



Good Shepherd Plaza
Tuesday morning, January 27
Remnants of the scary storm that wasn't

Islanders

Detective Mary Fitzgerald A First Among the Finest

by Sharon Berman

On a beautiful cloudless day in May 1962, a tanned and handsome President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was in an exuberant mood. The night before, he was honored at a standing-room-only fundraiser at Madison Square Garden. When Marilyn Monroe, in a dress so tight she had to be sewn into it, sang “Happy Birthday, Mr. President,” it was the high point of the evening.

The next afternoon, Kennedy, still in New York City, was the featured guest at a reception at Gracie Mansion. Mayor Robert Wagner had invited dozens of mayors from around the country to meet the president, and JFK, working the crowd, approached an attractive woman standing with a group of men. He extended his hand and, perhaps flirtatiously, asked, “And who are

See **Fitzgerald**, page 12



Photo: Kurt Wittman

State Audit Report Reveals Source of Child School Problems Under Ferrera

News analysis by Dick Lutz

Under Executive Director Salvatore Ferrera, The Child School undertook a complex and questionable transaction for which it attempted to bill New York State. As described in an audit published by the Office of the New York State Comptroller, it was one of several elements that led to Ferrera’s hasty departure from the Island-based institution – and, simultaneously, from a seat on the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC).

That transaction, plus claims based on poor record-keeping, and other seeming attempts at financial sleight of hand, led to days of chaos at The Child School in which over 40 staffers were dismissed – not for any apparent offense by them against New York State law, but because a denial of claims for State funds produced an instant budget crisis.

It led to a lunchtime scene at Trellis in which Ferrera’s son hastily transferred records and responsibilities to another staffer on his final day on the job. Ferrera’s son was among the 40-plus who lost their jobs in a speedy response to

the crisis.

A bare outline of that story has only recently come out with the long-delayed release of the audit report. One incident bears a remarkable resemblance to an earlier Roosevelt Island incident for which a former RIOC executive served time in jail.

Ferrera was something of a controversial figure during his time on Roosevelt Island. At the behest of a Republican State Senator from Brooklyn, Governor Andrew Cuomo appointed Ferrera, a non-resident of Roosevelt Island whose institution is a tenant of RIOC’s, to the RIOC Board. At his first meeting, resident-nominated members

See **Ferrera**, page 6



Dr. Salvatore Ferrera, at a RIOC Board meeting in June 2011.

Questions Remain on Cornell’s Commitment On Barging vs Trucking

by Briana Warsing

With weather predictions in mind, Cornell NYC Tech cancelled the scheduled groundbreaking for its Roosevelt Island campus this week – a step that, when taken, will mark the start of construction.

To date, all the work on the site south of the Queensboro Bridge has been demolition, with most of the debris removed by barge, limiting the number of trucks using Main Street. But, according to the Roosevelt Island Community Coalition (RICC), the group advocating for Island organizations and residents, there are still unresolved issues of how heavy the future truck traffic will be – how many trucks we should expect and when we should expect them.

Scheduling Trucks

At a Cornell Town Hall Meeting in December, Roosevelt Island Disabled Association President Jim Bates raised the issue: “We have a lot of kids on the Island. They all cross the street many times a day, and they don’t look both ways. We have one [crossing guard] trying to monitor that. But not all children cross the street where the [crossing guard] is. Between 7:30 and 9:00 in the morning, you have 700 or 800 kids coming

See **Trucking**, page 11

The Editorial Page

Albany, O, Albany

It’s become a cliché that New York State is ruled by “three men in a room.” One of them, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, is now stepping aside while under the pressure of a federal investigation.

It would be nice to believe that this is an occasion for full representative democracy to take root in Albany. It would be nice to have reform here, as well.

Islanders have no ballot-box power over the level of governance that is closest to our daily lives. Ours is a kind of appointive colonial government, worthy of so little attention that Governor Andrew Cuomo hasn’t bothered to make (or renew) an appointment to the RIOCI Board of Directors since 2011, when he gave us Salvatore Ferrera, a non-resident whose name was put forward by a Republican State Senator from Brooklyn.

In doing so, Cuomo ignored nominating elections held on the Island, in which Islanders expressed their preferences, at the ballot box, for appointment of residents to the RIOCI Board of Directors. To seat Ferrera, he removed an effective Board member we had nominated by ballot.

By law, resident directors currently serving continue until replaced (or until they resign). But this status means that, if they do anything to displease the governor or his appointees, they can be removed on a moment’s notice.

In short, true resident power over the way Roosevelt Island is run is essentially *nil*.

A State audit now suggests that Ferrera, in running The Child School / Legacy High School here, was – at the least – just a little fast and loose with demands on the State for tax money, and/or a little lax in producing or retaining the records necessary to back up those demands. And when, while serving on the RIOCI Board, he started asking for Island resources – land and quarters – to expand his operation, few gave full trust to his motives.

That period is now well behind us.

But the question remains: How will Roosevelt Islanders gain a true voice in the way this community is served by government?

Residents and previous governors came up with an answer: **the vote**. So far, Governor Cuomo has ignored that desire, despite multiple full-throated endorsements by the governed – those of us who live here.

DL

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Krystyn Donnelley and students of Legacy High School;
Kim Massey and students from the PS/IS 217 Beacon Program,
Juniors and Cadettes of Girl Scout Troop 3324

To RIOCI [information@rioc.nyc.gov, 1:20 a.m. Monday, January 26]:

At 12:29 Monday morning, I got a robocall from RIOCI. I didn’t bother listening to the message.

Yes, I signed up for weather and Tram advisories – which, so far, have been of no value beyond common knowledge – and gave my email and my mobile number (for texting purpose).

After getting the call, I logged into the advisories site to remove my home phone, and discovered that it wasn’t there. In fact, there’s no space for it.

I can only guess that your ingenious software put my number into your system from some other source – a disgraceful breach of privacy and ethics – and then did your robocalling. RIOCI has obviously wasted our money on some low-grade low bidder, who doesn’t have the brains to know that people don’t want that kind of information in the wee hours. Nor does said vendor realize that you’ve made obvious the way RIOCI abuses data. In other words, the vendor is both dishonest *and* stupid.

The person at RIOCI reading this message probably knows nothing of this, so I’m requesting that you find out the cause of the problem, and let me know either when it will be fixed or, and perhaps better, whom I should ask for (name, telephone number, organization, and position) in order to get this rectified by direct communication with a person who actually knows how these things work.

Alan Siegal

Response from information@rioc.nyc.gov, received at 2:19 p.m. Wednesday:

Dear Alan:

Early on the morning of Monday, January 26th 2015, some residents on Roosevelt Island were the recipients of an unexpected phone call from our emergency and severe weather alert system. This alert was sent erroneously to a wide range of contacts, which included publicly available records from the White Pages. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and disturbance this caused you, and assure you that we have taken every measure possible to ensure that this error is not repeated. If you would like your home phone number removed from the list, please let me know and I will send you a confirmation that it has been removed.

If you have any further concerns or questions, please let me know and I will assist you.

To the Editor:

The change in the southbound Red Bus stop at Gristedes has caused hardship, especially for the elderly and disabled.

RIOCI should put a bench outside 10 River Road, at the bus stop. There is adequate space available.

If the reason for the change is that ConEd has not yet fixed the underground problem, why hasn’t RIOCI asked ConEd to work on it quickly, since it affects many people here? We have to cross the street and stand in bitter cold with heavy groceries or packages.

Perhaps ConEd could prop up the ground below the turnaround during the winter months so that the bus can return.

Jan Fund

Letters deadline

for February 14 issue:
Tuesday, February 10, 5:00 p.m.

Letters

To the Editor:

RIOCI promotes its Advisory notice as an “emergency and community alert system.” According to RIOCI President Charlene Indelicato, it addresses “Emergencies, Tram & Red Bus Service,” and other Island-specific concerns.

As long-time subscribers to the previous RIOCI announcements and now to the current Advisory system, we beg to differ. The RIOCI Advisory system is nearly *useless*.

During the week of January 11, RIOCI issued *three* identical advisory announcements regarding an anticipated change in weekend F line service. These notices did not state what that interruption in service would be, nor how Tram service would be changed:

Please be advised that the MTA has issued a weekend service advisory for the F train, which may affect travel plans. Please plan your travel accordingly and visit <http://mta.info> or call 511 for more information.

We believe that by not indicating which subway service is affected (Manhattan-bound or Queens-bound or both), by not specifying the time frame (hours of the three days of January 16-19), and by not indicating how Tram service might be changed to accommodate increased numbers of riders, RIOCI has failed to deliver on the objective of the Advisory service, namely alerts that include Tram service.

Here is how RIOCI might revise its notice, with our added text bolded for clarity:

*Please be advised that the MTA has issued a weekend service advisory for the F train. **There will be no Manhattan-bound train service from Roosevelt Island from 11:15 p.m. Friday, January 16, to 5:00 a.m. Monday, January 19,** which may affect travel plans. **The Tram will run on a rush-hour weekday schedule during this period.** Please plan your travel accordingly and visit <http://mta.info> or call 511 for more information.*

We call upon RIOCI to address the uninformative advisories regarding interruptions in subway service and consequential changes in the Tram schedule.

We call upon our neighbors, together with Tram and subway riders who work on Roosevelt Island, to contact RIOCI and join us in securing these vital improvements in communication via the RIOCI Advisory system.

You may email Charlene.Indelicato@rioc.ny.gov, Erica.Spencer-EL@rioc.ny.gov, and Directors@rioc.ny.gov [for members of the RIOCI Board], or call 212-832-4540 to make your opinion known.

Thank you.

Janet Falk

Aaron Hamburger, Chair, RIRA Island Services Committee

To RIOCI:

On behalf of the Roosevelt Island Parents’ Network, I would like to thank RIOCI for working with us, and continuing the popular Mommy & Me swim classes for babies and toddlers. We are especially thankful that RIOCI added a class at a time shown by our internal survey to be the most convenient for Island families.

We are happy to report that this class (11:00 a.m. Sundays) is already full. It is a great service to the community that RIOCI offers the classes both during the week and on the weekend, so that parents with different work schedules can participate with their children.

[See *ComingUp*, page 10, for available class sessions.]

