center, 11:30am-2:30pm, and Library, 3-6pm, beginning Jun 24 at the Library. Info: 212-828-5829.

Constituent Service Hours for City Councilmember Ben Kallos, **1st Wed** 4-7pm, Senior Center, 546 Main St.

OTHER

Clinic on Housing Law, **first & third Mon** 3-6pm, district office of City Councilmember Ben Kallos, 244 E. 93rd St. RSVP and questions to 212-860-1950 or RSVP@BenKallos.com.

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

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**.

Roosevelt Landings Gets Energy Retrofit

by Briana Warsing

Roosevelt Landings has gotten a green retrofit that includes installation of energy-efficient boilers, a combined heat and power plant (co-generation), and other energy-saving measures. It’s not just climate-change chatter. Residents get concrete benefits, according to owner Urban American. They now have programmable thermostats and heat control.

And, because of this new technology, Roosevelt Landings would not go dark in the case of another hurricane or blackout.

The project is expected to reduce the Roosevelt Landings energy consumption by at least 20%, provide back-up electricity for critical systems, and reduce carbon emissions by 750 metric tons of pollutants each year.

Late in June, the owners marked the retrofit in a reception held outside in the building’s amphitheatre, then had a ceremonial power-on and lunch.

“We know that climate change is real, and we know there are things we can do to stop it in its tracks,” said David Davenport, Principal of Urban Greenfit. “This is a special day for me,” he added, “because it’s the culmination of over five years of work here.” He listed benefits that include energy efficiency, job creation, and resident comfort, as well as the building of a new busienss enterprise that presents win-win opportunities for owners, residents, workers, and the environment.

Borough President Gale Brewer said, “Our planet needs attention, and folks need to understand how to have less of a carbon footprint.”

Islander Is Mentor of the Year

Islander Ginny Pulos is New York Women in Communications’ Mentor of the Year. She received the award May 20 at the group’s annual meeting.

Pulos was nominated by Robin Beck, a recent Columbia graduate, who credited her with “the reason I have the job I do today.” She also said, “Ginny Pulos made my problems her problems and my blessings her blessings. It’s like I found a storytelling instructor, a finishing coach, and a confidante all at once. She taught me to replace the words ‘I think, I hope, I feel’ with ‘I know, I believe, I am’ when communicating my ideas. I am lucky to call her my mentor and friend.”

In accepting the award, Ms. Pulos said, “I love giving women tools they need to succeed at any age or stage. The best thing we can do is to succeed by helping others find their own success.

Pulos specializes in presentation and persuasion skills, and team-building in corporate environments. She offers one-on-one coaching in communication skills, media training, hot-seat Q&A, and storytelling. She’s served on the board of the Women in Communications organization.



Cornell Column, from page 3

Island organizations and businesses who contributed to this day and made it so special. Everyone had something unique to offer that day. Among the many healthy food and fitness activities was the “smoothie bike” that Cornell University Cooperative Extension 4-H-ers demonstrated – energy expended by the rider runs a blender that makes a smoothie. Participants got a little exercise and were immediately rewarded with a smoothie of their own making! It was amazing to see such enthusiasm among young and old alike, who walked away wearing Cornell Tech pedometers and counting their steps to a healthier life. And I was one of many who took a lesson in hands-only CPR, sponsored by Weill Cornell’s Clinical and Translational Science Center and the Perelman Heart Institute. More than 100 people were trained in this life-saving technique. Hats off to the American Heart Association and the Roosevelt Island CERT organization for coordinating so much of this effort.

Barging

As demolition on the campus is well under way, I wanted to provide an update on our barging efforts. As you know, at the beginning of the year we launched the largest voluntary barging operation in New York City. I’m sure many of you have seen the barge arriving at and leaving the Island on the east side of the construction site. I am very happy to report that, through our aggressive use of barging, we have avoided over 1,500 truck trips to-date, and that number is growing every week.

Finally, on a personal note, it is with mixed emotions that I inform you that this will be my last *WIRE* column. Recently, I accepted a position as president of Paul Smith’s College, located close to Lake Placid in upstate New York. I treasure the friendships I have made on Roosevelt Island, and will miss living here. But I’m not worried about our campus development – we have a wonderful team of people who are fully committed to Cornell Tech being a great addition to the Island. I will be watching their progress, and keeping abreast of all the Roosevelt Island news from afar. Many thanks to all of you for making me feel so welcome, and please look me up if you are ever in the beautiful Adirondack region.

unClassifieds

50¢ a word • 212-751-8214
unClassified deadline for August 30 issue: Tuesday, August 26
unClassified deadline for September 13 issue: Tuesday, September 9
Please see *ComingUp*, page 3, for other advertising deadlines

INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENT
– Medicare, Life, Retirement. Ilya Gurevich, **917-407-1797**. thru Sep 14

EXPERT PIANO TUNING – and repairs by Marty (the Island tuner). **646-321-2399**.

