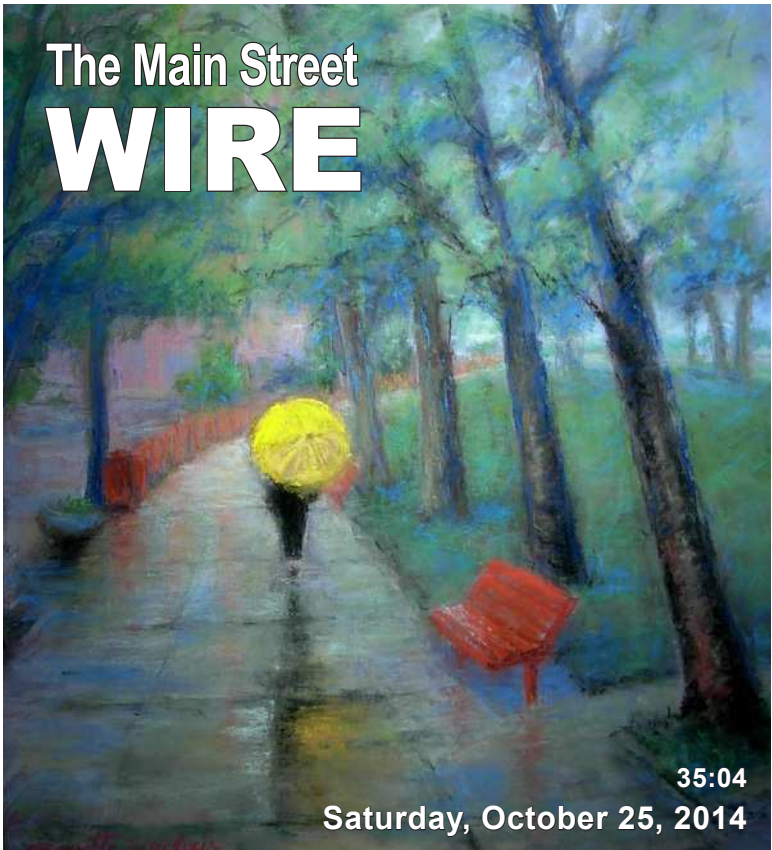




This depiction of a rainy day on Roosevelt Island is typical of Georgette Sinclair’s dreamy pastels. More on page 14.

Islanders

Romania to America, Audiologist to Artist

by David Stone

Georgette Sinclair has just described overcoming the challenges and hardships of leaving her home in Romania to settle in this country. She concludes, “I always say, ‘God bless America.’” Today, an artist known best for pastel landscapes, she dreams of simplifying her dual careers. Although she enjoys her work as an audiologist, she’d give it up to be a painter full time. But not long ago, she was too preoccupied with the struggle to support herself and her children to think about choices. Adopted at age two by a carpenter and his wife in Alba-Iulia, a town in the Transylvania region of Romania, her inner artist first took shape when she spontaneously began drawing her father’s tools. As her skills increased, her father asked a local artist, for whom he made frames, to look at her pictures. “My dad took me to the artist’s studio,” Sinclair recalls. “It was the first studio I saw in my life, and I still have that image so fresh in my mind, like it was yesterday. I was so impressed by the size of the paintings he was working on, by the smell of the paints and abundance of colors, that, in that moment, I wished I lived there forever.” That artist became her mentor, giving her assignments and allowing her to spend free time in his studio, observing. By age 13, she was doing portraits of the people in her neighborhood, and a year after that, her parents scraped together money to get her private lessons with an elderly Roman Catholic nun. In a communist country, Sister Margaret was not allowed a pension. She lived in a tiny apartment that also served as studio and classroom.

See Sinclair, page 14



Photo: Esther Cohen

Islander Suffers Fatal Injuries in Bicycling Encounter with a Red Bus

by Briana Warsing

Shortly after 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8, 29-year-old Anna Maria Mostrom was riding her bike northbound on Main Street. A southbound Red Bus turned left to enter the turnaround beneath the Motorgate garage. They collided, and Mostrom was fatally injured.

Mostrom, a two-year resident of The Octagon, was a career model (obituary, page 5). She had owned her bike for 14 months.

Because an investigation continues, more specific facts are unknown. It appears that this incident, like the hate crime that occurred here earlier this summer, was not recorded, although a relatively new Island-wide camera system has been installed, and is supposed to be working 24

Organizations Focus on Island Bike Safety

page 5

hours a day.

Streetsblog reported that the 51-year-old driver was neither intoxicated nor talking on his cell phone at the time of the accident. He has not been charged.

Other reporting of the incident has been spotty and conflicted. *The New York Post* reports that Mostrom “crash[ed] into the bumper of a bus making a left-hand turn at around 9:18 p.m.” But *The Daily News* says that “a bus making a left turn struck her, causing her to fall and sustain serious brain injuries.”

The only witness who has stepped forward is a RIRA Common Council member, Lynne Strong Shinozaki. She says, “I was on the opposite side of the street, between 2-4 River Road and 10 River Road.



I didn’t see [Mostrom]. But I saw the bus start to make the turn. It wasn’t going fast. I didn’t notice anything out of the ordinary until I See Mostrom, page 5

Residents Vote November 4

Island’s Residents Association Once Again Facing a Watershed Election

analysis by Dick Lutz

Is there ever a Residents Association election that is not at a crossroads of some sort? For those close to the Island’s politics, they all seem important, but the significance of the November 4 balloting in the Common Council election is probably best illustrated by the first words of RIRA President Jeffrey Escobar’s statement of candidacy (page 8):

“Infighting. Internal politics. Organizational power struggles.”

Escobar goes on to describe the RIRA Common Council that he took over from Ellen Polivy, who had resigned in the second half of her two-year term. “[W]hat I had inherited was a dispirited and self-involved body that was representative of no one except itself... [that] seemed to have lost both its way and its community goodwill.”

Escobar writes that his goals were simple: “[T]o bring stability to a house that had come unglued, to inject a sense of professionalism and community pride in those sitting members who chose to remain on the Common Council, to restore legitimacy back to the work of the Common Council, and to right the ship so that the new Common Council – the one that is being elected this year – would have a vehicle and foundation to be successful in its coming term.”

Near Future

The two-year term of the RIRA Common Council that will be elected a week from Tuesday will run to November 2016. When it ends, Cornell NYC Tech is likely to be within weeks of opening and occupying its campus on the property now being cleared south of the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge. That will unquestionably be a watershed moment for the residents of Roosevelt Island, the Island’s governmental structure, its infrastructure, and the only body that speaks for Island residents – the Residents Association. Anyone who’s lived in a college town knows what “town / gown” means. While some residents worry about the changes that are coming, it is likely to be the Residents Association’s Common Council that will have the opportunity – and the pressure – to deal with those changes and to have at least some opportunity to manage the consequences.

Without even thinking about it, those experienced in dealing with the Island’s unwieldy structure of

governance know that the legitimacy of the Common Council depends not only on how it behaves, but also on election turnout. In short, residents must endorse their Residents Association by voting in the election. That gives RIRA the backing to speak for Islanders with a unified voice.

Voting

Most residents will vote at PS/IS 217 – in the same building but separate from the governmental elections occurring at the same time. (Residents of The Octagon

will vote at Coler Hospital in the governmental elections, but within The Octagon for the RIRA election.)

Non-citizen residents of Roosevelt Island over 18 years of age can vote in the RIRA election. It’s essential to bring a photo ID and some clear indication of age and Island residency to the polls. No advance registration is required.

On November 4, polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Results will be posted on Main StreetWIRE.com shortly after the polls close.

Candidates Registered for RIRA Posts at Press Time

President

Jeffrey Escobar

Vice President

Sherie Helstien
Mridul Pathak

Common Council (42 seats)

Island House (3)

Rossana Ceruzzi
John Dougherty
Frank Farance
Andrew Giacalone
Adib Mansour
Mihaela Preradovic

Manhattan Park (8)

Ilonka Salisbury
Lynne Shinozaki
Steven White

2 River Road (1)

no candidates registered

4 River Road (1)

Jim Bates

The Octagon (5)

Jeffrey Escobar
Andrea Jones
Anthony Longo

Rivercross (3)

Ashton Barfield
Ethel Romm

Riverwalk (Southtown) (9)

Janet Falk
Aaron Hamburger
Mickey Rindler
Melissa Wade

546 Main Street (2)

Susana del Campo Perea

Roosevelt Landings (7)

Shirley Coley
Joyce Short

Westview (3)

Erin Feely-Nahem
David Lawson
Susan Marcus
Mridul Pathak

Briefly...

• **RIRA Election** – Expect to be away on voting day, November 4? You can vote in the RIRA Common Council election by absentee ballot. All Roosevelt Island residents 18 and over can vote, regardless of citizenship or voter registration. See page 6 and call Aaron Hamburger at 212-758-2623.

• **Photo Contest** – The October 31 deadline in the Four Freedoms Park photo contest is one week away. For information on how to submit your favorite shot of the park, check tinyurl.com/4FPphotoContest.

• **Motogate Turnaround** – Giving construction as the reason, RIOC has closed the Red Bus turnaround at Motorgate “until further notice.” Southbound buses will stop across Main Street at 10 River Road.

• **Choosing a Kindergarten** – The Roosevelt Island Parents Network (RIPN) has a program for Islanders anticipating picking a kindergarten – a panel discussion on Sunday, November 2, among parents who’ve had experience with the process. There’s a lot to consider: various kindergarten situations, including public and private schools, the application process and deadlines, and such factors as the commute, finances, deadlines, preparation and testing, and available resources. An RSVP is required for the 4:00 p.m. session. Email michalmelamed@yahoo.com.

The Editorial Page

Let’s Put RIRA Back On Track With a Heavy Turnout November 4

What is to become of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) and its Common Council?

The past two years have been difficult for the Council. Ellen Polivy, as its President, had a hard time keeping meetings on track. Troublesome members took advantage of that situation to bicker. There were attacks on some members – particularly women – over relatively meaningless deviations from one member’s narrow notion of moral and financial rectitude. Having signed up to serve, they left in self-defense when abuse greatly outweighed the opportunities for service.

The Council’s meetings sometimes degenerated into debate about debate rather than discussion of goals and their implementation. Residents were getting short-changed. Some building delegates quit in disgust. The usual number left for other reasons – they moved away from the Island, or just drifted away from the Council.

It wasn’t all bad, but it was bad.

Amazingly, a quorum stayed, and it wasn’t just to be witnesses to the train wreck. They remained in their seats, meeting after meeting, to hold things together. When Polivy resigned, no longer willing to be stampeded and trampled, her choice of a vice presidential running mate back in 2012 proved a saving grace: Jeff Escobar took over and tightened up the meetings with a strong hand, and rancor was sent to cool in a neutral corner, or to retreat to intra-Council email quarrels.

Former RIRA President Matthew Katz has observed that “every Council is different” (MainStreetWIRE.com), and it’s likely that new members, mixed with the more rational and productive of the old hands, will produce a renewed sense of purpose in the Common Council’s approach to Island affairs.

Or so we must all hope.