Further, we would like to thank RIOCI for addressing concerns about the temperature of the water and air at Sportspark. We highly appreciate RIOCI’s commitment to keeping the exit door in the pool area closed at all times, and to mounting temporary heaters inside the women’s locker room until a new permanent heating system is installed. Thank you, RIOCI!

Eva Bosbach

RI Parents’ Network
RIRA Island Services Committee

To the Editor:

This is to vent my absolute and utter frustration with RIOCI’s consistently confusing and incomplete advisories, in particular those concerning MTA service notifications. The latter are usually worded as follows:

Please be advised that the MTA has issued a weekend service advisory for the F train, which may affect travel plans. Please plan your travel accordingly and visit mta.info/weekender or call 511 for more information.

A clearer, more concise, and resident-friendly notice would simply state:

*Please be advised that the MTA has issued a weekend service advisory for (Day/Date/Time) through (Day/Date/Time). **There will be no F train service [from Roosevelt Island to Manhattan / from Manhattan to Roosevelt Island] during this period. The Tram will run on a rush hour schedule from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. during the affected period to accommodate any increase in traffic.***

RIOCI staff, please, please, before you issue advisories in the future, make believe you are a Roosevelt Island resident, and proofread the notices for simplicity and clarity through those eyes!

Susan Cina

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.

COMING UP

– This Weekend –

Registration for Mommy & Me swim classes for children 6 months-3years closes **Fri Jan 30**, 2pm. Spots available for **Wed** 10:30am and **Sun** 1:30 & 2pm. Drop-ins welcome.

No direct subway service from Manhattan to Roosevelt Island, Fri Jan 30 9:45pm to **Mon Feb 2** 5am.

Registration open for Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance winter/spring session running **Jan 19-June 7**. Register at mstda.org. (Ad, page 5.)

Learn to Ride (Kids) presented by BikeNY, **Sat Jan 31** 1-3pm, Sportspark.

First Sunday Jazz Salon, Sun Feb 1 4-7pm, Gallery RIVAA. Special three-hour jam session. Wine, refreshments, music, and art. Donation \$10.



– Regularly Scheduled Meetings and Events –

See separate listing, page 10.

– The Next Two Weeks –

Bicycling Basics presented by BikeNY, **Tue Feb 3** 10am-1pm, Sportspark. Free. Register at bike.nyc/education/classes.

Money Matters: Health Care and Taxes, Tue Feb 3 10:30am, Library. Explore Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement and Part D coverage choices, with Alan Katz of Comprehensive Wealth Management Group, LLC. Adults. Free.

Science Fiction book discussion, **Tue Feb 3** 6:30pm, Library: *Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Ray Bradbury. Adults.

We Are New York English conversation groups, **Fri Feb 6** and every Fri thru Mar 27, 10:30am-12:30pm, Library. Half-hour TV show created to help people practice English; characters speak slowly and clearly.

No direct subway service from Manhattan to Roosevelt Island, Fri Feb 6 9:45pm to **Mon Feb 9** 5am.

State of the District presentation with City Councilmember Ben Kallos, **Sun Feb 8** 1pm, Memorial Sloan Kettering Auditorium, 430 E. 67th St. RSVP required at tinyurl.com/sod020815, BenKallos.com, or 212-860-1950.

State of the Borough event hosted by Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, **Sun Feb 8**, 1:30pm, Lerner Hall, Columbia University.

Valentine's Day Craft, Thu Feb 12 3-4pm, Library. Ages 3-12. Space limited; first-come, first-served.

Valentine's Day, Sat Feb 14.

The Main Street WIRE – Sat Feb 14. Advertising deadlines: Display, Wed Feb 4 (advertising accepted after deadline on a space-available basis); decision date for circulars/inserts, Tue Feb 10; 6,000 copies due Thu Feb 12. **Future issues:** Feb 28; Mar 14, 28; Apr 11, 25; May 9, 23; Jun 6, 20; July issue to be announced; Aug 1, 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.

Islander Roy Eaton performs at the piano in a Black History Month Concert, **Sat Feb 14** 2pm, Mount Vernon Public Library, 28 S. 1st Av., Mount Vernon, NY. Free; donations welcome. Info: 914-668-1840.

Memorial Service for Islander **Armand Schwab**, who died January 9, **Sun Feb 15** 12noon, Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd.

– Future Weeks –

Presidents' Day, Mon Feb 16.

Dr. Jordan Wolff, Chiropractor, Mon Feb 16 4pm, Senior Center, 546 Main St.

Learn to Ride (adults) presented by BikeNY, **Tue Feb 17** 10am-12noon, 1pm-3pm, Sportspark. Free. Register at bike.nyc/education/classes

Movie Night at the Library: The Great Escape, Tue Feb 17 6pm, Library. Adults.

How the Monkey Tricked the Crocodile and Other Trickster Tales, Wed Feb 18, 3pm, Library. With performer Regina Ress. Ages 5-12.

Book Discussion, Beautiful Mystery by Louise Penny, **Thu Feb 19** 6:30pm, Library. Adults.

Lunar New Year Craft, Fri Feb 20 3-4pm, Library. Ages 3-12. Space limited; first-come, first served.

Learn to Ride (kids) presented by BikeNY, **Sun Feb 22** 10am-12noon, Sportspark. Free. Register at bike.nyc/education/classes

Movie Night at the Library: Blade, Tue Feb 24 6pm, Library. Adults.

RIOC Board meets, **Thu Feb 26** 5:30pm, Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd.

Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance Grand Reopening Celebration – A Night to Remember, honoring Owen Johnston II and Nina Wintringham, **Fri Feb 27** 7:30pm, Cultural Center. \$75 (\$100 at the door). Info and reservations: mstda.org/gala or email gala@mstda.org. (Ad, page 5.)

Learn to Ride (adults) presented by BikeNY, **Tue Mar 3** 10am-12noon, 1pm-3pm, Sportspark. Free. Register at bike.nyc/education/classes

Science Fiction Book Discussion: Button, Button: Uncanny Stories by Richard Matheson, **Tue Mar 3** 6:30pm, Library.

Daylight Saving Time begins, Sun Mar 8.

St. Patrick's Day, Tue Mar 17.

Bicycling Basics presented by BikeNY, **Tue Mar 17** 10am-12noon, 1pm-3pm, Sportspark. Free. Register at bike.nyc/education/classes

Book Discussion, Capital in the 21st Century by Thomas Piketty, **Thu Mar 19** 6:30pm, Library.

Bicycle Commuting presented by BikeNY, **Wed Mar 25** 7-:30pm, Sportspark. Free.

Islander Gerald Starlight performans on the shakuhachi, **Sat Mar 28** 3pm, Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Av. Free. Info: tinyurl.com/GS032815.

Learn to Ride (adults) presented by BikeNY, **Tue Mar 31** 10am-12noon, 1pm-3pm, Sportspark. Free. Register at bike.nyc/education/classes



As this column is being written, the city is preparing for what could be the worst winter snowfall in recent history. We are predicted to receive up to 2 to 3 feet of snow, in a blizzard causing treacherous conditions for nearly 10 hours. Newscasts warn of empty grocery shelves, long lines for emergency supplies and gas, and worried New Yorkers rushing to beat the anticipated shutdown of the subways and trains. As with all weather forecasts, one must take such predictions in stride; but as New Yorkers, and especially as Roosevelt Islanders on our little ship in the East River, we cannot underestimate what Mother Nature may blow our way. At the time you are reading this column, I earnestly hope that you, your family, and your friends and neighbors were able to check in on our community's infirm and immobile and help them prepare for the storm, were able to lend a helping hand to those in need as they sought shelter and comfort, and were able to successfully and safely weather the storm.

Although a blanket of new-fallen snow can easily mask the imperfections of our Island and transform it into a winter wonderland, it is the melting of the snow and its mix of salt and sand that remind us of what lies underneath. To that end, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the number of recent complaints to RIRA, RIOC, 311, and the City about the failure by dog owners to curb their pets and pick up after them. Although required by City law, and fineable by up to \$200 for failing to do so, a number of residents continually choose not to pick up their dog's feces, not only causing unsanitary and unsightly conditions, but exposing both children and adults, young and the infirm, to the diseases, bacteria, and environmental hazards that uncollected waste can represent. Because of the recent number of complaints, RIRA, RIOC, and Manhattan's Community Board 8 have begun investigating how to amplify enforcement.

As an owner of two medium-sized dogs, I understand the annoyance of having to pick up after animals, especially in the rain or frigid temperatures. But it is not an option for me and my family, nor should it be an option for anyone else not to pick up after the dog. Although RIOC and individual buildings are being asked to install more waste receptacles in highly-trafficked areas, plus signage reminders of the laws

The RIRA Column



Jeffrey Escobar, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
jeffrey.escobar@gmail.com

requiring pick-up, it is up to each and every one of us – pet owners and non-pet owners alike – to seek community enforcement of such rules. With an Island of such limited space but with an exploding population – of both humans and pets – it is up to us to ensure that the beautiful walkways and parks that we all enjoy are not, come spring, filled with animal waste.

Turning now from picking up your dog's poop to picking up a bike: Citi Bike -- the City's bike share program – is beginning the Phase II expansion of bike stations. By the end of 2017, the program intends to double in size, with 6,000 more bikes and 375 new stations. When Citi Bike first rolled out, I and now-Councilmember Ben Kallos fought for access points to the system that made sense for Roosevelt Islanders, including stations near the Tram on Second Avenue and near the 63rd Street subway station, with expansion to Roosevelt Island during either late Phase II or early Phase III.

Due to changes in the program, the effect of Hurricane Sandy, and recent partnering with Alta Bicycle Share, the Citi Bike program has reopened public comment on where the Phase II stations should be located. From now until mid-February or so, you can vote for and/or suggest locations at <http://nycbikeshare.herokuapp.com/place/new>. With Citi Bike now contemplating excluding Roosevelt Island from both Phase II and Phase III expansion, and RIOC's opposition to a station on Roosevelt Island, it is important that you – as an Islander and regardless of whether or not you agree that Citi Bike should come to the Island – use this opportunity to have a direct voice in deciding where Citi Bike expands.