CHESS INSTRUCTOR – Island resident, 10 years experience. Children & adults, beginners & intermediate. Free consultation. Moderate rates: 2-hour lesson \$30. **212-750-9087** thru 8/3/14

PLAY BRIDGE NOW – Learn, or improve your game on R.I. Enjoy. Fran **212-877-8046**.

MATH TUTORING by experienced teacher living on the Island. Call **212-829-1406**. thru June/14

CLASSICAL PIANO with Irene. Read music. It's logical fun! **917-655-0028** to May 1

LICENSED ACUPUNCTURIST – Experienced in pain management, chronic conditions, depression. Please call Anne Kanninen L.Ac. **917-282-7328**.

EXPERIENCED MATH TUTOR – All levels. I.B. Program, S.A.T. Exams. Email lucreciasimonutti@hotmail.com or phone **917-280-4909**. Roosevelt Island. thru 3/22/14

Senior Center

Monday
10:00 Zumba
11:00 Computers
5:00 Brain & Body Stretch

Tuesday
10:20 Shoppers' Bus
10:30 Building Strength
11:00 Blood Pressure
1:00 Paint & Sculpt

Wednesday
9:30 Yoga Stretch
10:20 Shoppers' Bus
10:30 Salsa
10:45 CPR Training (1st Wed, monthly)
11:00 Social Media for Seniors: Facebook, Instagram, Photos, more
10:45 Spanish
12:00 Bridge
1:30 Scrabble
6:00-8:00 Computer Lab

Thursday
9:15 Pilates with Ivette
10:30 Zumba
10:45 Ping Pong
12:00 Movie
1:00-2:30 Theatre tickets at discount prices; see Rema or Annie
3:00 Computer Basics (Library)

Friday
9:00 Building Strength
10:30 Computers
10:30 ESL
10:30 Tai Chi
12:00 Korean Exercise
1:00 Korean Games
2:00 Art with John
2:00 Pokeno with Dolores
7:00 Games (RISA)

Special Events
Flea Market, Sat Aug 2, 10am-4pm, Good Shepherd Plaza (see Pilar)
Flea Market, Sat Aug 9, 10am-4pm, Good Shepherd Plaza (see Pilar)
Showboat Casino, Sat Aug 16. Contact Bubu or Pilar Mon-Fri 10am-noon.
Flea Market, Sat Aug 23, 10am-4pm, Good Shepherd Plaza (see Pilar)
Senior Day, Sun Oct 19 – details to come

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RIRA Column, from page 3 concern include the expansion of the Island's population as the remaining Southtown towers come on line, the accelerated crumbling of the Island's infrastructure, and the environmental hazards and community well-being at risk, as the Cornell project marches toward Phase I completion. Do you have an interest in collectively solving these, and many other, Island issues? If so, I hope that you will run for a seat on the Common Council. If you have questions about what it means to serve on the Council, how to run for a seat, or how to get more involved, please do not hesitate to reach out to your current Building Representative, or to me at president@riraonline.com.

Finally, I invite all of you to tune to the Manhattan News Network (Time Warner channel 34, RCN 82, FiOS 33) on Thursday, August 7, at 9:30 p.m. to view Part II of an interview, by former RIRA President Ellen Polivy, of Larry Parnes and me as co-chairs of Community Board 8's Roosevelt Island Committee. We discuss the issues that we believe the Island faces in the near and distant futures in the context of New York City as a whole, and how we believe that we, as a community, can start solving them. For Part I of the series, go to tinyurl.com/cb8ri.

Have a question or issue you would like to discuss? Email me at president@riraonline.com. And be sure to say hello when you are out and about. And have a very happy rest of your summer!



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Gallery RIVAA’s Summer Continues With Reception Tonight

Review by David Stone

It’s a summer tradition at Gallery RIVAA (street level, 527 Main Street) that members mount a two-step effort to bring out their best recent work for public viewing. The exhibitions accommodate the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association’s growing roster of artists by presenting two month-long shows, the first featuring photography, the second focused on painting, with RIVAA’s sculptors contributing to both.

Part two of *Camera, Brush and Chisel* opens with a public reception 6:00-9:00 p.m. today (Saturday, August 2). On display through September 7, the *Brush* segment will include works by the association’s internationally recognized painters Ioan Popoiu, Georgette Sinclair, and Valeriu Boborelu.

Known for their abstract expressionist canvases, Popoiu and Boborelu typically fill the gallery’s walls with dramatic statements about spirituality and transcendental relationship in nature. Sinclair is more direct and may be more accessible, with her popular series of pastels, mostly of scenes that linger in rural landscapes inspired by her developmental years as an emerging artist in Romania.

Reliably, Toshiko Kitano Groner will light up a section with her colorist still lifes. In recent years, Groner’s deftness with rich hues has been enhanced by growing skills in original composition.