The Cuomo Factor

Roosevelt Island is being ignored in Albany. Bold leadership has gone away to hide from possible bad press, as Andrew Cuomo tries to avoid anything even mildly controversial, and anything else that looks less than presidential. It’s hard to know whether Andrew is trying to avoid his father’s mistakes on the rocky road to the White House, or just determined to invent his own mistakes.

That path – the one to the presidency – is not open to the timid.

Meanwhile, democracy for Roosevelt Island has been kicked off-track. We’re not big enough to matter to Cuomo, who has a whole state-full of potential critics to hide from. Despite nominating elections here, the only appointment he’s made to the RIOC Board of Directors was an off-Islander who resigned in an overnight purge at The Child School.

That makes it all the more important that the Roosevelt Island Residents Association be seen clearly as the voice of the people of Roosevelt Island. That means, in turn, that a strong voter turnout is needed on Tuesday, November 4. Every single vote adds weight to RIRA’s rightful claim to speak for all of us, and to speak to power with the backing of those who live in this community.

So, please: Listen as people campaign in your building for seats on the Common Council, and then vote. A record turnout, vote by vote, will mean much in revalidating RIRA as your representative.

And then, cross your fingers and say a small prayer that the RIRA Common Council will find ways to be more rational, more cohesive, more effective, more united, and more representative of you and everyone else on the Island.

DL

Last Saturday, October 18, a memorial service was held at the Swedish Church on East 48th Street for our beloved Octagon neighbor and fellow Islander, Anna Maria Mostrom. As many of you know, Anna Maria had been in a tragic accident with one of our Red Buses and, in the blink of an eye, her life – a light to so many – was put out. Our prayers and thoughts are with her family as they struggle with this tragedy. Sadly, it is times like these that cause all of us to pause in our crazy and busy lives, to sit back and take stock of all that we have, the family members that we love, and the community that surrounds us. It is also, unfortunately, tragic events like these that cause us to reflect on what we could have done individually, as neighbors, and as a community to prevent what happened.

As the popularity and necessity for bike transportation grows, and as the size of our community grows, RIRA will be taking a closer look at how the accident that led to Anna Maria’s death, as well as other bike and pedestrian injuries and deaths, can be prevented. Just as the City has enacted the Vision Zero initiative, aimed at preventing pedestrian-motorist accidents, I will be asking the new RIRA Common Council to undertake a similar initiative, working with local community and bike advocacy groups, to find ways to stop such accidents from happening here. Motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians, young and old, should feel safe and confident that walking, riding, and motoring on our streets will never result in injury or an accident; and the only way that can happen is if we come together as a community to find a mutually agreeable way that we can all share and enjoy the roads together.

RIRA Election

As stated above, it will be the new RIRA Common Council that will be charged with this initiative, and it will be up to you as a member of RIRA – which each and every one of us becomes when we become a resident of this Island – to decide who will be part of the new Common Council. As we have stated in this column and elsewhere before, the election of those who will represent your interests on the Council is coming fast. On Tuesday, November 4, each of you will have a chance to directly elect those who will sit on the Council and undertake such initiatives, as well as so many

The RIRA Column

more that directly impact our lives as Island residents. But who are these candidates? In the coming week, you will have a town-meeting opportunity to see and question those who have chosen to run for seats representing your building. This is a rare opportunity, not only to participate in a direct election and to see the democratic process in action, but to pose the difficult questions that affect our community to the candidates. I encourage you to attend your building’s Meet the Candidates event (schedule below), and not to hold anything back as you evaluate the candidates.



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

Candidates Nights

- Rivercross, Island House, and Westview** – Tuesday, October 28, 8:00 p.m., Westview Community Room, 625 Main Street.
- Manhattan Park**, including 2-4 and 10-40 River Road – Tuesday, October 28, 8:00 p.m., Manhattan Park Community Room, 4 River Road.
- Candidates for Island-wide offices** (President and Vice-President) – Wednesday, October 29, 8:00 p.m., Good Shepherd Center.
- Riverwalk (Southtown)** – Thursday, October 30, 8:00 p.m., Party Room, 455 Main Street.
- Roosevelt Landings** – Thursday, October 30, 8:00 p.m., Senior Center, 546 Main Street.
- The Octagon** – Thursday, October 30, 8:00 p.m., Lobby Art Gallery, 888 Main Street.

As I have always said, the choice to run and to become part of the Common Council is the ultimate in community service, and to each of the candidates who have put themselves out there, the best of luck. If the slate of candidates is any indication, the next administration and Common Council looks to be a promising one, though facing a challenging term ahead. I have every confidence, however, that whoever is given the honor of representing our community will be successful.

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

Halloween Parade Extravaganza

Today, Roosevelt Island’s annual Halloween Parade Extravaganza will take place on Main Street beginning at 12:00 noon at Blackwell Park (500 Main Street). This event is sponsored by Urban American, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, and the Roosevelt Island Youth Center, with contributions from Island House, Westview, Rivercross, Cornell Tech, the Roosevelt Island Seniors Association, The Octagon, and the Roosevelt Island Explorers. The parade begins at Blackwell Park and travels up Main Street, culminating in a community celebration at Capobianco Field. In the event of inclement weather, the festivities will be moved to PS/IS 217. Every year, hundreds of Roosevelt Island families come out to watch and take part in this tradition, showcasing their creative costumes, playing games, and enjoying the holiday in a safe and fun way. Come visit the RIOC/ Public Safety tent for take-home art projects, a chance to win prizes, and Halloween safety gear and tips! On behalf of everyone here at the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, I wish you a safe and happy Halloween.

Bicycling on the Island

Last Tuesday, October 14, members of RIOC’s staff conducted a walkthrough of the Island’s roadways with several representatives from Bike New York. In the near future, the cycling nonprofit will provide us with a list of suggestions for possible upgrades or changes to the Island’s streets. As we move forward, RIOC will continue to assess our current transportation infrastructure and will evaluate the need for specific changes to the Island’s striping, signage, and roadways. Our number one priority is the safety of everyone on our streets, whether they be pedestrians, cyclists, or motorists.

Over the past year, Bike New York has been working with RIOC to run a specialized bike safety and education program specifically tailored to the needs

The RIOC Column

of Roosevelt Island residents. This program, which focuses on providing free educational classes and amenities to cyclists in the community, is sponsored entirely by the Saks Kavanaugh Foundation. The Foundation founders, Betty Saks and Bart Kavanaugh, are New Yorkers and avid cyclists. Their foundation’s mission is to promote health and wellness, with a special focus on “movement” and the important role it can play in the lives of children. RIOC has been working closely with Bike New York and the Saks Kavanaugh Foundation to bring bike education, bike safety, and bike programs year-round to Roosevelt Island.

As an expansion of their current educational efforts, Bike New York has been working with our Transportation Department to develop specialized road safety classes, which will focus on sharing the road with motorists as well as basic safety practices. The classes will be provided for our bus drivers and other vehicle operators. In addition, Bike New York will be designing classes specifically for Roosevelt Island residents that address the unique transportation situations and conditions that may arise on our roads and promenades.

In addition to adding classes, Bike New York is expanding its ongoing awareness campaign to include further educational efforts. Look for Bike New York representatives in your building and door-drops of educational materials, along with increased outreach efforts in our local schools. As we move forward, we also plan to involve Cornell Tech in an effort to create



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

See RIOC Column, next page

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

Halloween Carnival, Fri Oct 24 3-6pm, PS/IS 217 schoolyard. \$12/child; children under 3 free; adults accompanying children free.

Submit RIRA Common Council nomination forms by **Fri Oct 24** 9pm, at Public Safety (550 Main St.).

No subway service to Manhattan, Fri Oct 24 11:15pm to Mon Oct 27 5am.

Bike New York Pop-Up Bike Shop last day, **Sat Oct 25**, 10am-2pm.

Halloween Parade, Sat Oct 25 12noon, Blackwell House, followed by rides, games, food, and merri-ment at Capobianco Field. Sponsored by Urban American, the Roosevelt Island Youth Program, and RIOC. (Rain location: PS/IS 217.)

Opening Reception for *The Diary*, a one-person exhibition of Christian Paraschiv (1964-2014) sponsored by the Romanian Cultural Institute, **Sat Oct 25** 6-9pm, Gallery RIVAA. Show runs through Nov 16. Gallery hours Wed & Fri 6-9pm, Sat-Sun 11am-5pm.

Four Freedoms Park Guided Tours, Sat Oct 25 11am, 1pm, 3pm, for 2nd anniversary of dedication ceremony. Info: FDRFourFreedomsPark.org. Free.

Hands-Only CPR Training starts, **Sun Oct 26**, 5:45pm, Good Shepherd Center, 543 Main St. Continues fourth Sun of every month through Oct 2015.



— Regularly Scheduled Meetings and Events —

See separate listing, page 8.

— The Next Two Weeks —

Absentee Ballots available for the RIRA election, **Mon Oct 27-Sat Nov 1**. Call 212-758-2623. (See page 8.)

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

Test openings of Roosevelt Island Bridge, Tue Oct 28 10am-2pm; delays of 8-10 minutes.

Women's Health Organization (RIWHO) meets – Dr. Ani Kalayjian of Columbia University, **Wed Oct 29** 6:30pm, 12th floor, 546 Main St. Violence, especially against women, and a Seven-Step Integrative Healing Model. Men welcome for this seminar. Info: kindredheart2@Verizon.net.

FDR Four Freedoms Park Second Annual Photo Contest deadline, **Thu Oct 31** 11:59pm. Send your best shot to park@fdrffp.org.

Superhero Birthday Party for CPR training, **Sat Nov 1**, 2-4 River Rd. Learn hands-only CPR, free, and celebrate a superhero's birthday. RSVP required. Info: RlCprHandsOnly@hotmail.com.



Workshop on Choosing a Kindergarten, Sun Nov 2 4pm, Sweet Shop, 559 Main St. Sponsored by Roosevelt Island Parents Network. Free. RSVP to MichalMelamed@yahoo.com.

General Election and Residents Association Election, Tue Nov 4, polls open 6am-9pm. Octagon votes at Coler Hospital; all others at PS/IS 217.

Hands-Only CPR Training starts, **Wed Nov 5**, 8pm, Senior Center, 546 Main St. Continues **first Wed** of every month through Oct 2015.



The Main Street WIRE— **Sat Nov 8**. Advertising deadlines: Display ads, Wed Oct 29; decision date for circulars/inserts, Tue Nov 4; 5,500 copies due Thu Nov 6. Future issues: Nov 22; Dec 13. 2015: Jan 10, 24; Feb 7, 21; Mar 7, 21; Apr 4, 18; May 2, 16, 30; Jun 13, 27; Aug 1; Sep 1, 15, 29; Sep 12, 26; Oct 10, 24; Nov 7, 21; Dec 12. News phone, 212-826-9056; urgent matters, 917-617-0449. Email press releases and feature-story suggestions to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net. Advertising (display & classified): 917-587-3278 or msWIREads@gmail.com.

Relay for Life meet & greet, **Sat Nov 8** 9am, Farmer's Market. Seeking volunteers for third annual Roosevelt Island event.