Lastly: Construction of the Cornell NYC Tech campus begins in earnest this month, with the official groundbreaking for the first of the Phase 1 buildings. Construction activity on the southern part of our Island will increase. As we brace for this historic moment and grapple with the reality of what our lives will be like

See **RIRA Column**, page 14

The WIRE publishes these columns, exclusively, as a service to the community and to the entities invited to provide them, and does not control or censor their content.

As Roosevelt Islanders know, Cornell Tech has spent the past year working on demolition in preparation for Phase 1 of our campus. This month, we have officially begun construction on the campus, starting with the First Academic Building, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne of Morphosis. I want to thank all of you for your cooperation, enthusiasm, and input as we build a new state-of-the-art campus, and work to reinvent the tech economy right here in New York City.

Before starting demolition, we heard Roosevelt Islanders' concerns, and decided to undertake an unprecedented effort to reduce the impact of our construction on the Island, with a specific focus on trucking. We implemented the most aggressive voluntary barging program in New York City. To date, I am happy to report that, through our use of barging, we have removed 14,250 tons of waste by barge, avoiding approximately 3,325-3,550 trucks. Many of you have seen the barge coming to and going from the Island – those numbers are growing every week.

We will continue to meet our commitment to reduce construction-related truck traffic on Main Street by 40%, as we expand our barging efforts to include delivery of certain materials and equipment for new construction, in addition to debris removal from demolition.

The first phase of Cornell Tech's campus is due to open in summer 2017. The First Academic Building now under construction is a departure from traditional academic facilities, embracing the tech startup model of open floor plans and flexible workspaces. The building will be among the largest net-zero energy buildings in the United States, with all of its power generated on campus. Inside the building, we will display the historic Bolotowsky mural that we uncovered at the Goldwater Hospital and had restored by local conservators, Fine Art Conservation Group.

Beyond the First Academic Building, the Phase 1 buildings will include the corporate co-location

building, designed by Weiss/Manfredi and developed by Forest City Ratner Companies. The corporate co-location building will bring tech companies – both established organizations and start-ups – to the campus to collaborate with students, faculty, and researchers. Handel Architects designed the residential building, which will incorporate passive design features to reduce energy use, and will be developed by Hudson and Related Companies. The executive education center will house a variety of programs targeted toward senior-level executives and managers, helping to further Cornell Tech's mission of tech innovation and commercialization.

We expect to break ground on the co-location building, residential building, and a central utility plant later this year, and will keep the community updated about increased construction activities.

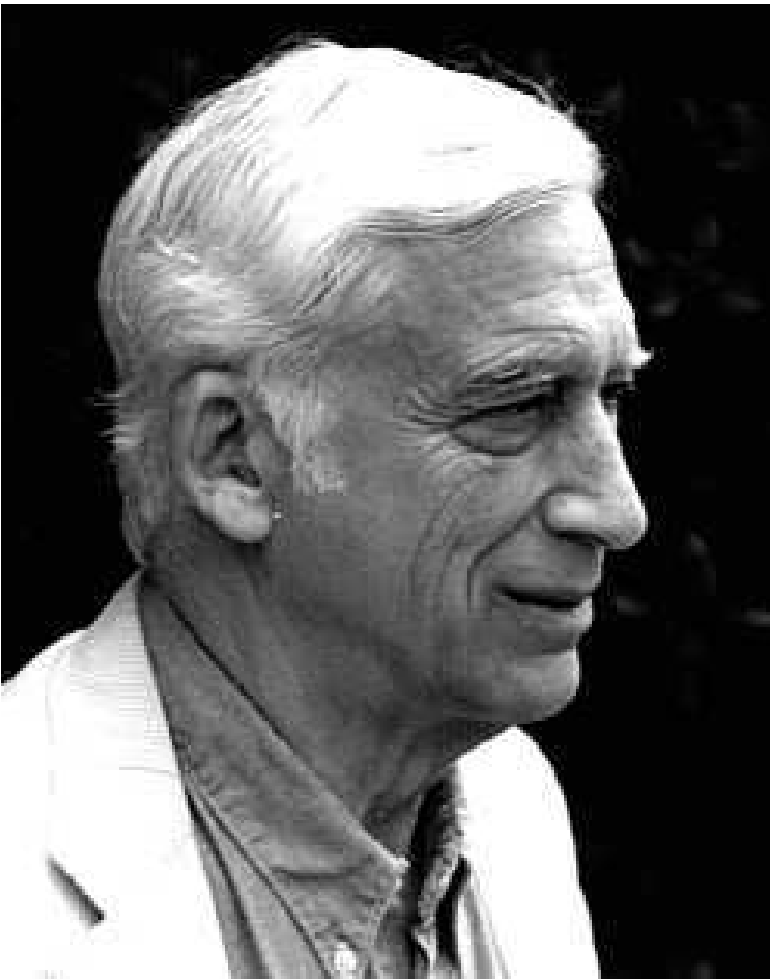
While we won't officially move to Roosevelt Island until summer 2017, we are already becoming integrated into the community.

Diane Levitt, our K-12 Director, is developing tech programming with PS/IS 217, and Jane Swanson, our community liaison who many of you know well, is on the Island twice a week at the RIVAA Gallery on Main Street, where anyone can stop in to chat with her about the campus plans.

As we move forward with construction of the campus, please visit construction.tech.cornell.edu for updates and information, and to get in touch with us. We also regularly post the results of our air-quality monitoring at the construction site on this website. And be sure to check out the photo section, which we are updating every month with images from the construction process!



Andrew Winters
Director of Capital Projects
Cornell NYC Tech



Armand Schwab

Armand Schwab, a resident of Roosevelt Island since 1977, died January 9 at home at age 91. A memorial service is scheduled for noon on Sunday, February 15, at the Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Road.

Born in New York City in 1923, he attended the Horace Mann School in Riverdale, then Harvard, where he was President of the Harvard Crimson newspaper. He served in the Philippines, then in Japan during the Occupation, then completed his Harvard education with a degree in American studies.

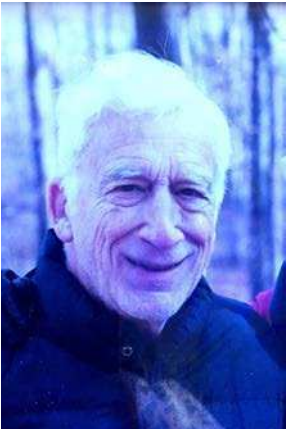
Schwab joined the staff of *The New York Times* in 1948, editing the travel section, then the *Week in Review*. He moved to the editorial board of *Scientific American* in 1961. In 1986, he became managing editor of the publication. In retirement, he served as ombudsman for *The Main Street WIRE* starting in 2000.

In the 1950s, Schwab was active in Democratic politics in Mamaroneck, served as Village Trustee for several terms, and was part of a group that hired an independent, professional village manager.

He was married to Lois Feibleman of New Orleans in 1947. Together, they raised three sons, Tony (presently a resident of Teaneck, New Jersey), John (Washington State), and Matthew (Stone Ridge, New York). They and their wives, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren survive him. Two sisters also survive him – Laurie Schwab Zabin of Baltimore and Jacqueline Isler of Zurich, Switzerland.

After his first wife’s death, he married Dr. Constance Nathanson, who is a professor of public health at Columbia University. She remains a resident of Rivercross.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Doctors Without Borders or the Visiting Nurse Service of New York.



Gwen Acsadi

Longtime Islander Gwen Acsadi has died.

She was a demographer with the United Nations, but also the virtual inventor of the black romance genre of fiction, writing under the name Gwynne Forster.

Gwendolyn Acsadi was the daughter of Vivian and King Johnson, sister of Eunice and King Johnson. She was born in Burgaw, North Carolina, and moved at an early age to Washington, DC, where her brilliant mind showed itself when she graduated from high school at 16 and went on to Howard University, American University, and Columbia University, where she obtained bachelor’s and master’s degrees in sociology, a master’s degree in economics/demography, and additional graduate credits in journalism. Her educational choices put her on track to launch a stellar career as a demographer. She was quickly hired by the United Nations, and rose up the ranks to become Section Chief (non-medical) of research in fertility and family planning in the Population Division of the United Nations in New York, and served for four years as chairperson of the International Programme Committee of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (London, England).

These positions took her on official business to 63 developed and developing countries on behalf of the United Nations, and for a time she lived in Nigeria, teaching and conducting research.

During one of her many trips to Europe, she met and fell in love with George Acsadi. They married in Nigeria and again in New York, traveled the world together, and made their home on Roosevelt Island. No two people could have been better matched in temperament and intellect. After retiring from the United Nations, Gwen and George – renowned in his own right – operated a consultancy business in demographic research for the Population Council, World Bank, and other organizations.

The writing bug eventually led Gwen to pen her first novel, which was published in 1995. She took the name Forster – her husband’s family name – and, from there on, was known in the publishing world as Gwynne Forster. From that first published novel to her last, it was one success after another, complete with numerous awards and nominations for her body of work and in recognition of her contributions as one of the early pioneers of African-American romance. Some of her numerous awards included the *Affaire de Coeur Magazine* Hall of Fame, *Romantic Times Magazine* Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Gold Pen Award. In many writing circles, she is lovingly known as the “Grande Dame,” and in all of them she is revered as “a lady.”

She was an avid gardener, enjoyed fishing, and was a longtime member of Good Shepherd Church on Roosevelt Island, where she lent her beautiful voice to the church choir. She was an experienced traveler, and a gourmet cook who loved to entertain and to blend the cuisines of the many cultures that she knew.

She is survived by her adoring stepson Peter and her devoted daughter-in-law Laura, step-grandchildren Erin and Rose, extended family, and countless friends and admirers.

A memorial service was held Saturday, January 24, at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

RIOC Advises Residents: *Be Prepared for Winter Storms*

In its latest *Community Update* press release (formerly published in *The WIRE* as *The RIOC Column*), RIOC passes along these “Winter Tips from Public Safety:”

• **Parking:** In preparations for heavy snowfall, RIOC issues “No Parking” regulations requiring drivers to remove their cars from Main Street and the East and West roadways. During this time, we will attempt to make free parking available in designated locations, including inside the Motorgate Garage and underneath the helix Ramp near Capobianco Field. Keep an eye out for signs and electronic notifications

advising when these regulations go into effect.