Laura Hussey continues her large-scale captures of Mediterranean scenes, considering most often a community of women at ease in Grecian gardens, at home in a universe without technology where nature provides a reassuring backdrop.

RIVAA’s prolific Esther Piaskowski can be relied on for something original and easy to love. As a visual artist who has mastered painting as well as photography, she’s a consistent bridge in this wide-ranging group of local artists.

Deepti Shukla has added an Asian inspiration to recent exhibits. Her work is complexly designed and vibrant with joy, her images woven with skillful subtleties of color and texture.

Watch for work from RIVAA founder and guiding spirit Arline Jacoby, longtime leader Tad Sudol, and Rachel Garrick, who surprises with a continuing series of high-spirited images that tickle the imagination.

Judging by the *Camera* segment that closed last weekend, there will be surprises. For those who missed the show that opened with a crowded reception on June 21, here’s a quick overview of what was missed.

Newcomer Ashwani Agrawal offered two photographs. *Harmony* is a simple statement about the balance between manmade structures awash in the balancing revisions of the ocean, while *Blessings* is more richly realized in color and design.

A pleasant surprise was Mircea Nicolescu’s artful presentation of three black-and-white photographs. Better known for street photography, Nicolescu showed visitors an innovative eye for the interplay of light, shadow, and texture, and how each contributes to artistic composition. His deceptively simple *Steps* made especially good use of the medium.

In a series of photos, *World Within the World*, Alexander Movshovich continued his discovery of unseen realities that can be as beautiful as they are intriguing. In *Through the Glass*, with its unexplained feet resting in space, he adds humor to his arsenal.

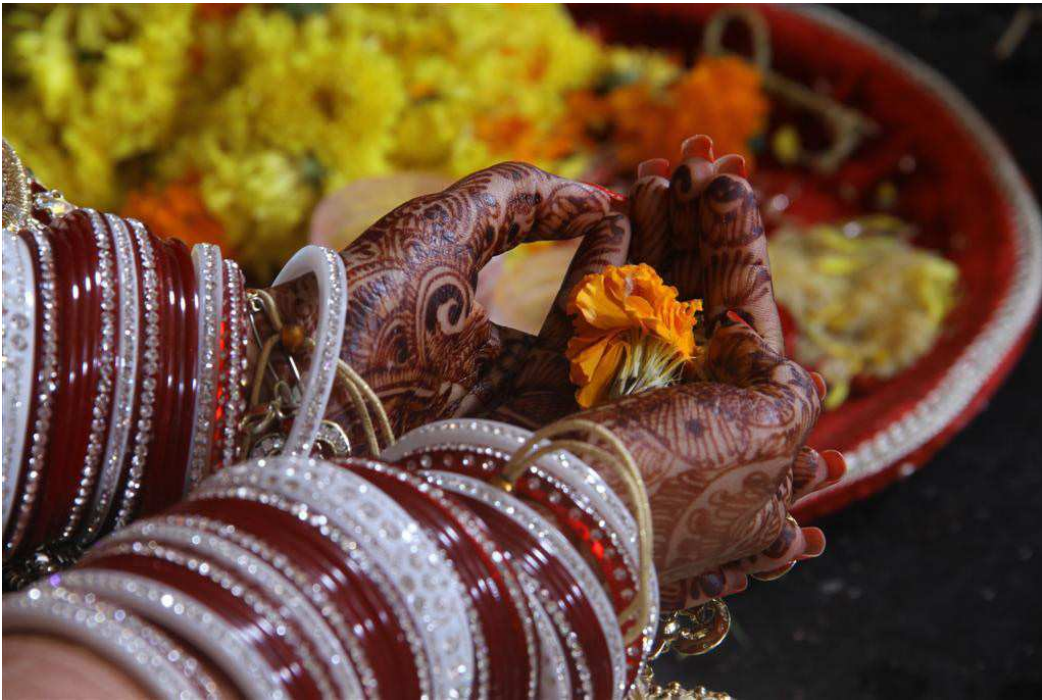
Anne-Marie C. Dannenberg innovated with *Museum Series*, studies of visitors captured looking at art in galleries, reflecting the relationships implied, while Esther Piaskowski’s *Wandering II* gave visitors a haunting consideration of the autumnal interweaving of trees above the Writers Walk in Central Park.

Anyone who missed the *Camera* show can take consolation in the continuity of sculptures that will carry over artwork from Victoria Thorson and Ioan Popoiu.

Thorson’s *May Pole* is an elegant, upsweeping design of wood and steel that charms with simple abstract beauty. Don’t miss it and more pieces from her, along with Popoiu’s *Stuck in Time*, a smart statement in wood and plexiglass.

As always, the artists of RIVAA invite the community to join them in today’s opening reception, with an opportunity to meet many of them who will be on hand to talk and listen to comments from visitors.

Admission is free at all times. The gallery is open Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-5:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday 6:00-9:00 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



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Ner Shel Sha-bos Ko-desh.

Translation: Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the uni-
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