— Future Weeks —

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

Hands-Only CPR Training, Tue Nov 11, 8pm, 12th-floor Conference Room, 546 Main St. Continues second Tue of every month through 2015.

Historical Society Field Trip to the Fisher Landau Center for Art, Long Island City, **Thu Nov 13** 11:30am. Members \$25, others \$35. Reservations via RooseveltIslandHistory@gmail.com or 212-688-4826.

RI Community Coalition meeting and board election, **Thu Nov 13** 7pm, 12th-floor conference room, Senior Center, 546 Main St. Cornell update.

Women's Health Organization (RIWHO) meets, Wed Nov 19 6:30, 12th floor, 546 Main St.

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.

Cornell NYC Tech Town Hall Meeting, Mon Dec 8 6-8pm, Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd. Open to public.

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

Women's Health Organization (RIWHO) meets, **Wed Dec 17** 6:30, 12th floor, 546 Main St.

Book Discussion, Prague Winter by Madeline Albright, **Thu Dec 18** 6:30pm, Library.

A Christmas Story at Library Movie Night (adults), **Tue Dec 23** 6pm, Library.

— 2015 —

Book Discussion, Duty by Robert Gates, Thu Jan 15 6:30pm, Library.

Cornell Construction & Community Task Force quarterly meeting, **Mon Jan 26** 6-8pm, 12th floor meeting room, 546 Main St. Open to public.

Book Discussion, Beautiful Mystery by Louise Penny, **Thu Feb 19**



RIOC Column, from previous page

a “master plan” for the implementation of bike paths on the Island. We will continue to work together with agencies such as Bike New York and Cornell Tech to make sure that residents and members of our staff are educated about bike safety and to ensure the safety of our transportation network.

We encourage you to contact the Bike New York Community Outreach Director, Caitlin Goodspeed, at cgoodspeed@bikenewyork.org to learn more about classes and bike amenities offered by Bike New York that are specifically geared to Roosevelt Island residents.

Sportspark Classes

If you're looking for a cost-effective way to stay active, low-cost and free fitness classes are available at the Sportspark pool and gymnasium (250 Main Street). Swim classes available at the pool include a popular “Mommy & Me” water safety class, which teaches children aged six months to three years old basic swimming skills, and introduces them to moving around in the water. Twice-weekly “Master Swim” classes focus on more advanced swimming skills, including a variety of strokes and techniques. The pool is also open for “Open Swim” twice a day, seven days a week. Zumba and yoga classes, as well as ping pong play, are available throughout the week in the gymnasium. For more information on these classes or to see a calendar of what Sportspark offers, visit our website at rioc.recdesk.com or email Eddie Perez, Sportspark Supervisor, at Eddie.Perez@rioc.ny.gov.

RIOC Advisories

Keeping all Island residents informed and prepared for the unexpected is a high priority for us at RIOC. In order to help keep the public up to date on events or situations that may impact daily life, we provide the RIOC Advisories service, a local community and emergency alert system. If you would like to receive these alerts, visit our website at rioc.ny.gov and subscribe today. Remember, if we can't reach you, we can't alert you.

In the coming weeks, RIOC will complete an upgrade of our advisory system, which will allow subscribers to select which categories of alerts they would like to receive. New options for contact methods, such as phone calls and text messages, will also be added. These improvements are scheduled to be implemented during the month of November, so keep an eye out for announcements and instructions once the new system goes live.



News **212-826-9056**
Urgent news **917-617-0449**
Advertising **917-587-3278** or **212-751-8214**
Circulation **212-935-7534**
e-mail **MainStreetWIRE@usa.net**
Website NYC10044 – nyc10044.com

Editor & Publisher – Dick Lutz
Copy Editor – Ashton Barfield
Chief Proofreader – Linda Heimer
Proofreaders – Vicki Feinmel, Helke Taeger
Reporters – Jim Baehler, Andrew Gordon, Sara Maher, Alex Marshall, Laura Russo, David Stone, Briana Warsing
Photographers – Maria Casotti, Mircea Nicolescu, Kurt Wittman
Editorial Cartoonist – Anna Eppel
Aerial Photography – Jeff Prekopa; David Quinones, SkyCamUSA.com
Advertising Sales – Ellen Levy
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Krystyn Donnelley and students of Legacy High School;
Kim Massey and students from the PS/IS 217 Beacon Program

Letters

To the Editor:

Thank you for spotlighting PS/IS 217 in the September 27 and October 11 issues. We're very proud of our students and the work being done at the school each day. Our school community is coming together to continue to build a stronger school for our Island, and we appreciate the recognition and support from the larger community.

Some Roosevelt Island residents made donations to the PTA general fund as a direct result of the *WIRE* articles. That support directly benefits our children and our community. The students and families look forward to sharing more of the exciting things happening at the school.

Erin Olavesen

To Organizations, Merchants, Professionals, Housing Companies, and Residents:

It is time again to light up Main Street for the season's expressions of happiness and joy. It is also time to collect for Holiday Lights. We need your contribution as soon as possible.

We would like to have our lighting ceremony at the beginning of December. The cost of each pole is \$275. We accept and appreciate all contributions. We thank you in advance for your continuing support to the community.

Make checks payable to Roosevelt Island Chamber of Commerce. Mail to Julia Palermo at 595 Main Street #1202, NYC10044.

Julia Palermo
Executive Director

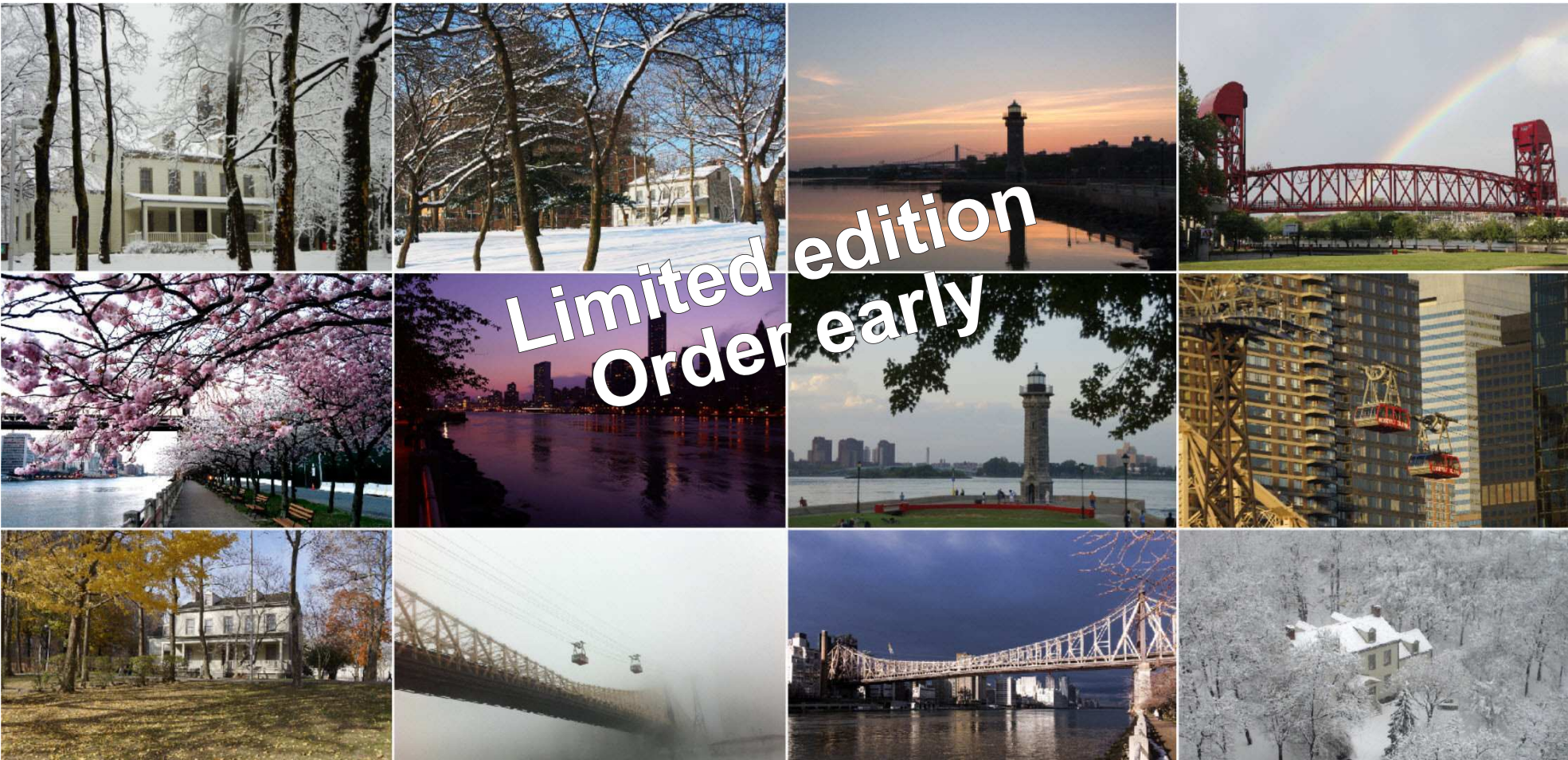
Letters Deadline for November 8 issue – Tue., Nov. 4, 5:00 p.m.

Letters Policy

The *WIRE* welcomes letters of local interest to the community, and to/from officials. Requests for a Name Withheld signature will be considered, but the writer's name, address, and phone number must be provided for verification and for our records; letters submitted anonymously will not be published. Submit letters by email 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.

Senior Center listings – page 18

It's Here! The 2015 **Roosevelt Island** Calendar!



**Calendar printed on heavy card stock,
photos in glossy full color.
Use form at right to order.**

Calendars will be delivered to Island buildings with doorkeepers. (If there's no doorkeeper in your building, supply your phone number and email address; we'll let you know when your order is ready for pickup.) For items to be mailed off-Island (USA only), add \$2 each up to \$10 maximum. Check payable to (and proceeds benefit) *The WIRE*.

**Limited Edition.
Order now for holiday gifting.**

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Telephone(s) _____

Email address _____

To The WIRE:
I enclose \$20 each for _____ (how many?) calendar(s).
Also send _____ tote bags, \$20 each.
For each item to be mailed **off-Island**, add \$2 up to maximum of \$10.
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Bike New York, RIOC, Public Safety Join to Seek Safer Bicycling on Island

by Briana Warsing

In the wake of the October 8 accident that proved fatal to an Octagon resident, staff from Bike New York, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), and its Public Safety Department (PSD) went on a walking tour of the Island to assess current infrastructure and to identify changes that could make Roosevelt Island a safer place for residents and visitors on bicycles. It had been planned prior to the incident, but was opened to press because of the accident.

Caitlin Goodspeed, Community Outreach Manager for Bike New York and the organization’s only staffer dedicated to a specific neighborhood, explained that Bike New York is in the early stages of evaluating the infrastructure related to biking here. RIOC Community Relations Specialist Erica Spencer-El characterized their collaboration as a “work in progress” of some 18 months, and discussed a bike safety campaign, street striping, more effective signage, and dedicated bike paths as some of the topics under consideration with Bike New York.