[During the past week, RIOC made a limited period of free parking available in Motorgate, announcing it to the community via emails and a robocalling system.]

• **Preparedness:** In the first hours of a storm, grocery and corner stores are often flooded with customers looking to stock up on necessities at the last minute. Don’t get caught in the rush – Make sure you have a sufficient supply of necessary items well before the storm. Visit prepare.ny.gov for preparedness tips, lists of items you should own, and a

list of training events in your area.

• **Travel Safety:** During cold or inclement weather, residents are urged to use caution while driving, walking, or otherwise traveling. Dress in layers, wear shoes with good traction, make sure the tires on your car are winter-ready, and fill your gas tank.

RIOC goes on to ask, “If you see any [roadway and pathway] areas that require extra attention, please contact the RIOC offices via email at information@rioc.ny.gov or call 212-832-4540.

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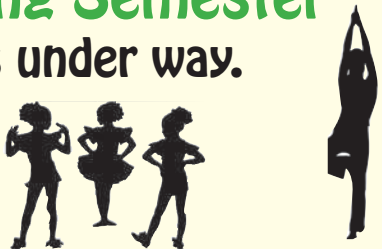
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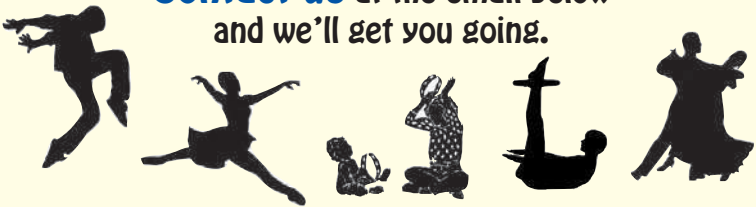


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Ferrera, from page 1

of the Board urged him to resign to protect Islanders’ efforts to achieve some democratic voice in governance of the Island. Earlier, a delegation of activists made the same request. Ferrera paid no heed.

The Child School then put forward a proposal for a horseback-riding facility just south of The Octagon, and a kayaking facility near the Queensboro Bridge, and took a lease on the second floor of 504 Main Street, the future home (on the ground floor) of the Island branch of the New York Public Library. (The lease was dropped when Ferrera resigned.)

For a time, Ferrera seemed to be leading The Child School and Legacy High School (TCS/LHS) to new heights. That ended with his resignation and the start of a period of financial hardship and recovery that remains the problem and task of new TCS/LHS leadership. That current leadership refused *The WIRE*’s request for an interview to discuss the impacts of Ferrera’s reign and departure, despite an invitation to parents in a January 16 letter to “call if you have any questions.” But the broad outline presented by Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli’s staff (which referred *WIRE* inquiries to a public relations department) suggests sloppy record-keeping, and presents a list of questionable filings for State support.

State Support

TCS/LHS is supported almost entirely by New York State, which, under law, is obligated to provide an education for any child with special needs that cannot be met by the public school system. Children with emotional difficulties and learning handicaps receive an education there, and the school boasts an impressive record of high school graduates, including many with Regents diplomas. While based on Roosevelt Island, it is only peripherally of Roosevelt Island. Its students are largely from off-Island, brought daily by school buses. A few Roosevelt Island children have been educated there, and their parents praise the school – sometimes for finding an educational solution that wasn’t available in the New York City public school system.

The school has made efforts to integrate with the community, inviting residents to student exhibitions and sending students to help with *The WIRE*’s Friday-morning “stuffing” sessions – inserting loose advertising matter into the newspaper.

Maari de Souza, the school’s founder, had started it in her Island House apartment, moved it to larger quarters downtown, then found a way to turn the Island’s long-abandoned and derelict minischools into a beautiful and well-disciplined institution of special education. She resigned in August 2009, and took the title of Educational Advisor, which she described as “a unique and envious [sic] opportunity to devote all my time to our children.”

Ferrera took over in July 2010. Others who have taken over subsequently now face the problem of making up the disallowed charges submitted to the State under Ferrera.

Arm’s Length

The State audit describes one Ferrera transaction this way under the heading, “Less-Than-Arm’s-Length Transactions.” *During fiscal 2009-10, the School used Vendor A and Vendor B to provide building maintenance and cleaning services. According to its records for this period, the School paid \$114,839 to these two vendors. After the second Executive Director [Ferrera] came on board (fiscal 2010-11), he replaced Vendors A and B with a Vendor C. Moreover, the School paid Vendor C \$186,670 (or \$71,832 more than it paid Vendors A and B) to do ostensibly the same work.*

However, Vendor C did not actually perform the contracted work, but subcontracted it to Vendor D, owned by

a former coworker of the Executive Director. The School did not use competitive bidding to select Vendors C and D, whose charges significantly increased (by the aforementioned \$71,832) the school’s maintenance and cleaning costs. As such, we recommend that SED [the State Education Department] disallow the additional \$71,832 in costs attributable to the School’s less-than-arm’s-length arrangement involving Vendors C and D.

In addition, Vendor D billed the school \$108,241 for other work (i.e., snow removal and warehouse work) for which there was no supporting documentation other than Vendor D’s invoice. There was no evidence that the work was requested by the School or that it was competitively bid. Further, there was no explanation why this work was not covered by the existing maintenance and cleaning contractor with Vendor C. Consequently, we recommend that SEC disallow the \$108,241 paid to Vendor D.

The section concludes, *In total, we recommend disallowance of \$180,073 in regard to Vendors C and D.*

In all, the State’s audit recommends that the State Education Department disallow \$992,765 in claimed program costs for the three fiscal years from 2008 to 2011 – a significant hit for a non-profit institution when measured against the overall claim of \$25,792,637 for that period.

The broad outline of the “Vendors C and D” transaction resembles a transaction for which a RIOC Vice President, Fernando Martinez, pled guilty and served jail time. In a different less-than-arm’s-length transaction, Martinez helped associates get clean-up work at Southpoint Park. A State audit led to charges against Martinez. (The same audit led to the sudden departure of RIOC President Leslie Torres for

were not based on merit.”

There were also non-personnel costs, identified in audit-speak as OTPS (Other than Personal Service) costs.

- \$29,605 for food and entertainment, \$1,014 for invitations to a founder’s award benefit, \$750 for a scholarship diner, and \$266 for Broadway tickets.

- \$7,697 for parking violations
- \$3,464 for expenses normally paid by parents. (“The School claimed \$1,600 [for sporting events] even though documentation showed that students’ parents already paid for these expenses.”)

- \$4,600 for gifts
- \$726 for a bronze statue

“We identified another \$70,756 in charges for which there was either no supporting documentation, the expense was already charged in a different expense category, or the expense was charged to the wrong fiscal year... Further, we identified certain duplicate payments and accrued expenses that were claimed, but were not actually paid.”

The audit also lists and recommends disallowance of costs for six vehicles “for use by its two former Executive Directors” amounting to \$72,856 for lease payments, insurance, maintenance, and parking. (While some or all of the vehicle leases were apparently for 36 months, no more than one car per Executive Director was on lease at any time.)

Response and Defense

A response from TCS/LHS dated December 7, 2014, outlines “corrective efforts instituted during the 2008-2009 school year, attributes financial imprecision to “a year of major transition for the School,” adding, “such findings must be viewed in the context of the significant transitional issues leading up to the resignation of the Executive Director who founded the School and led it for some forty years. During this year, in spite of administrative disruptions, the School continued to meet its core objectives. Twenty-seven students received high school diplomas. Of these, 8 received Advanced Regents Diplomas and 7 received Regents Diplomas. This record of academic success in a special education school for children with severe disabilities is extraordinary.”

Describing the “First Term of New Executive Director,” the TSC/LHS response says, “This year [2010-2011] marked another year characterized by disruption in all aspects of management, including financial operations. An Executive Director hired to replace the founder in July 2010 was replaced by the Board of Trustees within the next three years. Difficulties with budgetary controls during this year are pointed out in the Audit Report, but it should also be reported that during this year 19 students received high school diplomas, including 9 with Advance Regents Diplomas and 5 with Regents Diplomas. The School also developed a program... to serve children with autism spectrum disorders...”

In another section: “It should be noted that before preliminary audit findings were issued, the School had itself initiated a review to identify and correct the shortcomings identified in the preliminary and final [audit] reports. A consultant with a financial background was retained in November 2012 and appointed interim Executive Director in early 2013 specifically for the purpose of examining financial conditions and instituting financial controls.”

It is also noted that “the School is hampered in its ability to provide explanations for certain book entries and expenditures...” that occurred “during a period in which the School was led by two Executive Directors who have since

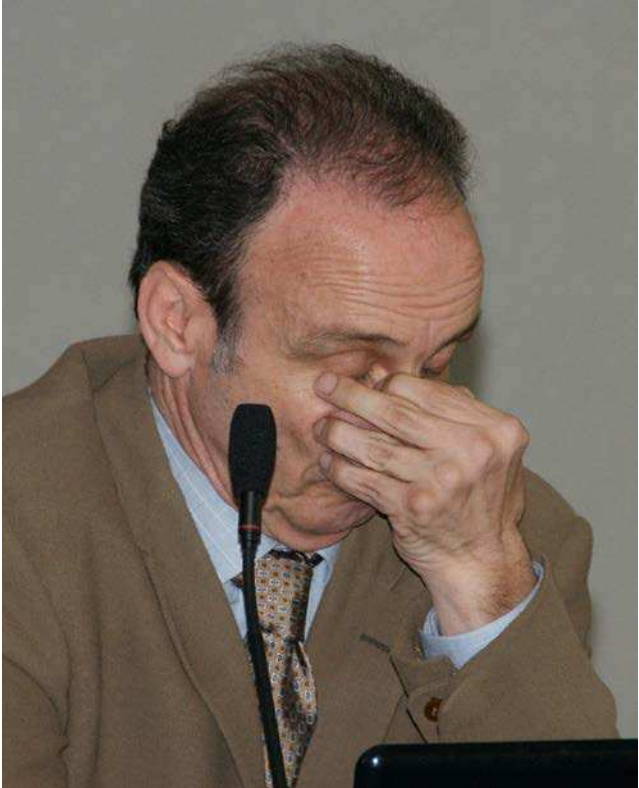
See **Ferrera**, page 14

Program Costs	Amount Per CFR	Amount Disallowed	Amount Allowed
Personal Services			
Direct Care	\$13,020,208	\$429,534	\$12,590,674
Agency Administration	\$1,603,818	\$5,937	\$1,597,881
Total Personal Services	\$14,624,026	\$435,471	\$14,188,555
Other Than Personal Services			
Direct Care	\$10,193,446	\$422,568	\$9,770,878
Agency Administration	\$975,165	\$134,726	\$840,439
Total Other Than Personal Services	\$11,168,611	\$557,294	\$10,611,317
Total Program Costs	\$25,792,637	\$992,765	\$24,799,872

other infractions.)

The other audit results that led to the recommended denial for nearly \$1 million in TCS/LHS claims for State money included these:

- Overstated Compensation
 - \$114,338 in overstated salaries and fringe benefits for 70 employees;
 - \$168,579 in excessive pension costs for all three [audited] years;
 - \$27,448 in health and dental insurance costs. “For example, on June 30, 2011, the School accrued \$21,043 in health insurance costs and claimed this expense... The School did not have documentation to support this expense had been paid.”
 - \$43,017 in health insurance premiums for 24 former employees and dental insurance premiums paid on behalf of 17 former employees...
 - \$41,523 in bonuses for 32 employees “because they



Salvatore Ferrera, in June 2011, as he listened to resident suggestions at his first RIOC Board meeting.

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Adventures OFF-Island

Compiled by Sara Maher
February is upon us, and on a Sunday in February, humankind’s greatest battle will commence. After a season of truly impressive face-offs, only the strongest, most clever team will come out victorious and walk away with the trophy... er, statue. The 87th Annual Academy Awards will take place on Sunday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m. Before you dress in your best and roll out the red carpet, head to these venues and check out the nominees.

City Cinemas 1, 2, and 3 This theater, conveniently located near both the F and the Tram, features wide rows and plush seats. Currently showing: *American Sniper*, nominated for six awards including Best Picture, Adapted Screenplay, and an acting nod for leading man Bradley Cooper.

► F downtown to 63rd/Lex and walk southeast to 1001 3rd Ave., or take the Tram and walk west on 60th to Third. General admission \$17, ages 3-11 and seniors \$14, shows before noon \$8.50. Rated R. See tinyurl.com/CityCinema.

The Paris This theater has a wide screen and balcony seating. The staff is very friendly,

but the theater has a small lobby, so don’t show up more than 15 minutes before showtime unless you’re willing to wait outside. Currently showing: *The Imitation Game*, which hits all eight major categories with nominations for Best Picture, Directing, Production Design, Film Editing, Original Score, Adapted Screenplay, and acting nods for Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley.

► F downtown to 57th Street and walk northeast to 4 West 58th. Adults \$14.50, children and seniors \$11.75, shows before noon \$8. Rated PG-13. tinyurl.com/mswParis.

Ziegfeld Theater This gem claims to be the City’s last single-screen movie theater, but it may just be the most famous. Currently showing: *Birdman*, considered a frontrunner for Best Picture, has eight other nominations, including Directing, Original Screenplay, and three for acting.

► F downtown to 57th Street and walk southwest to 141 West 54th Street. Adults \$15, ages 2-11 and seniors \$11.50. Rated R. tinyurl.com/mswZiegfeld.

Chelsea Cinemas An older multiplex with updated projection and sound. Currently showing: *Selma*, nominated for Best Picture,

and *The Theory of Everything*, nominated for Best Picture, Original Score, Adapted Screenplay, and nods for leads Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones.

► F downtown to 23rd Street and walk west to 260 West 23rd Street. Adults \$15, ages 2-11 and seniors \$11.50. Both films rated PG-13. tinyurl.com/mswChelsea

IFC Center The historic Waverly theater now shows the best in new independent film and sells only organic popcorn. It’s also big on the Oscar nominees. Currently showing: the other Best Picture frontrunner, *Boyhood*, and Documentary Feature nominee *Citizenfour*. It is also one of the only venues showing all nominated short films (Animation Shorts, Live Action Shorts, and Documentaries).

► F downtown to West 4th Street and it’s right across the street at 323 Sixth Ave. Adults \$14, children and seniors \$10, members \$9. Tickets for short films sold separately by genre. *Boyhood* and *Citizenfour* are rated R; Animation Shorts recommended for ages 8 and up; Live Action Shorts recommended for ages 11 and up; Documentaries not rated. ifccenter.com

Angelika Film Center Offering a “dynamic and sophisticated atmosphere,” this venue claims to be “the most successful and recognized arthouse in the United States.” Its Oscar showings certainly skew toward the artistic. Currently showing: *Inherent Vice*, nominated for Costume Design and Adapted Screenplay, and *Mr. Turner*, nominated for Cinematography, Costume Design, Production Design, and Original Score.

► F downtown to Broadway-Lafayette and walk west to 18 West Houston. General admission \$14, ages 3-11 and seniors \$11. Both films rated R. tinyurl.com/mswAngel

Landmark Sunshine Cinema Dare I say, a landmark? Friendly staff, comfortable seats, and a remarkably clean restroom with fake flowers. Currently showing: *Whiplash*, nominated for Best Picture and featuring Supporting Role likely J.K. Simmons, and *Foxcatcher*, winner of several awards for ensemble cast and nominated for Original Screenplay.

► F downtown to Second Avenue and walk southeast to 143 East Houston. Adults \$13.50, children \$11, seniors \$10. Both films rated R. tinyurl.com/mswSunshine

COMING UP

Continuing Events & Activities

A listing of **repeating** or **regularly held** meetings & events (a listing of other events scheduled for this weekend and in coming weeks appears on page 3)

ART EXHIBITS

Out with the Old, In with the Few group show extended to Jan 31, Gallery RIVAA.
Islander Dan Nistor presents a one-artist show, *Characters at Dusk*, Octagon Gallery. 9am-8pm daily through Feb 28. (Review, page 10.)

PARKS

Southpoint Park open daily 6am-10pm.
Lighthouse Park open daily 7am-9pm.
Four Freedoms Park daily 9am-5pm. **Closed 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.
We Are New York English conversation groups, Fr 10:30am-12:30pm, through Fri Mar 27.

MUSIC

First Sunday Jazz Salon, **1st Sun** 5-7pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. \$10 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 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.
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 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.
(*\$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 (Vinyasa-flow) with Keren Messer, **Mon** 7:45pm, **Fri** 10am, Good Shepherd Center. Info: KerenMsR@gmail.com.
Yoga (Hatha) with Keren Messer, **Tue** 6:30pm, 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** 6:30-7:30pm, **Thu** 6:30-7:30pm, **Sat** 10-11am, Sportspark. \$5.

BIRTH THROUGH TODDLER (Sat-Fri)

Mommy & Me Swim Classes for children 6 months to 3 years. Spots available for drop-ins **Wed** 10:30 and **Sun** 1:30 or 2:00. Info at rioc.ny.gov. See *ComingUp*, page 3.
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-Lingual Birdies: Mandarin (0-5 yrs), **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.
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/Rlyouth.

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.
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.

SENIORS

Lunch, **Mon-Fri** noon, Senior Center, 546 Main St. \$1.50. Menus outside social worker’s office. Also see listing below.

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.
Women’s Health Organization, last **Wed** 6:30pm, 546 Main St, 12th floor conference room.
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, **4th 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.

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 with Luis**
10:45 **Spanish**
11:00 **Social Media for Seniors:** Facebook, Instagram, Photos, more
10:45 **Spanish**
12:00 **Bridge**
1:30 **Scrabble**
6:00-8:00 **Computer Lab**

Thursday
9:15 **Chair Pilates**
10:30 **Zumba**
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 **Tai Chi**
12:00 **Korean Exercise**
2:00 **Art with John**
2:00 **Pokeno**
7:00 **Games** (RISA)

Special Events

Dr. Jordan Wolff, Chiropractor, **Mon Feb 16**, 4pm.
Indian Food Shopping & Restaurant, **Wed Feb 25** 9:30am-1:30pm. See Bubû.
Black History Celebration, February date to be announced.

City Offers ID Card With Some Free Admissions as Incentive

by Francine Lange

Now that the buzz about New York City’s history-making blizzard has fizzled out, and people are returning to their regular winter routines, it’s time to turn our attention to an historic initiative that will truly benefit New Yorkers: the launch of IDNYC, a free municipal photo identification card for all City residents as young as 14.

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the rollout in January at the Flushing branch of the Queens Library. He said, “IDNYC is not only a card for all New Yorkers, it is the gateway to City services, the key to opening a bank account or getting a library card, and the ticket to many of our city’s finest cultural institutions. More than that, this card represents who we are: New Yorkers who value equality, opportunity, and diversity.”

Although the card benefits those who don’t have or can’t get a regular ID – a driver’s license, for example – and aims to encourage even undocumented residents to apply (their immigration status won’t be questioned), the card also opens doors for individuals and families whose limited finances may not allow them to fully partake of the city’s cultural offerings.

Discounts

Cardholders may receive a free one-year membership to 33 cultural institutions in the five boroughs. Members have free entry, discounts on special events and gift shop items, and certain members-only access to popular exhibits. Some of the participating establishments include the Wildlife Conservation Society/Bronx Zoo, the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Jewish Heritage, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Staten Island Museum. If a family were to buy a one-year membership to just these seven, they would need to pay \$904. With the municipal card, they would pay nothing.

One New Yorker, Stephen Braun, who works in guest services at a major department store, directs thousands of tourists a year to museums, concert halls and the city’s zoos. He says that he can’t spend as much money as he would like for such places. But with the IDNYC, he’ll now be able to explore more art instead of just sending others. “We need to take advantage of those things that make New York, New York,” he said.

Avoid Check-Cashing Fees

For some residents, the card can be used as an official document

to open a bank account. People who’ve been using check-cashing stores can save a tidy sum over a year. Those savings can be extended when a cardholder, now with a bank account, may simply write a check or perform an on-line transfer to pay bills such as rent, phone, and utilities, instead of

buying money orders, which also carry fees. Amalgamated Bank on Roosevelt Island has announced that it will now accept the IDNYC for account applicants.