“The signage here is a little bit confusing,” said Rich Conroy, Bike New York’s Education Programs Director. “Either it’s a hard stop or it’s not.” Spencer-El agreed, adding that it may be necessary to eliminate some parking to provide more room on the road for cyclists. She cited the one-way section of the west roadway near the subway as an example, and commented that restoring two-way traffic could eliminate illegal use of the one-way road.

Regarding signage and other potential issues at the specific location of the October 8 collision, Spencer-El said, “We can’t talk about it, it’s under investigation.”

The Red Bus

Cy Opperman, RIOC Director of Operations, was on the walking tour. A 32-year veteran of the MTA, he now oversees the Red Bus drivers. He said that all drivers receive DMV-approved defensive driver classes. Opperman also administers annual road tests, and goes on observational rides with Red Bus drivers.

Opperman thinks the loading zone near the south end of Rivercross is dangerous because buses must often go into traffic, around a parked truck. He also has concerns about the fountain near the Tram station. He believes that it attracts kids.

Bike New York

Bike New York has had a presence on the Island for about a year. The organization offers a Street Skills class on traffic laws, rules of the road, and cyclist rights. It also offers learn-to-ride-classes for kids and adults, as well as bike maintenance, winter riding skills, and bike commuting.

According to Goodspeed, enrollment has been great, and her learn-to-ride class for adults is the most popular. Classes take place throughout the year at Sportspark, and at Capobianco Field in good weather.

Goodspeed leads Thursday evening rides and Saturday rides. These rides are another opportunity for Goodspeed to teach bike safety, and to model best

practices. She says, “Negotiating a bike on the west side of the Island is fine, but on the east side, it’s a little tricky.” She cites RIOC vehicles, narrower passageways, and blind spots as issues.

Bike New York sponsors Wacky Wednesday for Child School students 10 years of age and above. It’s a six-week program combining learn-to-ride, bike handling, bike maintenance, and traffic safety. The Bike New York personnel would like to offer some version of that course at PS 217.

Bike New York stores 70 bikes on the Island for use by learners. All of its classes are free. To find out more about what is offered on Roosevelt Island by Bike New York, sign up for Goodspeed’s listserv, currently at 350 Island residents, by emailing her at cgoodspeed@bikenewyork.org.

Bike Safety Tips

Bike New York’s Conroy points out that 50% of bike accidents happen at night. He says that riders must make themselves visible and use lights then, as required by law.

Goodspeed says, “Act as if you’re a car. Try to be as predictable as possible when riding your bike.” Standing at the intersection adjacent to the Good Shepherd Center, she noted, “Cyclists don’t stop [at the sign] and cars just roll through.” She says cyclists should never be on the sidewalk, and should stop at stop signs and heed the rules of the road.

Conroy says that when cars are parked on both sides of a one-way street, ride on the left because you’re less likely to be “doored” – hit by an opening car door.

Another way to ensure that you’re seen, according to Goodspeed, is to “Take the lane. Ride in the middle of it. A lot of people aren’t comfortable or confident doing that, but it’s actually safer.” Conroy added, “Do not ride next to the curb,” and Opperman concurred. “[Bus] drivers might not like that, but it signals an unsafe situation.”

Next Steps

RIOC President Charlene Indelicato later added by email, “As an expansion of their current educational efforts, Bike New York has been working with our Transportation Department to develop specialized road safety classes, both for our staff – specifically, our bus operators – and for the local cycling community. We hope to reach many of those who share the Island’s roads.”

Indelicato also emphasized awareness. “Bike New York is expanding its ongoing awareness campaign, which may include door-drops of educational materials in Island buildings, along with outreach efforts in local schools. They will also provide us with a list of suggestions for improvements to our signage and infrastructure. Going forward, we also plan to involve Cornell Tech in an effort to create a ‘master plan’ for the implementation of bike paths on the Island. RIOC will meet internally to discuss any changes to the Island’s striping, signage, roadways, or other factors that affect transportation.”

Anna Maria Mostrom

Islander Anna Maria Mostrom, 29, died October 14 after a collision between the bicycle she was riding and a Red Bus. Her family decided to turn off her respirator after a firm determination that she was brain-dead. She passed away moments later, surrounded by family and friends. She leaves behind her parents, sister, boyfriend, and countless friends.

A model from Sweden, Mostrom’s big break came in 2005 on the Scandinavian version of *Top Model*, in which she was a contestant.

Since then, she lived in Los Angeles and, most recently, on Roosevelt Island. She loved her life here, and was an avid gardener, runner, and self-described “gym rat.” She chronicled a model’s life on an Instagram account, captioning a sweaty selfie at the Octagon gym with, “This is how I stay in shape, model-healthy-skinny.” She included a photo of her hot pink Asics sneakers with the words, “Hardcore Friday evening run! 5 miles by the Hamptons water front! A lot of running lately!”

She had purchased her bicycle just over a year ago.

She took pride in her studio apartment, and posted photos of her courtyard view and her apartment’s minimalist aesthetic on her Instagram account, writing, “The power of less is more.”

On her Instagram account, she described herself as a strong, stubborn fighter with compassion and care for people around her.

Lynne Strong-Shinozaki, who attended Mostrom after her accident, corroborates that. “Her father told me that her friends said, ‘Don’t worry about anything, we’ll take care of you.’ [The father continued] ‘I left Sweden with the clothes I was wearing. Then there were tickets ready for us at the airport and we came to the States.’ [Mostrom’s friends] paid for her parents’ hotel rooms and paid her hospital bills, because she didn’t have insurance here. She had amazing friends who stepped up to the plate after her accident.”

Her friends have put together a gofundme.com page (gofundme.com/annamariamemorial) with the stated mission of helping Mostrom’s family. “As her family reels to make sense of this tragedy, let’s help support them through this time, be it with their bills, a memorial, and/or a charity to be determined.”

There was a memorial for Mostrom on Saturday, October 18, at the Swedish Church on East 48th Street. Condolences can be sent there, or can be posted to her gofundme.com page.



Mostrom, from page 1

heard a scream and a crash, some kind of noise of things hitting each other. The bus stopped, and I ran around it.”

Shinozaki explains that, “I immediately [assessed Mostrom], got her breathing, but ascertained that she had a serious brain injury because she was bleeding from her ears and posturing, a clinical term meaning her arms and legs were held straight out, her toes were pointed downward, and her head and neck were arched backwards with her muscles tightened and held rigidly.”

Public Safety officers arrived quickly and secured the scene. Shinozaki recommended they get Mostrom to Cornell-Weill because she believed the hospital’s Level 1 Trauma Program would be her best chance at survival.

Shinozaki was surprised that she had not seen Mostrom coming. She said, “I am one of those people who make comments [about] people not wearing helmets [when biking].” She recalls, “[Mostrom] had bright blonde hair but she was dressed all in black with nothing reflective and no helmet. But my understanding is that, in a lot of countries, a helmet is not common practice.”

No law mandates helmets for adults, although they are strongly encouraged. Lighting is required by law, however. New York State vehicle and traffic law (New York State) §1236 states that cyclists must have a white headlight, a red taillight, and reflectors between dusk and dawn. Available information indicates that Mostrom’s bicycle was not lighted.

Soon after news of the accident spread, RIOC President Charlene Indelicato released a statement saying, “Our thoughts and sympathies are with the cyclist and all those affected by this traumatic incident.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones as they undergo this difficult experience.”

Mostrom’s boyfriend called her parents in Sweden and said, “[Mostrom’s] been in a serious accident. She had a serious head injury. You need to come now.” Mostrom’s father said, “I left Sweden with the clothes on my back.” Shinozaki says, “Getting the care that she did kept her alive long enough for her family and friends to come. I was at least happy that I contributed to her family having a chance to say goodbye.”

Mostrom’s father later told Shinozaki how hard Weill-Cornell worked to save Mostrom. He explained that the main focus was her head injury. Doctors performed multiple surgeries to alleviate the swelling in Mostrom’s brain. Next, following protocol, they induced a coma and brought her out of it to assess her brain function. They realized then that she didn’t have any.

On October 14, Mostrom’s family made the decision to turn off her respirator and donate her organs.



The team looking at biking infrastructure and safety-improvement possibilities: Left to right: Anna Rankin and Cy Opperman of RIOC, Linda Marmara of Public Safety, Rich Conroy and Caitlin Goodspeed of Bike New York, and Erica Spencel-EL of RIOC.

Another Fall, Another Fall for Arts



Photos by
Diane Braxton
and
Linda Heimer



Meet Mr. & Mrs. Jim Bates!



Jim Bates and Maria Belen Gallego were married in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd on Thursday, October 16. Jim has lived on the Island since 2001, and Belen is from Colombia, South America. Officiating was James Kim. Attending were David and Lydia Tang and members of Hope Church Roosevelt Island, plus many Island friends.

Library’s Drop-Box Sometimes Misused as a Trash Receptable

by Laura A. Russo

The Roosevelt Island Library drop-box has been vandalized several times, according to New York Public Library (NYPL) staff.

The silver box, emblazoned with the NYPL logo, sits in front of the branch at 524 Main Street. Regularly used by residents, it is accessible 24 hours a day, allowing patrons to return books and other library materials at their convenience.

But that convenience leaves the box vulnerable to vandals who can drop liquids or objects into it, damaging library materials.

“There have been incidents of vandalism in the past,” said Nicole Nelson, the Branch Manager, stressing that it’s now been several months since the last incident.

NYPL trains its staff to monitor and evaluate drop-boxes daily. At the Roosevelt Island branch, one of the library’s six staff members – wearing gloves – carefully checks for any damage or any material that doesn’t belong in the drop-box, said Nelson. Damaged books are immediately discarded, and the rest of the materials are checked to determine if they can be returned to circulation.

Frequent-users of the drop-box, like Islander Lisa Knox, spoke of its importance. “As a teacher, I use the library a lot for my students. It’s a great thing. Most neighborhoods don’t have a drop-box.”

Knox said she was not aware of any recent incidents affecting the drop-box, but suggested that cameras on Main Street might be able to help catch vandals.

Another resident, who asked not to be named, said

he heard of an alleged incident last week in which food was pushed through the drop-box opening.

NYPL could not immediately provide the number of incidents, and when they took place. Library officials maintained that vandalism of the drop-box is not an issue for the Roosevelt Island branch, and that any instances of vandalism were isolated incidents addressed appropriately by staff members.

NYPL policy dictates that all incidents be reported to the New York Public Library Public Service Department, which is responsible for protecting all 88 branches of the New York Public Library in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island. But it is Roosevelt Island Public Safety Department (PSD) that is responsible for the on-the-ground investigation, once an incident of vandalism is identified on the Island.

Ms. Nelson called PSD a “special investigative partner,” and described a process in which library staff immediately alert Public Safety about any incidents, give a statement to the responding officer, and provide them with any available evidence.

PSD Director Jack McManus said he was unable to immediately provide specifics on any alleged vandalism of the drop-box.

Concerned residents, even those who aren’t currently active patrons of the library, said they appreciate the importance of the drop-box. Asma Baig said she was excited to start using library resources once her son gets a little older, and that she was “definitely interested in using the drop-box.”