Easy Application

Applying is a three-step process. First, New Yorkers must go online to the IDNYC website (www1.nyc.gov/site/idnyc/index.page) to learn more about the card and its benefits and to schedule an in-person appointment at one of the 12 enrollment centers and two traveling pop-up centers located throughout the five boroughs. Residents without Internet access may call 311 to schedule by phone and receive further instructions. Second, applicants must fill out an online form, available in 25 languages, which they will then print out and sign. Third, they must bring the form to their appointment, along with acceptable identification that confirms they are New York City residents. The website lists the identification they may use, which can include a passport, a visa, and foreign identification documents.

To date, several thousand residents have scheduled appointments. With increasing word-of-mouth, social media, television, and radio publicity, some Manhattan centers have no openings until July or August. During the launch at the library, a beaming Mayor de Blasio held up his own card and said: “One piece of plastic, but it’s going to open so many doors for our fellow New Yorkers.”

With the opportunity to carry a card that opens many cultural, financial, and municipal doors in the city, it is surely worth the wait.



Trucking, from page 1 up and down Main Street.”

For Cornell, construction coordinator Andrew Winters answered with a restatement of planned construction hours – 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. He said that Cornell is trying to work with its builders to reduce the number of trucks. Winters spoke of a general intent to reduce truck trips, but did not offer to discuss Bates’ suggestion to pay for an additional crossing guard or explain why a set schedule could not be coordinated with the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.

The WIRE followed up. Through Jeremy Soffin and Joanna Rizzo at political public relations firm BerlinRosen, Winters said, “We have not yet worked out a detailed schedule for the timing of deliveries. We will take community concerns into account as we work with our builders to minimize the impact of truck trips on the community. As for residents staying off Main Street, during the peak quarter of truck deliveries (Q3 2015) with an average of 67 trucks per day, that works out to an average of one truck every eight minutes during a nine-hour day, before a reduction for barging is factored in.”

But questions remain. RICC Co-Chair Judy Buck says that her organization has raised Bates’ question before, but Cornell has never committed to an answer.

Cornell’s Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) says, “Material deliveries to the site [will] be regimented and scheduled. Because of the level of construction activity involved..., unscheduled or haphazard deliveries would not be allowed.” It appears, then, that a rigid schedule will be followed. As the FEIS puts it:

- “During excavation, each delivery truck would be assigned a specific block of time during which it must arrive on the site. If a truck is late for its turn, it would be accommodated if possible, but if not, the truck would be assigned to a later time.”
- “A similar regimen would be instituted for concrete deliveries, but the schedule would be stricter.”
- “During the finishing of the building interiors, individual deliveries would be scheduled to the maximum extent possible.”
- “The available time for subcontractors’ use of the hoists would be tightly scheduled. Each trade, such as the drywall subcontractor, would be assigned a specific time to have its materials delivered and hoisted onto the building.”

The FEIS goes into great detail about many different parts of the process. One of them is the schedule. It’s hard to imagine, based on the planning that is memorialized in the FEIS, and has been kept so far, to Cornell’s credit, that they have not ascertained which trucks are coming at what time.

How Many Trucks?

At the December Town Hall session, Buck asked the other key question: *How many vehicles will be on Main Street every day?*

She used a table (20-4) in the FEIS to cite numbers as high as 376 trips a day in the first quarter of 2015 – that is, now. She added that, by the fourth quarter of 2015 (next winter), the FEIS says there will be 1,092 trips per day.

Winters said, “I will have to look into those numbers. They don’t sound right to me. There are two types of vehicles. There are delivery vehicles and then there are construction worker and management vehicles. The FEIS gives numbers for both of these. Cars are capped at 100, period. Those

numbers sound very high.”

As to why Andrew Winters doesn’t know the numbers cold, Buck told *The WIRE*, “Nobody looks at this stuff [the FEIS] except us.” But she also explained that responses like this have been typical. She says, “We have been given zero detail, so we keep asking.”

Through BerlinRosen, Winters got back to *The WIRE* regarding that question. He breaks down the question using a different part of the FEIS. “The busiest quarter for trucks is anticipated to be Q3 [July-September] of 2015, which was projected in the FEIS (Table 20-3) to have an average of 67 trucks per day. Each truck makes two trips on Main Street (to the site, and away from the site), so that’s a maximum daily average of 134 truck trips (2 x 67).”

This number is much lower than the one cited by Buck, because hers includes all vehicles – both trucks and construction workers driving their cars to work. Winters’ figure covers only construction vehicles.

The number of workers on site is predicted to be highest in the fourth quarter of this year [October-December] – 839 shown in a table identified as 20-3. In another table, that translates to Buck’s number – 1,092 vehicle trips per day.

According to Winters, “The FEIS estimates that there will be a maximum daily parking demand of up to 430 spaces. However, it goes on to note that there will only be up to 100 parking spaces provided on site, and no long-term parking on the street, so the remaining 330 spaces would be accommodated at Motorgate, which has the capacity to do so.”

He says, “We have written this 100-space restriction into all of our contracts, so we do not anticipate more than 100 worker-vehicles traveling down Main Street each day to the Cornell project site; the majority (more than 75%) would be going to Motorgate, and therefore not traversing the streets of Roosevelt Island.”

Winters says this represents a net reduction in daily vehicles on Main Street. He says, “The maximum trips we would expect to see on Main Street in a single day would be 67 trucks and 100 cars heading to the site, and the same number leaving the site. Given the number of daily vehicles parked at the former Goldwater Hospital (in excess of 300), this represents a net reduction in daily vehicles on Main Street.”

What RICC Wants

Buck says RICC wants specifics. The numbers in the FEIS are worst-case numbers, and RICC wants the actual numbers. Buck says, “We need to know on a continual basis what to expect... What might we expect and when? – written in English. We need to be able to bring trucking news to the community.”

She acknowledges that “There are going to be changes here. We’re not going to stop Cornell from building, but we have to make it as humane as possible, and do everything we can to direct Cornell to do the right thing. There is a right thing, and I think Andrew Winters is aware of that.”

Air Pollution

About this upcoming period in Roosevelt Island history, RICC Board Co-Chairs Judy Buck and Ellen Polivy predict, “There will be trucks. There will be construction-related SUVs and there will be cars at an extremely high level in the fourth quarter of 2015. There will be a new intensity of noise and congestion. But for many residents, the greatest fear is that there will be increased air pollution.”

One of the reasons that RICC wants to know what to expect about trucking is to help the community protect itself. Buck says, “Air pollution is the terrible twin of all of these trucks. We need an expert to measure air pollution where it’s going to be the worst. This is about protection. We want to guard the wellbeing of the community, particularly the most vulnerable.”

The most vulnerable to health impacts stemming from air pollution are children, older adults, people who are active outdoors, and people with heart or lung disease.

RICC has been asking for air quality monitoring on Main Street since its earliest days, but monitoring is limited to the construction site. RICC has a meeting with RIOC scheduled to discuss pollution concerns. The organizations hopes to partner with the Roosevelt Island Residents Association to get expert advice.

One problem is that not all trucks on the Island are Cornell trucks, or attributable to the campus construction. Buck says, “We’re going to be facing Cornell trucks, Hudson/Related trucks, plus our usual trucks. We [Islanders] are going to be getting the brunt of it. The deck is badly stacked, but we can get some standards and some transparency [from Cornell]. We’re not concerned with Hudson/Related [trucking], but I hope someone is.”

State of RICC

Buck thinks some new blood on RICC might help generate some new ideas. She says, “I hope we get new members. We got two new board members recently (Erin Olavesen of the PTA and Steven White of RIRA). I want this to become a concern where more younger people like them are drawn in and start to talk about it with other younger people.”

She doesn’t feel that the community at large understands the issues. She says, “The assumption is, *It’s Cornell, it’s got to be good*. I think there’s a certain trust and also a certain laziness. These issues are not simple. The more you learn, the more complex they become.” Buck feels its important for the community to be fully aware, and explains, “We have to be alert. I don’t know how much we can change. But the more that people understand, the better shape we’ll be in.”

What about Barging?

Cornell used barging for almost all of the demolition. Winters said, “Cornell is undertaking the most voluntary use of barging in United States history.” Cornell had promised a 40% reduction in truck trips, overall, but that 40% may have been covered during demolition. Buck says, “As construction begins, I don’t think we’re going to be as happy. There are going to be a lot of trucks. The question is – *How many?*”

Access to the Island by truck requires use of the Roosevelt Island Bridge, which has a 36-ton gross vehicle weight restriction. All trucks used for construction of the project have to meet this weight requirement. Anything heavier than that must be transported by barge.

A Community and Construction Task Force Meeting that was to be held this week, cancelled based on anticipated weather, was to address some of the trucking and air quality concerns. The meeting will be rescheduled. According to RICC Co-Chairs Buck and Polivy, Winters will present an update on the number of diesel trucks estimated to use Main Street for this first phase of the build, the corporate co-location building, estimated at 36 months.

But, say Buck and Polivy, “Naturally, we push for barging.”

Fitzgerald, from page 1
you?”

The woman he approached, wearing a smart summer frock, replied “I’m Detective Mary Fitzgerald, NYPD.”

President Kennedy was clearly surprised. He asked her a few questions. How long she had been in the NYPD, whether her father had been in the NYPD, whether she had a brother in the NYPD – and after Detective Mary Fitzgerald answered his questions, he walked away without introducing himself to any of the male detectives standing with her.

It was understandable that President Kennedy mistook Mary Fitzgerald for a party guest. A 10-year member of the force, she was part of the security team assigned to guard the president. Her goal was to blend in – to look like any guest at an event – but there was always one important difference between NYPD Detective Mary Fitzgerald and other women at an event. Her fashionable but slightly oversized handbag concealed her official NYPD weapon, a Smith and Wesson .38.

(In 1943, the NYPD issued the first combination gun and make-up shoulder bag, which contained a holster for a .38 revolver, a lipstick in medium red, a compact, and a red plastic case of dry rouge. Mayor LaGuardia said, “Use the gun as you would use your lipstick – only when you need it – and use it intelligently. Don’t overdo either one.”) A Rivercross resident since 1977, Mary exemplifies the *Protect and Serve* motto of police departments. As a member of the NYPD Intelligence Division, she guarded dozens of dignitaries over a period of 25 years, starting in 1958. At age 92, she remembers many of them:

Jacqueline Kennedy often came to New York, and Fitzgerald was assigned to guard her a number of times. She would pick up Mrs. Kennedy from her suite at the Carlyle Hotel and accompany her on shopping trips. When asked for details of her protective details – where she sat, how close she would be to the dignitaries she was guarding – Fitzgerald declined to give specifics.