It is “so convenient,” she said.

Absentee Voting – RIRA Election

Note: These instructions apply only to the RIRA Election, and have no bearing on the various governmental elections held the same day.

Absentee Ballots available Monday, October 27, through Saturday, November 1.

Contact Nominations Chair Aaron Hamburger at 212-758-2623.

Instructions

1) Place the marked ballot in an envelope, seal it, and write **RIRA Election 11/4/2014** across both sides of the sealed flap to show it as unbroken when turned in.

2) Place the sealed and dated envelope containing the marked ballot inside a second envelope, and seal that. Write a number/letter designation (provided when ballot is requested) on the lower-right-hand corner of the outer envelope. Failure to include this number/letter designation will invalidate the ballot.

3) Address the larger envelope, and drop it off or mail it, to RIRA Elections, c/o Hamburger, 455 Main Street #3E, New York, NY 10044.

4) Absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 p.m. Monday, November 3, to be considered valid and included for this election.

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RIRA Election November 4

President and Vice President Candidate Statements



Jeff Escobar
Candidate for President

Infighting. Internal politics. Organizational power struggles. These are not the foundations of what the Roosevelt Island Residents Association or its Common Council were founded on nor built upon. Unfortunately, as Vice-President, I was forced to ascend to the office of the President of the Common Council under such an atmosphere when the Common Council’s past president resigned earlier this year.

Truly, what I had inherited was a dispirited and self-involved body that was representative of no one except itself, and who seemed to have lost both its way and its community goodwill.

When I undertook the office of President with only six or so months remaining of the past administration’s 24 month term, my goals were relatively simple: to bring stability to a house that had come unglued, to inject a sense of professionalism and community pride in those sitting members who chose to remain on the Common Council, to restore legitimacy back to the work of the Common Council, and to right the ship so that the new Common Council – the one that is being elected this year – would have a vehicle and foundation to be successful in its coming term. My thought was then, as it is now, that the only way that the Common Council can be focused on doing the work of the Island people is if it, itself, had rid itself of its inefficiencies, its internal politics and power struggles, and its focus on everything except the needs of the Island and its residents.

I will not say that complete success has been reached.

We can and should always do better. What has been reached is a willingness and desire to get on with the work of the Island and to do what the Common Council was elected originally to do: to be the voice and advocate for the Island and to bind the ties that make us, Roosevelt Islanders, a community.

Community, Island Quality of Life, Families and Neighborhoods, Public Advocacy. That is what RIRA and its Common Council has always been and should always be about. To return to its core mission, RIRA and its Common Council needs a leader who can bridge the gaps and differences that divide our community; who has a strong sense of professionalism and community pride and understands that it is the greater good of Roosevelt Island that matters the most; a President who, above all, understands that debate and compromise – not victimization and constant threat – is how the work of the Island community can be accomplished.

For the last six years, I have been deeply involved with the Common Council, first as a building representative of the Octagon to the Common Council, then as its Vice-President in 2012, and now as its current President. During that time, I also represented the interests of Roosevelt Island in the City at large, appointed by the Manhattan Borough President for the last five years to Manhattan Community Board 8 and serving as chair of both its Roosevelt Island-Cornell Technion Task Force and the Roosevelt Island Committee. In my varying capacities and representation of the Island, I have watched as our Island, which was once considered a floating village of small town life in the big city, grapple with the challenges of being a symbol and example of growth and change within the city. As our population grows, as our socio-economic makeup changes, as the original Islanders age and both new and young legacies take root on the Island, our Island, our community, our Island way of life is facing insurmountable challenges that will change the identity of the Island forever. The question we must all ask this coming election is who do we want leading us into this age of change?

In various ways, I have answered that call. Working closely with the Roosevelt Island Community Coalition, and in my capacities on Manhattan Community Board 8, I have helped steer the Island through the ULURP process as it sought to secure concessions from the stakeholders of the Project which would ensure successful integration of the Cornell community into the Island while benefitting all who live, work and visit our home. During my short terms As RIRA President, I have tirelessly continued to advocate and support Island

See **Escobar**, page 18



Sherie Helstien
Candidate for Vice President

Having taken a year and a half off from serving on RIRA, I returned this past March and was able to take an empty seat on the Common Council representing Westview. I was subsequently nominated and voted into the position of Vice President serving under Jeff Escobar who had taken over the position of president of the organization upon the resignation of RIRA President Polivy.

Over the past 17 years, I have served on RIRA, first as a delegate from Manhattan Park and later from Westview. I have been very active in the organization:

- Helping to create the Legal Action Fund Committee whose sole purpose was to fight the way development was taking place in what we all knew was coming in Southtown. The residents failed to win the legal fights in the courts as we were deemed as “without standing”.
- Becoming Housing Chair and creating a Renters’ Insurance Fair which emanated from an apartment fire in what was then known as Eastwood. The residents of that apartment thought, mistakenly, that the management would replace their lost belongings. I saw a need to educate the community about their rights and responsibilities as renters. I enlisted the State Insurance Commissioner, among many others, to speak to the audience and it was a successful, two-day event.
- Fundraising for RIRA (many of you have bought two iterations of hats and visors that I and the SC&E Committee members sold you!), as well as,
- Working the with the PTA to create the “Roosevelt Island International Cookbook” which grew out of wonderful international dishes created and served by mothers of PS/IS217 students at their International Dinners! I think the PTA still has many of these books left, but I and RIRA members sold all of RIRA’s! It was an interesting learning experience in publishing a book.
- Supporting my RIRA colleagues who have put on some marvelous and fun theme parties to bring our community together, as well as our summer evening dances on the Pier, and outdoor movies (before RIOC ever did this);
- Supporting RIRA colleagues who created our 9/11 Memorial Garden on the Church Plaza, and assisted in organizing many of the memorial programs we held annually for ten years after that tragic event. We always had a wonderful turnout, and our Special Ops Firefighters on the Island participated in almost all of them.
- I’m proud to have worked with Lynne Shinozaki, our past RIRA Chair of the Social Cultural & Educational Committee on the wonderful Cherry Blossom Festivals (CBF) she’s produced, and which began the year of the tragic Japanese tsunami and nuclear plant debacle. The first CBF was supposed to be a fundraiser for RIRA, but this community raised nearly \$10,000 and RIRA sent every penny, through the Japanese Consulate, to aid agencies in Japan.
- I’m proud to have been part of that period when we had a more positive relationship with RIOC. I hope that we can reclaim that relationship again, soon. I am also proud to have been the person who headed the Public Relations for our four RIOC Board “elections” (as offered to us by Governor Spitzer) to put on a community plebiscite, putting up candidates as RIOC Board nominees, whose names, in order of votes received, were sent to the Governor’s office for appointment. It’s the closest we’ve been able to come to having a local democratic “process” of direct representation in this bedeviled community
- I have been active on the Legislative sub-Committee of the Government Relations Committee of RIRA, whose sole purpose has been to try to change the legislation that created RIOC into something that would give back to this community what every other community has: a “say” on how and by whom we are governed, as opposed to being ruled by New York State’s Governor, or as we sometimes refer to it: “the Second Floor”. I am sad to say that we have met with nothing but frustration and deafness from the current administration in Albany.

I believe that RIRA’s members have done more positive



Mridul Pathak
Candidate for Vice President

I have been in the island since 1996 as permanent resident; visited friends occasionally since the 90s.

I am retired from active service since 90s and have been freelance consultant and entrepreneur for 6E (energy, environment, enterprise, education, entertainment and e-commerce); I prefer to call myself philanthro-preneur (see LinkedIn) and have been an ardent practitioner of social engineering and change management. I am married; have one son who schooled in England and MIT, Boston; he is now married, settled in Seattle, works with Amazon; my wife is a pediatrician; was in New York City health system until 2011 end; now is for a break in Texas health system; I like to shuttle between India and USA as co-chairman of Indoamerican Global Chamber of Commerce at 260 Madison Avenue, New York 10016.

I am not sure if I am a fit in RIRA system but applied with my inherent desire to be of some help if needed. I don’t know if I would be available to attend all the mandatory meetings but I am sure my experience and exposure to international projects here and abroad might bring in touch of new angle if needed; particularly now when the Island is going through cyclonic change with Cornell project. I am convinced that the island should be the best place to settle in future years with affordability and improved quality of life and environment.

If voted I shall try my best to achieve that.

things in the community than some would recognize. RIRA is an organization of volunteers, of people who have full-time jobs, families, sick spouses or kids, and other familial responsibilities as well. Newer members who are just “learning the ropes” of how this organization functions, what its limitations are, and what they can do to have a positive impact, have a learning curve that some have tried to use negatively. It takes time, a clear head, and a positive attitude to learn who are the people to work with to get things done, and to ignore the noise.

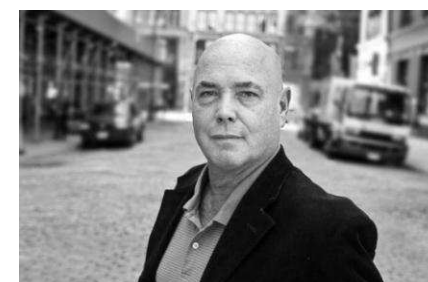
I believe I am the more qualified candidate for Vice President, having served on RIRA for 17 years with an understanding of RIRA’s possibilities and its limits, I want to continue serving this wonderful community, and I ask for your vote.



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John Sheehan is a Roosevelt Island pioneer, a past president of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) and has lived in Rivercross since 1978. In John's 30-year career as a real estate broker he has transacted over \$250 million in sales. Jimmy Brett, John's business partner, also has a 30-year career in real estate, successfully marketing, renting, and selling in New York City. Together, John and Jimmy bring more than 60 years of knowledge and experience to every transaction that they are involved in, and are backed by one of the best real estate companies in the city. Contact us for a complimentary private consultation.

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Subway Service Here Reaches the

by Briana Warsing

The New York Times announced the opening of our subway line 25 years ago, on October 29, 1989, with the headline *The Subway to Nowhere Now Goes Somewhere*. It took 19 years and 11 months, and cost \$868 million. The Q train served the stop on weekdays, and B trains ran on evenings and weekends.

Construction had started back in 1969 as part of the Metropolitan Transit Authority's (MTA) Program For Action, in which \$600 million of federal funding was made available for 40 miles of subway expansion. The 63rd Street Tunnel was part of Phase One of that project. People had been living here since 1975.

In the 1969 lease of the Island from the City to the State's Urban Development Corporation, the City promised to build a subway by 1984 at the latest. But earlier predictions had been 1980, and 1979, and before that, even 1975. The subway was considered so important for Roosevelt Island that failure to extend service to Roosevelt Island was contractual cause for the State to return the Island to the City — together with its accumulated debt.

When *The New York Times* reported in 1982 that New York State was going forward with the plan for Manhattan Park, Islanders became very concerned about there being no subway. Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) President David Lustig told *The Times*, "If there's no subway, you can't put any more people on the Island. It's as simple as that." The Tram was already filled to capacity during rush hours. Sound familiar? Previous delays and the City's fiscal situation at the time only increased Islanders' skepticism that the subway would ever come. On that point, Lustig said, "The City is looking for an excuse not to open it. They know it will lose money, like any other subway line." But it didn't start out that way. In fact, the now defunct *Long Island Press* headlined an August 1970 article, *63rd St. Tube Digging is Off to Fast Start*. The article explained, "When the tunnel and its connecting links are completed in six to seven years, the

tunnel will provide commuter-links between Long Island and midtown for subway and railroad riders." The commuter-links part, now called East Side Access, is currently under construction.

An article from later that year quotes Federal Urban Mass Transportation Authority's (TA) engineer-in-charge, Eugene F. Casey, explaining that "everything is going perfectly because the TA and the contractors 'left nothing to chance.'"

What Happened?

What didn't happen is a better question.

• In April 1984, the tunnel is weakened by structural changes during construction. Federal agents conduct a midnight raid to ascertain whether modifications in the tunnel were made to cover up design defects, and might threaten the tunnel's structural integrity. An investigation is pending, and opening date is pushed back to spring 1985.

• The MTA announces that the investigation reveals no construction defects, but they postpone once again, to early 1986. (Hey, investigations take time.)

• In mid-1985, a *WIRE* headline reads, *Secret Changes Delay Subway*. Water damage to a support beam in a tunnel under the East River is one rumor. *Newsday* reports that a horizontal tunnel support beam was installed too low to allow trains to pass under it, and that the TA's construction engineer ordered the contractor to secretly cut out a portion of the beam. The TA hires a civil engineer to make an inspection, and the tunnel is deemed adequate — saying that the placement of the beam was nothing more than human error. (But, you know, these things take time.)

• By July 1985, the government suspends funds. At that point, the tunnel has already cost \$828 million. The TA has spent over \$500 million since 1970. They declare that they will withhold the final monies allocated pending completion of an independent investigation. Then TA spokesperson Donna Evans tells *The WIRE* that the deteriorated three-mile tunnel running from Manhattan to Queens has filled with mud and water that is six feet deep in some places. Leakage has caused corrosion of line equipment, switches, and pumps. (Ugh.)

• The New Year (1986) brings promise. TA President David Gunn assures Islanders that the tunnel will be completed and the subway will operate. But he is concerned with the lack of local connections with Queens. As the line stood then, 200-400 riders were predicted during rush hour. Operating costs of \$15-\$20 million would be matched by only \$1.5 million in revenue. Gunn wants to find a way to connect our line with the E or F line in Queens, and alleviate crowding on the 53rd Street Tunnel. He believes that will increase ridership to 16,500 during rush hour, and validate the \$15-\$20 million annual operating cost as well as the \$868 final capital cost of the tunnel.

• In February 1987, the MTA agrees to allocate another \$21 million. Opposition groups speak of *the tunnel to nowhere*, and question the intelligence of spending the money to complete it because, as designed, it won't ease crowding during rush hour. Gunn proposes a variety of solutions to the problem, the only one worth mentioning here is the one that actually happened, ultimately connecting the tunnel with express lines on Queens Boulevard.

• In April 1987, *The WIRE* reports a fire hazard in the tunnel, and the



federal government's consequent refusal to release \$75 million in funds earmarked for tunnel work.

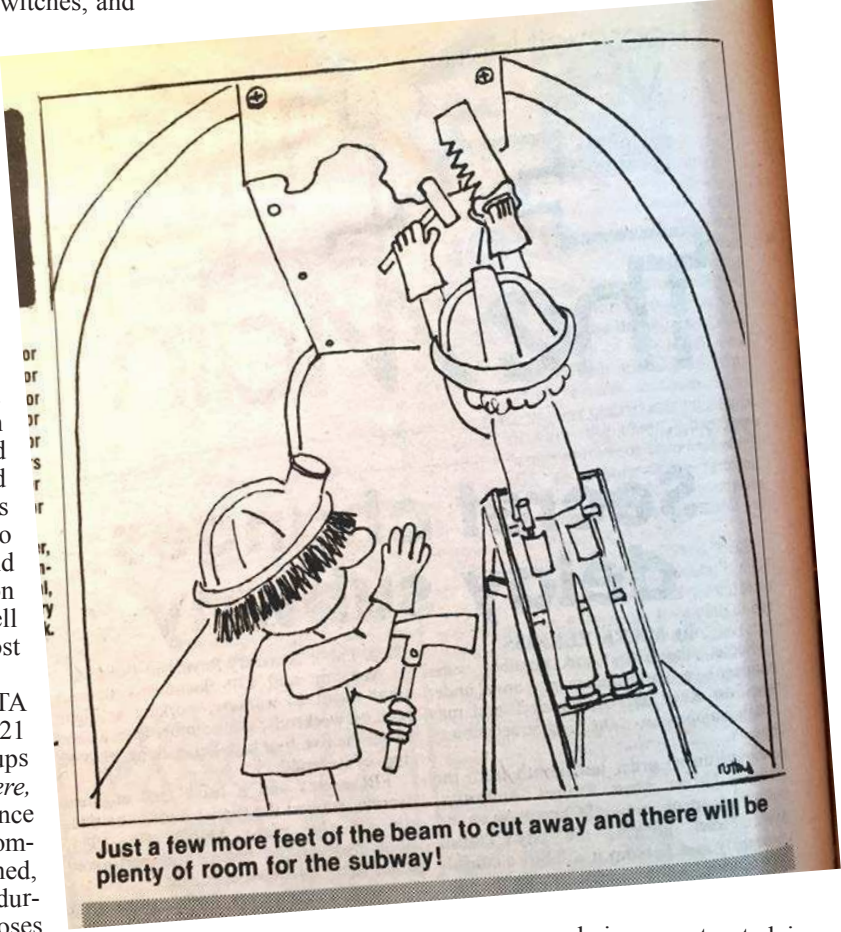
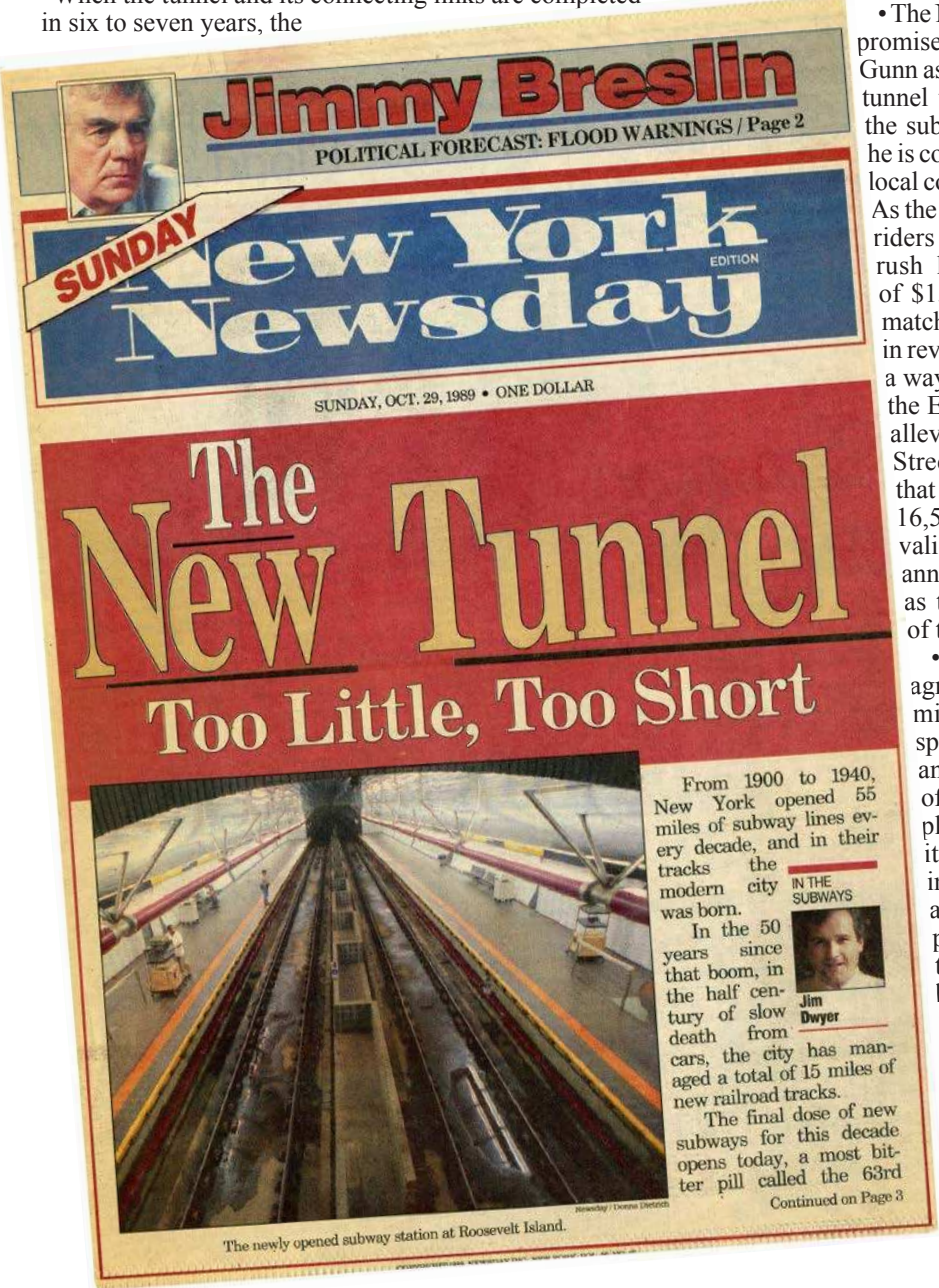
• That July, following a favorable report by consultants on the safety of the tunnel, the federal government releases the remaining money allocated to complete the relatively minor work that remains to be done in the tunnel and on the stations. Money is allocated in the MTA's next budget for design recommendations to connect the new subway with the E and F lines at Queens Plaza. No connections are planned until the early 2000's.

• On a summer day in 1988, 500 Islanders cram Good Shepherd Center to hear updates about the subway. Representatives from the TA are there. The announcement is made that the final opening date will be October 1989.

• The subway starts running on Sunday, October 29, 1989.

East Side Access

Benjamin Kabak of *Second Avenue Sagas* believes that the reason East Side Access is only



now being constructed is because, "Built underneath the East River in the 1970s, the 63rd Street Tunnel is an artifact of the age of misguided optimism in New York City transportation history. At the time, the City administrations, finally crawling out from under the oppressive shadow cast by the master builder Robert Moses, wanted to get all of the public works in order that would

Quarter-Century Mark on Wednesday

actually help City residents instead of the suburban drivers.” The City being broke didn’t help either. *The New York Times* described it as “a testament to high aspirations and low finances.”

Queens Boulevard Connection

The 63rd Street-Queens Boulevard Connection project had a simple mission: to connect the 63rd Street tunnel to the Queens Boulevard Line 1,500 feet away, and increase the number of rush-hour trains into Manhattan by 50 percent, from 30 to 45, easing overcrowding on the E and F lines. (Should be simple.)

Although only about one third of a mile was needed to connect the two subway lines, the project was situated in a complex subterranean infrastructure posing significant engineering challenges.