Were her assigned duties arduous? Seemingly not. She has fond memories of shopping with Queen Sofia of Spain, who knew exactly what she wanted to buy, and headed first to the West Side for electronic gear and then to a store where she bought a large quantity of good quality but relatively inexpensive handbags for personal gifts. What was it like shopping with a queen?



Evidently, part of Queen Sofia’s shopping strategy was to dress in an unassuming blouse and skirt.

Aliza Begin, wife of Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was another savvy shopper. She came here knowing that she wanted to go to Alexander’s, and it was Fitzgerald’s pleasant assignment to accompany her. And when the wife of the president of Mexico wanted to shop for clothes for her mother, Fitzgerald suggested Lord & Taylor, knowing it had a good selection of clothes for older women.

Fitzgerald had an advantage over male detectives and Secret Service agents. She could accompany a woman she was guarding anywhere, even into a ladies room, so she had many evening assignments. She accompanied Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir to a United Jewish Appeal dinner, and went to see Lena Horne with Nancy Reagan. When President and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson were in the city, she was assigned (with a male partner) to a dinner. She wore a cocktail dress and blended with the guests so well that the man sitting next to her at the dinner asked her to dance. Asked “What did you do?” she answers, “I danced with him.”

When Jacqueline Kennedy was at Lincoln Center for a Philharmonic Hall opening, Fitzgerald was there – not seated with her, but

Women in the NYPD

- **1918** – First six Policewomen are appointed. They receive \$1,200 per year, carry a revolver, handcuffs, and summonses, but do not wear a uniform.
- **1938** – The first civil service exam for the title of “Policewoman” is given. Some 11,000 women file to take the exam; 3,700 actually take it.
- **1942** – The NYPD offers the exam for the second time. Mary Fitzgerald is one of 1,000 women taking it, and she achieves the fifth-highest score.
- **1961** – Two policewomen sue for the right of women to take the NYPD promotional exams. After two years and many court appeals, they win.
- **1968** – The Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association opens membership to women.
- **1973** – The titles of Patrolman and Policewoman are officially consolidated to one title, *Police Officer*, and the first gender-neutral civil service exam for Police Officers is offered by the NYPD.



Policewoman List Released

With 144 Names—26 Jobs

—1952—

The 144-name Policewoman list was established Friday, Oct. 3 by the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

From Police headquarters, it was learned that there are currently 26 vacancies in the Policewoman quota waiting to be filled from the new list at the appointment rate of \$3,725.

Originally, 1,240 young women applied for the exam of whom 177 passed the May 3 written test. Of this group, 144 passed the physicals to make the list.

POLICEWOMAN

1 Clare W. Faulhaber	96.33	38 Marie Simpson	81.57
2 Marilyn Ruderman	95.16	39 Norma L. Eaves	81.20
3 Dorothy Schaber	93.21	40 Mary T. Sullivan	81.03
4 Isabel F. Montanez	92.43	41 Margaret Mortaugh ..	81.02
5 Mary E. Fitzgerald	89.29	42 Ellen F. McKenney ..	80.81
6 Kathleen V. Kennedy	89.21	43 Irene T. Malast	80.81
7 Ethel T. Breslin	87.78	44 Elizabeth Teed	80.60
		45 Kathleen P. Cox	80.40
		46 Rose L. Shear	80.30
		47 Shirley E. Derbes	80.11
		48 Helen Chusid	80.01
		49 Johanna L. Szerlip ..	79.91
		50 Joan C. Lovett	79.88
		51 Mary A. Hoey	79.64
		52 Elizabeth Elliot	79.54
		53 Patricia A. Larkin ..	79.44
		54 Elaine A. Hyde	79.21
		55 Rhoda Mandelbaum ..	79.17
		56 Mary T. McNamara ..	79.06
		57 Barbara H. Hillary ..	78.88
		58 Winifred E. Sims	78.82
		59 Kathleen T. Banks	78.71
		60 Mary T. Callahan	78.61

“nearby.” When Neil Armstrong came to the city for a ticker-tape parade in 1969 after walking on the moon, Fitzgerald was assigned to City Hall.

One of Fitzgerald’s frequent duties was to deliver dignitaries to the United Nations. As a result, the United Nations Police knew her, and she was an invited guest, sitting in the General Assembly, when Nikita Krushchev made the memorable speech during which he banged his shoe on the lectern.

Clearly, retired detective Fitzgerald loved her job. When asked about her work, her reply was “It’s my nature to be protective of people.” Her comments about the people she worked with tell the story. Queen Sofia was a “very practical person and a very good shopper.” Aliza Begin was “an exceptionally compatible, very pleasant” woman. Jacqueline Kennedy endeared herself by giving Mary a signed, framed photograph. “I was on my way out of the hotel when a

Secret Service agent brought me the photograph,” she says. It now has a place of honor in Fitzgerald’s living room.

How did Mary Fitzgerald become a police officer, the occupation that defined her life? After high school graduation, she was eligible to attend Hunter College, but her father had died when she was 15, and her older brother was conscripted to serve during World War II. At 19, she needed to work and support her mother. She operated a comptometer – an early mechanical calculating machine – but made little money and saw no opportunity to advance. A man in her office suggested that she take the exam for policewomen. When the test was offered in 1952, it was only the second time that women had been able to test for police positions. (The first was in 1948.) Approximately 1,000 women took the exam, and Fitzgerald received the fifth-highest score. She was hired. She was fast-tracked through the

Police Academy and, after a month, was sworn in. In 1956, her commanding officer recommended her for promotion to detective, and she became an officer in the pickpocket squad. Two years later, she was moved to what is now the Intelligence Division, and stayed there happily until she had to retire in 1983 for medical reasons.

At 92, she is active and happy. At a recent birthday party at the home of Dr. Katherine Grimm, dozens of friends and a few former colleagues gathered to celebrate and toast her life and achievements. Deputy Director Lynda Marmara of Roosevelt Island Public Safety sent this message.

“Warmest birthday greetings to Retired NYPD Detective Mary Fitzgerald. I want to thank her for her years of dedicated service to the NYPD and the City of New York. Your place in the history of women and policing is fascinating and awe-inspiring. Thank you for pioneering and paving the way for future policewomen, and creating opportunities for women to achieve greater successes within the NYPD. I personally am profoundly grateful to you and the other pioneers. May this birthday and the years to come be truly *The Finest!*”

Characters at Dusk Exhibit Features Islander Dan Nistor

review by David Stone

There are gallery shows that satisfy your appetite for art, others that are a little disappointing. A very few exceptional shows leave you wishing for more. Dan Nistor's *Characters at Dusk* at RIVAA's gallery in the lobby of The Octagon, 888 Main Street, is one such show. A visitor wishes for more from this artist.

Dan Nistor left Romania for the United States in 1996, continuing his career as artist and teacher in New York. In 1997, he moved to Roosevelt Island. He has taught fashion design and illustration at Parsons The New School for Design, the Art Institute of New York City, and Gibbs College. *Characters at Dusk* is his first solo show in the United States.

An example of what makes Nistor's work so memorable is *The Red Sweater*, one of over 20 acrylics and pastels filling out the exhibit. A figure poses with hands on hips, suggesting a model. Her sweater is set off by a bright yellow vest and a green skirt draped below. For the background, the artist selects a wash of color that deftly accents, without interfering with his main figure. The picture is a generous mix of light, color, and design that holds the eye.

Although Nistor does not subscribe to a specific artistic philosophy, his work shares the immediacy of expressionism. Figures are indefinite reflections on a "unified emotional state."

"I see paintings as an expression of a moment," Nistor explains.

Visual arts are rarely well served by descriptive words, although viewers commonly like the guidance of titles and curation notes. He resists that temptation. Nistor prefers that visitors be stirred by the raw emotion in color, not a narrative invented after the moment of creation.

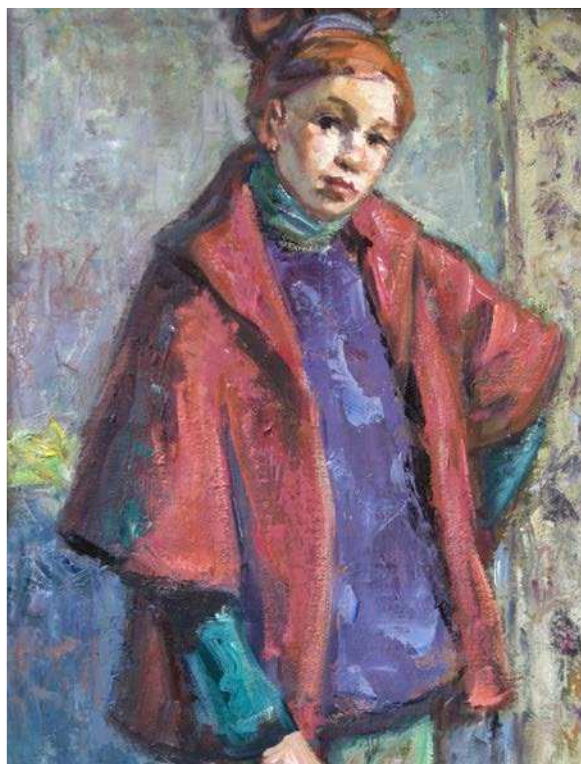
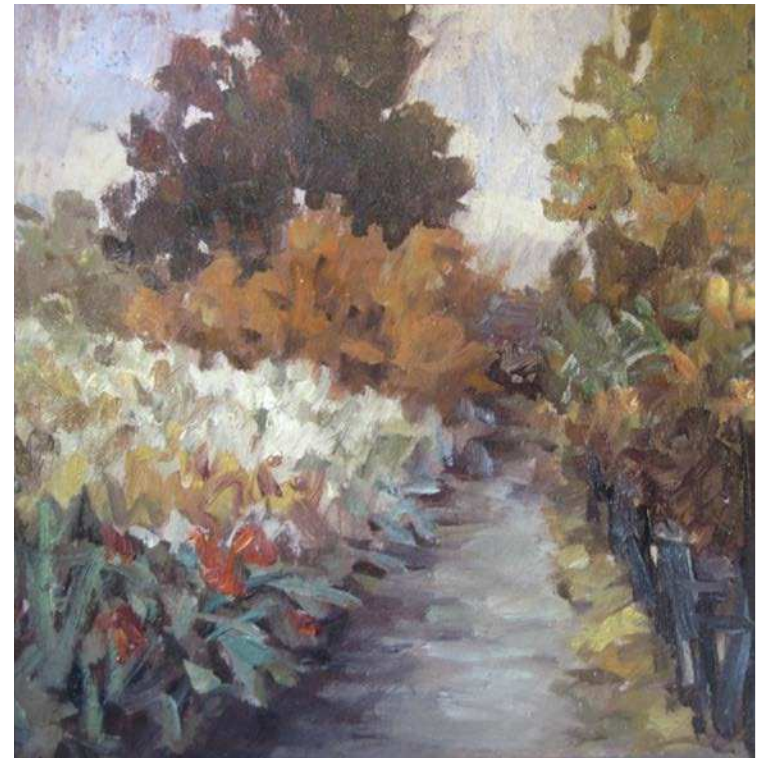
His paintings are so direct and appealing, even their simple titles seem a concession. He chose *Characters at Dusk* because "I was required to provide a title." The point is well taken, as his collection swells beyond the limitations of words.