The construction site was Northern Boulevard, Queens – heavily traveled and seven lanes wide, leading to the Queensboro Bridge, and within a commercial area surrounded by five-story buildings. In addition, lying about eight feet directly below the road was an old five-track subway tunnel that had been part of the Independent line. Directly to the east were the Sunnyside Yards, which accommodate Amtrak and Long Island Railroad train operations. Concerns about the settling of the old tunnel and the adjoining buildings required implementation of support measures. Many utilities within the project site had to be relocated to make way for construction. Construction was started in September 1994, and completed in 2001.

The Tram

The Roosevelt Island Tram opened 13 years before the subway, on May 17, 1976. It wasn’t part of the original design for the Island when plans were made in the late 1960’s. “The Tram was really an afterthought, because we built Roosevelt Island with the understanding there would be a subway,” said former Urban Development Corporation President Ed Logue. “Finally, we realized we were not going to have a subway by the time the Island was ready for people.”

“The whole idea of a Tram really started as a joke,” said Civil Engineer David Ozerkis. “I had just read about Palisades Amusement Park closing and that their cable car was for sale, and I jokingly said, *Why don’t we buy it and hang it next to the Queensboro Bridge?*” He said the Tram was planned to stay in service three or four years, after which the subway was supposed to open.

“The opening of the Tram caused a dramatic increase in the number of people looking to move to the Island,” said Robert Litke, who served under Logue. “It absolutely allowed the Island to be marketed. It really made the place. It showed how farsighted and creative the City of New York could be.”

Subway Opposition

There were those who believed the subway would be bad for the Island. People were afraid that the subway would bring crime. In a strange twist, those fears were validated when, two hours after the subway started running in October 1989, an Island couple who left the train were followed by two armed young Brooklyn men. In early November, 25

Queensbridge kids wielding bats came to the Island via the subway.

The other big fear was about the survival of the Tram. At the time, there was a franchise agreement stipulating that the Tram always had to cost a quarter more than the subway. Islanders were worried that the extra cost, coupled with the easy connections via the subway, would cause extinction of the Tram.

To combat that, RIOC started a promotion to publicize the Tram, selling t-shirts and other Tram-centric souvenirs, and pledged to donate all proceeds to the Tram. Ultimately, linking the Tram to the MetroCard in 2006, plus the Tram’s extensive, expensive, and much-debated renovation in 2010, made it official – the Tram and the subway are both here to stay.



MTA diagram, above, shows the ultimate goal for the tunnel passing under Roosevelt Island. It’s the East Side Access Project, and work is being done now, most noticeably at the station at 63rd & Lex. Commuters coming in via the Long Island Rail Road will be able to transfer to the subway system before reaching Manhattan proper.



From platform extending over 110-foot-deep hole on Welfare Island, sandhog William W. Jackson Sr. of Brooklyn directs operator of crane, unseen at left,

which is lifting rock chunks that workmen bel dynamited.

Sinclair, from page 1

“It was an amazing period of my life. Every week, I was looking forward to the painting session. The ‘studio’ where we were working, it was actually one room where Sister Margaret lived, cooked, and slept. But she set up little desks for us, and the smell of paints and her guidance made me very happy.”

Family History

Sinclair’s parents grew up during the reign of King Michael I. The monarch is alive today at age 92, but he was forced from the throne by the communists in 1947.

She recalls her family’s efforts to maintain a Christian life behind the Iron Curtain. “Over the years, in secrecy, they kept their traditions alive, and we were celebrating the holidays in our homes, no matter what the risks were. They were times of a lot of joy and happiness.”

One day, Sinclair’s mother saw a painting of Christ meditating in a garden, and fell in love with its message of peace. Understanding how much her mother loved the picture, Sinclair conspired with Sister Margaret to recreate it. Soon, she was commissioned to paint a half-dozen more.

As talented as she was and as much as her family encouraged her, a more practical side took precedence after Sinclair graduated from the Public School of Art. It was time for college.

You can paint all your life and be an artist, she remembers her mother advising, *but you need to get a more serious profession to pay your bills*. Sinclair reflects on that decisive moment. “And here I am, a doctor of audiology, and a passionate artist, always fascinated by the eternal beauty of nature, looking for poetry in ordinary scenes.”

But apart from clandestine religious practices, the rigors of life under one of the most repressive and economically unsuccessful communist regimes were facts of life, taken for granted as she grew up.

By the time she was a married mother of two young children, Alex and Adela, conditions in Romania under Nicolae Ceaușescu boiled into a personal crisis. Eager for a better life, Sinclair’s husband, George, gained permission to follow his brother, who was then living on Roosevelt Island, to America. After two years working as a cabbie and a porter, he persuaded Georgette to reunite their family in New York.

“When you left Romania then, you were never coming back,” Sinclair says. It was 1987.

Helped by Daniel Patrick Moynahan, then Senator from New York, who leveraged favored nation status for Romania to loosen immigration policies, Sinclair and the children were allowed to leave.

But freedom was hard-bought. The communist authorities refused to allow them to bring items as simple as the old Roman coins she’d dug up in her father’s garden as a child. Neither was she allowed to carry documents, birth certificates and diplomas, taken for granted as a right of citizenship elsewhere.

“When we got here, we had nothing.”

But after leaving a country with bread lines not seen in America since the Great Depression, and with stacks of oranges, a once-a-year luxury in Romania, in fruit stands here, she was determined to succeed in her new land of opportunity.

Exhibiting

Sinclair’s paintings depart dramatically from the struggles and losses that accompanied her move to America. She exhibits at Gallery RIVAA and the Salmagundi Club, which was founded in 1871 and is one of the oldest art organizations in the country. There, she serves as a Third Vice President.

Sinclair is a pastelist enamored of expressionist color. Her pictures convey complementary forces of nature and her emotional responses to it. She’s the rare artist who sells her work often enough that the idea of full-time work in the field may be achievable.

But her current success comes with a shorter history than you’d expect. Only 15 years have elapsed since she was able to take up creative work again, after the traumas of leaving Romania. Not only were her early years in New York consumed by earning a living while caring for two youngsters, but fears of having to return brought nightmares.

Proudly, she says, “We never took government money.” Part-time work at the Roosevelt Island Youth Center became her first job. Later, she moved on to the Financial Federal Bank in Queens. Eager to lift her family out of poverty, Sinclair began night-school classes at Hunter College while continuing to work full time.

In Romania, she had been trained as a speech therapist, and was working with special-needs children until her request to join her husband in America stripped her of her job. In New York, she earned her master’s, then a doctorate in audiology, launching a helping career she finds rewarding.

Her children have grown up and settled in America. Alex works in sales, and is the father of her first grandchild. Adela is a teacher, helping newcomers with English as a second language.

Becoming American

Not long after arriving in New York, Sinclair’s family gathered together to choose an American name, to make assimilation easier. *Sinclair* was picked randomly, drawn from others on slips of paper in a hat. Now, that surname symbolizes the bold separation that her family’s new life demanded.

Once told she could never return to Romania, Georgette Sinclair is now as American as you can get, appreciative and inspired by the American spirit.

About 15 years ago, a client she was treating at her clinic asked, “What do you like to do for yourself?”



“I didn’t know what to say.”
“Don’t you have a passion?” he persisted.
“I used to do painting,” she answered.
“So, what happened to it?”

Her office is near the Art Students League on 57th Street, and not long after that conversation, she walked in on her way home from work. Inspired again, she began classes and, for the first time, learned to work with pastels. Within a couple of years, she entered a painting in an open call at the Salmagundi Club. The work, which Sinclair still keeps in her Island House apartment, is a romanticized view of the Ravenswood Con Edison plant with an impressionist’s dream of Queens in the background.

Her painting was accepted, and she was persuaded to join the organization. There, she is now a leader and a member of the Art Committee.

She joined the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association (RIVAA) soon after its inception. She serves as treasurer and contributes artwork to most shows. Currently, she is concentrating on smaller paintings and planning a solo exhibit

for next year.

Returning

For Georgette Sinclair, who became a U.S. citizen, her present met her past three years ago when she returned to a now-liberated Romania. “I fell in love again and again with haystacks, gold fields of wheat and sunflowers, hills and mountains, creeks and lakes, people that keep the life tradition going on.

“I have to admit – before going back to the old country, I was more familiar with the French countryside, where I traveled and painted, but I realized how similar it is to the Romanian landscape. It was so close to my soul.

“We crossed the great Carpathian Mountains and went to see the famous old monasteries of Bucovina, which are well known not only for the history but also unique decorative art. This is where I found my peace.”

That peace, Sinclair observes, brings her back to the vein of creativity begun with inspiration when she was an adopted child in a troubled country who found joy in drawing her father’s carpentry tools.

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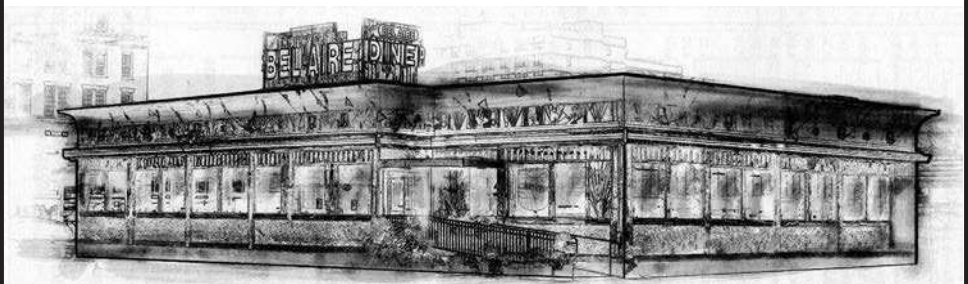
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COMING UP

— Continuing Events & Activities —

A listing of **repeating** or **continuing** meetings & events
(A listing of other events scheduled for this weekend and in coming weeks starts on page 3.)

ART EXHIBITS

Symmetry of Thought and Being, group exhibition, Octagon Gallery, through Nov 16, **daily** 10am-8pm.
The Diary, one-person exhibition of Christian Paraschiv, Gallery RIVAA, Oct 25-Nov 16. Gallery hours **Tue & Thu** 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm, **Sat & Sun** 11am-5pm.

PARKS

Southpoint Park open **daily** 6am-10pm.
Lighthouse Park open **daily** 7am-9pm.
FDR Four Freedoms Park open **daily**; hours 9am-5pm. **Closed** every **Tue**. Free guided tours **Sat** 11am, 3pm; **Sun** 11am.

CLASSES

Art, taught by members of the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association (RIVAA), **Sat** 11am-2pm, Sportspark. Free.
Hands-Only CPR Training, **1st Wed** 10:45am, Senior Center, 546 Main St.; **2nd Tue** 8pm, 546 Main St 12th-floor conference room; **3rd Thu** 5pm, Child School, 587 Main St.; **4th Sun** 5:45pm, Good Shepherd Center, 543 Main.

MUSIC (listed Sat-Fri)

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

EXERCISE & SPORTS (alphabetical)

Basketball (all ages), **Sat** 2-5pm, Sportspark. Free.
Basketball (adults), **Mon-Thu** 7:30-9:30pm, PS/IS 217. Free.
Bike New York Pop-up Bike Shop, **Sat** 10am-2pm, under helix, ends today for season.
Bike New York classes continue through winter; schedule at BikeNewYork.org.
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, Sportspark.
Swimming* (18 yrs+) – **Sat-Sun** 4-7pm, **Tue** 7:30-10:30pm, Sportspark.
Swimming* – Water Aerobics, **Sun** 12-1pm, **Wed & Fri** 9-10am, Sportspark.
Swimming* – Master class, **Mon & Fri** 7:30-8:30pm, Sportspark. Through Sep 29. (*All Sportspark swimming \$5; free for disabled, seniors 60+, and ages 0-3.)
Yoga (open-level), **Mon & Thu** 6:15-7:15pm, **Sat** 11:15am-12:15pm, Sportspark. \$5. Mats available.
Yoga (Vinyassa-flow) with Keren Messer, **Mon** 7:45pm, Good Shepherd Center. Info: KerenMsr@gmail.com.
Yoga (Hatha) with Keren Messer, **Tue** 6:30pm, **Wed** 10am, Good Shepherd Center.
Yoga with Jax Schott, **Wed** 7:30-8:40pm, Island Kids, 536 Main St. \$15.
Yoga (open-level) with Lauren Blankstein, **Thu** 7:30-8:30pm, PS/IS 217 Beacon. Free.
Zumba, **Mon** 6:30-7:30 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 & Me Swim Classes (0-3yrs), **Sun** 11-11:30am and 11:30-12noon, Sportspark.
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.
Bi-Ligual Birdies: Mandarin (0-5 years), **Thu** 11am, Library.
Read Aloud (3-6 yrs), **Fri** 3:30pm, Library.

OLDER KIDS (listed Sat-Fri)

Swimming classes (age 3-up), **Sat** 3-4pm, Sportspark. \$15 or \$100/10 weeks. Questions/registration, ryansherrill84@gmail.com or 917-261-2771.
Art for Kids with Connie Tanner (ages 3-8), last **Sun**, 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.
Teen Time (ages 13-18), **Mon-Fri** 3pm, Library.
Beacon After-School Program for grades 1-8, **Mon-Fri** 3-6pm, PS/IS 217. Free. Info: 212-527-2505 or tinyurl.com/RIyouth
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

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

REGULAR MEETINGS (listed 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, 4-7pm and Library, 3-6pm (Oct 28). Info: 212-828-5829.
Conversations with Cornell Tech Staff at Gallery RIVAA, **Wed & Fri** 10am-12noon & 1-4pm, 527 Main St.
Constituent Service Hours for City Councilmember Ben Kallos, **1st Wed** 4-7pm, Senior Center, 546 Main St.

OTHER

Clinic on Housing Law, **1st & 3rd 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 from **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**.

Adventures OFF-Island

compiled by Sara Maher

Halloween is here! Check out these frightfully fun haunts and happenings.

Find a Pumpkin

If you want to look for a pumpkin without finding a patch, head down to the Union Square Greenmarket on the north and west sides of Union Square. Carry cash for the large selection of locally-grown pumpkins and apples, as well as homemade baked goods and hot apple cider.

► F downtown to 14th Street and walk east to Union Square. MWFSa, 8am-6pm. Free. Some vendors accept only cash. GrowNYC.org

Paint a Pumpkin

Looking for a full day of fall fun? At Luna Park’s Halloween Harvest, you can pick and paint pumpkins, meet a collection of costumed characters, and enjoy candy apples while watching star chef Marc Maniac carve a giant pumpkin, or a dog parade-and-costume contest.

► F downtown to Coney Island-Stillwell Avenue or West 8th Street-NY Aquarium and walk south to the boardwalk. Saturday, October 25, 12noon-8pm, and Sunday, October 26, 12noon-6pm. Free. LunaParknyc.com

Parade with Pumpkins

On Halloween day, there are parades, celebrations, and trick-or-treat events throughout the city, but two of the biggest and best are right off the F. The Children’s Halloween Parade is the largest kid’s celebration in the city, featuring a costume parade, circus performers, and a brass band. After the quick parade around Washington Square, kids can enjoy free trick-or-treat bags, games, and rides, but the highlight of the holiday is the Village Halloween Parade, now in its 41st year. Wear a costume and join the parade where it starts at Spring Street, or stake out a spot along Sixth Avenue and

wave at this year’s grand marshal, Whoopi Goldberg.

► Children’s Halloween Parade: F downtown to West 4th Street and walk east to Washington Square Park. Friday, October 31; parade at 3pm; games and rides to 6pm. Free. tinyurl.com/kparade103114

► Village Halloween Parade: F downtown to 14th Street or W 4th Street and find a spot on Sixth Avenue between Spring Street and 16th Street. Friday, October 31, 7pm. Free. halloween-nyc.com

Forget the Pumpkins

If Halloween isn’t your thing, you don’t have to be a ghost. There are still plenty of things going on around town.

Hester Street Fair

Once the site of the city’s largest pushcart market, Seward Park now hosts the Hester Street Fair every Saturday, April through October. Browse the edible and eclectic offerings, including handmade jewelry, vintage clothes, books, home-made ice cream sandwiches, and lobster rolls, before the fair closes for the season.

► F downtown to East Broadway and walk north to Seward Park. Saturday, October 25, 11am-6pm. Free admission; some vendors accept only cash. HesterStreetFair.com/

Stevie Nicks

Stevie Nicks, ethereal lead vocalist for the band Fleetwood Mac, has been feeling a bit nostalgic lately; along with 24 Karat Gold, the new album of songs she wrote primarily between 1969 and 1987, Nicks has decided to release self-portraits that she took while traveling the world in the mid-70s. The collection is stopping at the Morrison Hotel Gallery until the end of the month.

► F downtown to Broadway-Lafayette St. and walk to 116 Prince Street, second floor. Through October 31, Monday-Saturday 11am-7pm and Sunday 12noon-6pm. Free. morrisonhotelgallery.com/stevienicks/default.aspx

The Marathon

Every November, the New York City Marathon takes over the town. Set up along the route and cheer for over 50,000 runners as they pound their way through all five boroughs. There are designated cheering zones with sign-making supplies, noisemakers, live bands, DJs, and giveaways, so everyone can be a part of the biggest marathon in the world.

► F downtown to 4th St. (Brooklyn) or 57th St. (Manhattan) or uptown to 21st St. (Queens). Sunday, November 2 with waves of runners starting every 15-25 minutes 8:30-10:55am. Free to watch. tcsnycmarathon.org/spectators

There’s More at
MainStreetWIRE.com

CREDIT CARDS & EBT WELCOME

SPORTSWIRE

SOCCER The Roosevelt Island Youth Program’s three-month soccer season will end with final games on November 22. There are over 400 players, 26 teams, 41 coaches, and seven referees. So far this season, which started in September, teams have played 60 games. The past two weeks have been busy, filled with scheduled games and make-up games for rain cancellations. With Halloween festivities scheduled for today (Saturday, October 25), additional matches were scheduled during the past week.

Here are the standings, by coach names, as of Monday Oct. 20.

	Goals	Points	Rank
Minors			
Jorge/Eddie	5	6	2
Alan/Lee	3	5	3
Nicola/Marco	4	4	4
Dan/Miguel	9	13	1
Sophomores			
Luca/Lee	4	4	4
Sabrina/Marc	10	10	1
John/Alan	6	10	1
Andrey/Tony	10	5	3
Carlos/Manuel	4	5	3
Johanne/Cristian	11	7	2
Juniors			
Scott/John	18	12	1
Jeff/Wallie	10	7	3
Johan/Richard	8	4	4
John/John	14	8	2
Stephane/Julien	16	12	1
Moses/Joachim	6	0	5
Seniors			
Jack/Daniel	15	6	3
Tarek/Bryan	21	9	2
Jesse/Romance	28	12	1
Boris/Hector	18	3	4

Coach the coaches: Professional coach John Palladino will resume 90-minute training sessions for our other 40 coaches on Monday, October 27, repeating each Monday.
GIRLS Team: Coach Quincy Augur reports, “It is feeling more and more like a team,” with the focus on building general team confidence through advanced skills and drills.
-Adib Mansour

Senior Center

- Monday**
10:00 **Zumba**
11:00 **Computers**
5:00 **Brain & Body Stretch**
Tuesday (closed Nov 4 and 11)
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:** Face-book, Instagram, Photos, more
10:45 **Spanish**
12:00 **Bridge**
1:30 **Scrabble**
6:00-8:00 **Computer Lab**
Thursday
9:15 **Chair Pilates**
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 **Poetry/Dance**
12:00 **Korean Exercise**
1:00 **Korean Games**
2:00 **Art with John**
2:00 **Pokeno with Dolores**
7:00 **Games** (RISA)

Special Events
Masquerade Party, Fri Oct 31, 7-10pm.
Free to members, \$3.00 non-members.
Refreshments.

Escobar, from page 8
programs and initiatives which seek to bring a sense of community and neighborhood between all on the Island from its northern tip to its southern tip; just this past term I have been charged with – and if elected President will convene – a Town Hall meeting and conference of the Community and the stakeholders of the Hudson Related project as it comes to grip with the impacts the construction of the remaining towers will have on the Island. With RIOC, we have worked to ensure that our access to greenspaces and community resources and infrastructure remain intact while construction of the Cornell campus and the three remaining towers of Southtown are built. In such a short time as the organization’s President, we have come such a long way and done so much, but we can do better



unClassifieds

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unClassified deadline for November 8 issue: Tuesday, November 4
unClassified deadline for November 22 issue: Tuesday, November 18

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of alternative means of Island transportation from the Red Bus to bikes; revitalize the preservation of greenspace on the Island while focusing on environmental concerns which affect both the Island and our neighboring communities, especially as the 92nd Street transfer station completes its refurbishment and the question of whether or not we will be seeing continuous refuse and garbage barges floating up past our Island on the East River remains; provide education to Island residents as the housing stock changes on the Island and the WIRE buildings begin their efforts to exit the Mitchell-Lama program; answer the question of why so many of us residents leave the Island and what it takes to ensure that those who are on the Island stay. To successfully spearhead such initiatives and ensure that successful results come to fruition, RIRA, the Common Council and Roosevelt Island needs a President as its leader who is cognizant of the need to work with, not against, RIOC, the City and the State in finding meaningful long lasting solutions, and who understands the benefits of building coalitions with all of the stakeholders on the Island.

When my wife and I moved to this little ship floating in the East River almost nine years ago to become one of the original residents of the Octagon, there was no Cornell campus, there was no FDR memorial, the original Tram was in place, and the Octagon was barely built. Back then, when we told others we lived on Roosevelt Island, we were met with questions of where that was and why we moved there. Today, when we tell people where we live, we are met with comments of admiration for the Island, its beautiful setting and its community. I have always been proud to call myself a Roosevelt Islander, and I hope in this coming term to make you proud as well to call our little ship in the East River your home. Please vote for me as your next RIRA Common Council President.



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Friday, October 31 at 5:35 pm
Friday, November 7 at 4:27 pm



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

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

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