His *Garden at Twilight* is free of characters of any kind. This painting takes us down a narrow path between overflowing beds of flowers toward a shadowy area under trees, the scene unified by the condensing of light at dusk.

Also absent characters is *The Brass Pot*, a simple object in which Nistor discovers an abundance of subtle variations of light and color. The pot is realized as an object of art that most would pass without noticing. Its expression is symphonic in complexity, and the image is quietly accented by a single blue flower on a stem, discarded at the base.

Nistor's methods are spontaneous. He chooses a subject and lets his imagination run free in a first draft. "My interest lies primarily in the process and what happens after the first draft, since the first draft can lead to any result," he explains. He strives to work quickly and intensely "to authentically capture the moment," and to finish each work in a single session.

The results are stunning. When he takes on character, as he does in *Lyra*, blending the emotions of an instant with the craft of design, art is created that rushes into a viewer's visual cortex, expanding consciousness. A woman stares straight at you expectantly from the frame, with just enough seriousness



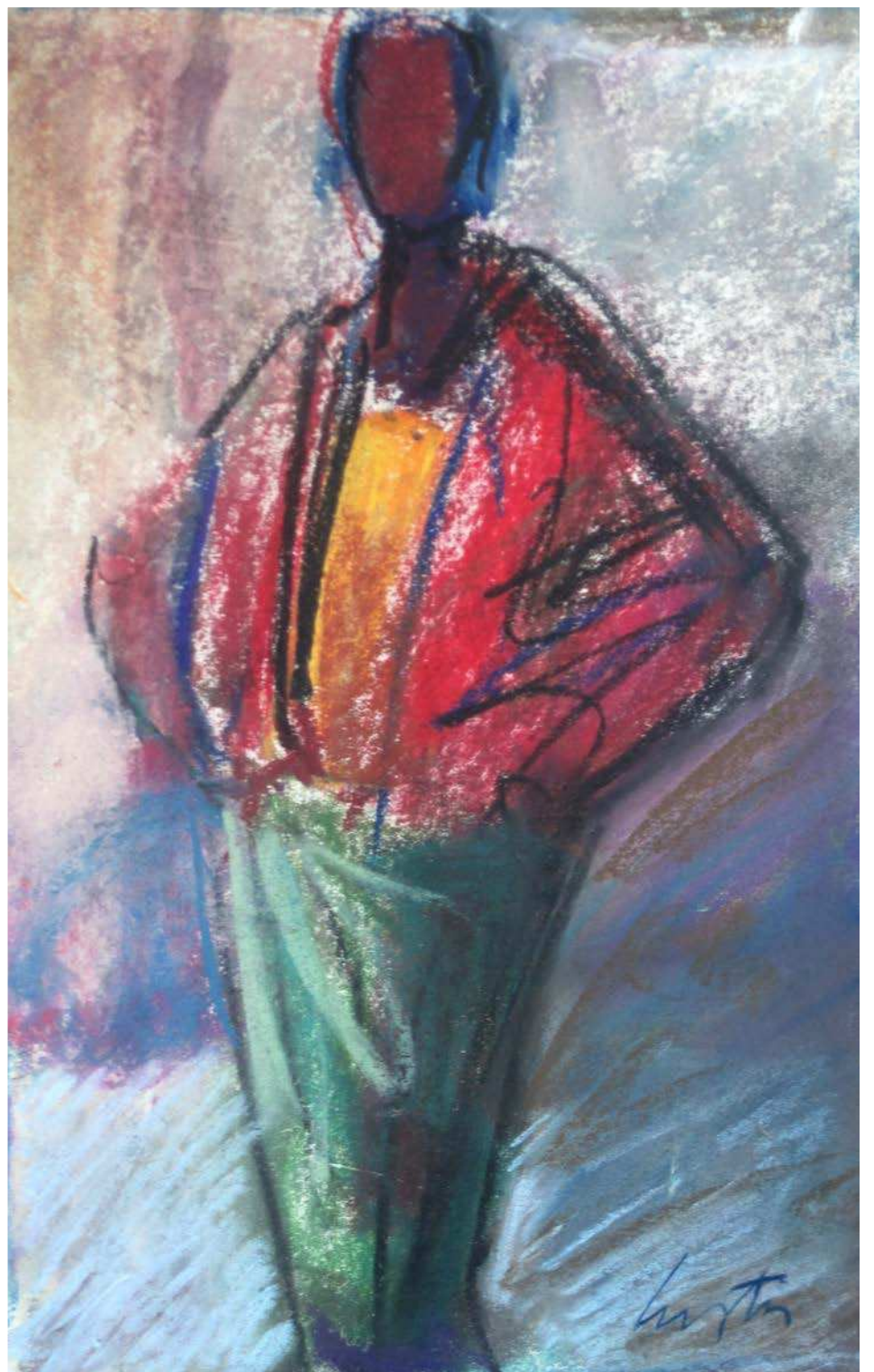
that you will not take her lightly. Nistor borrows from his skills at fashion design, dressing her in a ruby red cape over a violet sweater. A green turtleneck balances the design, extending beneath the cape to reappear on her arms as a kind of color brace. This is a painting that an art lover can absorb immediately for all its subtle beauty, then look again and see even more.

In a brief text accompanying the show, Nistor quotes Saint Thomas Aquinas on beauty as "that which being perceived, pleases instantly," clearly confident that his work does that. The pictures are complimented by a sense that he never overreaches to achieve that goal, and if he does, the result never meets the public's eye.

"Each painting is addressed to somebody still unknown who would be the ideal viewer — someone who will enjoy the work in a permanent way," the artist says.

He should have no problem finding a good number of "ideal viewers" with this graceful display of creative brilliance.

RIVAA's gallery at The Octagon is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. *Characters at Dusk* will continue through February 28.



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RIRA Column, from page 3

for the next 20 to 30 years, it is imperative that each and every one of us closely monitor the activities. Note the number and times of day for trucks on our main artery. Be aware when our infrastructure – including buses and the Tram – are most affected. Report directly to RIRA, RIOC, Community Board 8's Roosevelt Island Committee, and 311 any exacerbated or hazardous conditions, or failures to perform safely, that you may experience or witness. Construction of the last two Hudson/Related buildings will only worsen conditions, with Main Street's parking being monopolized by workers who choose to drive to either project site to utilize the Island's street parking rather than public transportation. The coming months, if not years, promise to challenge our lives on our idyllic Island, with our patience tested and our resources strained. But I have every confidence that we Islanders will do as we have always done, and take each day as it comes, while working hard to maintain and protect our quality and way of life.

Ferrera, from page 6

resigned.”

The school, in its defense, also notes that some compensation costs were shifted from one fiscal year to another – claimed, but not paid at the time, apparently for lack of ready funds. It points out that the need for Broadway tickets was attributable to the school's theatrical productions, which were a source of great pride to parents of the performing students.

The school also requests a meeting to discuss findings with auditors and the State Education Department. “We believe that the circumstances of the transitions described herein severely limited our ability to respond to Preliminary Findings in August 2013 and to respond now to the Draft Report in a timely and comprehensive way.

“In addition, the School is now moving forward in directions that are extremely promising and that are fully consistent with the mission of this State to provide full educational opportunities to children with disabilities. We believe that as new School leaders we need and should have an opportunity to

discuss this response directly with the Audit team before a final document is released.”

Ferrera's Departure

In February 2013, TCS/LHS Executive Director Salvatore Ferrera resigned that post, and gave up his seat on the RIOC Board of Directors. His seat on the RIOC Board has not been filled, and Governor Andrew Cuomo has made no appointments (other than Ferrera) to the RIOC Board, despite two 2012 resident elections to nominate resident Board members, as had been considered and honored by Cuomo's predecessors. No explanation has ever been given for Democrat Cuomo taking the recommendation of a Republican State Senator (rather than the Senator representing Roosevelt Island) for the RIOC Board seat, but it occurred around the time that Cuomo was rounding up votes for same-sex marriage.

All current Board members' terms have expired, and each serves “until replaced,” as provided by law. Serving expired terms, each is subject to immediate replacement, with or without cause, by the governor's office.

unClassifieds

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deadline for February 14 issue: Tuesday, February 10
deadline for February 28 issue: Tuesday, February 24
Please see ComingUp, page 3, for other advertising deadlines

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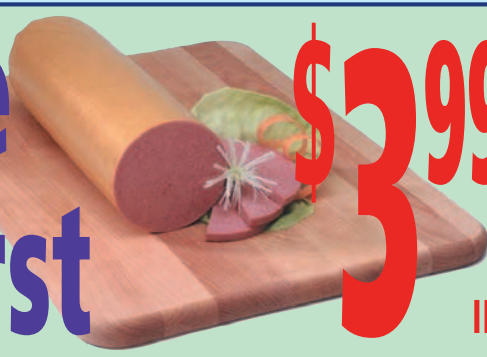
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