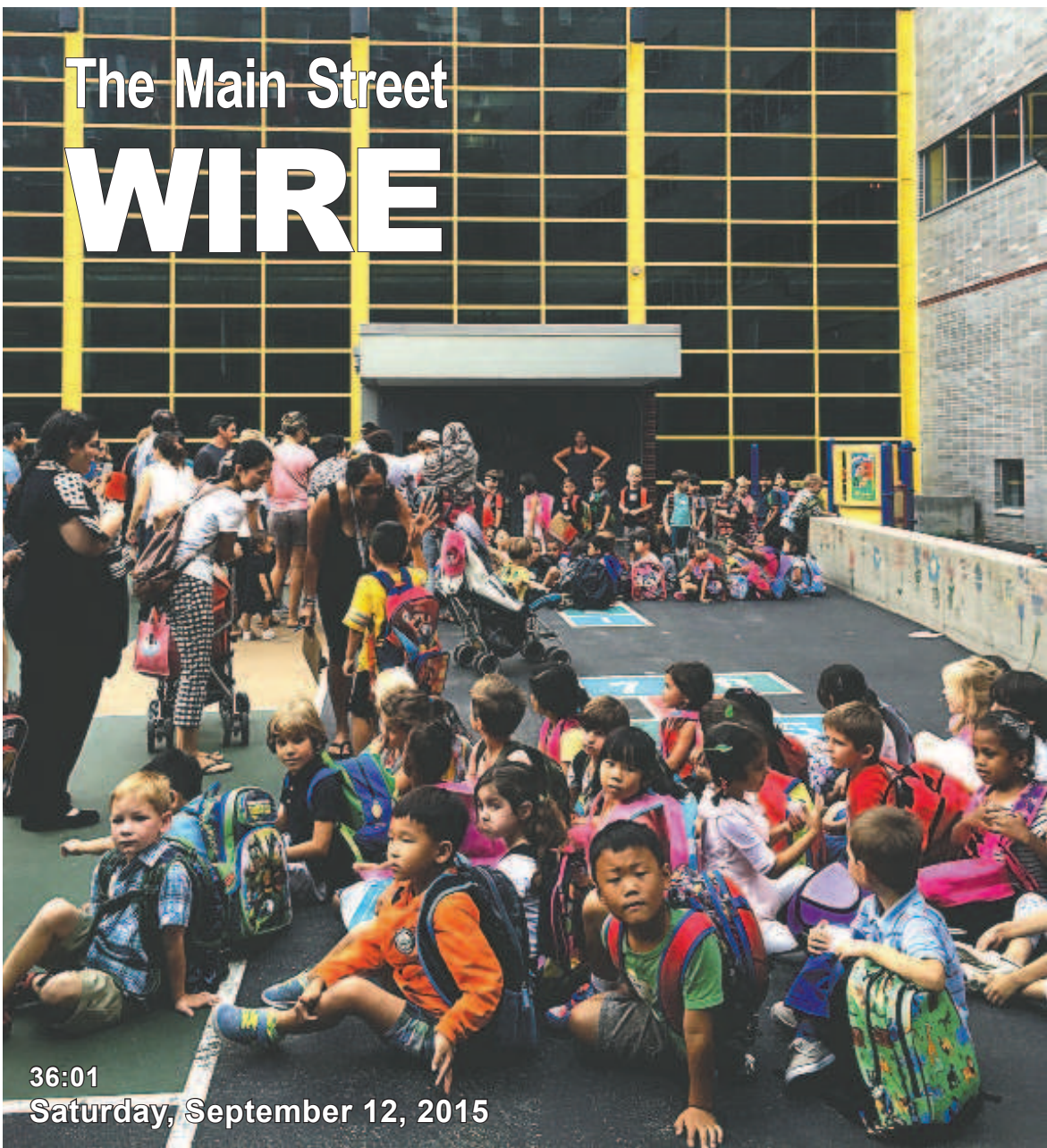




The Main Street WIRE

36:01
Saturday, September 12, 2015

PS 217’s kindergartners wait in the schoolyard for pick-up at the end of their first day of school, which was Wednesday. There are five classes – about 100 children just starting their formal education.

RIOC Announcements:

**The Tram Elevator is Down.
The Tram Elevator is Working.
The Tram Elevator is Down.
The Tram Elevator is Working.
The Tram Elevator is Down.
(Rinse and Repeat.)**

by Briana Warsing

If comedy equals tragedy plus time, then the elevator situation at the Manhattan Tram station is now officially laughable.

The September 8 meeting of RIOC’s Operations Advisory Committee provided more good news/bad news, a revised completion date, and another unanticipated glitch, which those following the elevator saga have come to expect.

The good news: The piston that drives the main elevator has been replaced, and, according to Board Member Michael Shinozaki, RIOC is now “shooting for fall 2016” to have the new elevator constructed and operational.

However, RIOC’s attempt to push the project along by separating the architectural design work from the construction work (because RIOC was unable to get a single response to the RFP that combined these functions) was dealt a blow when the architectural firm, WASA Studios – founded in 1889 and designers of Grand Central Station – filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on July 28.

“This really only puts us back by 6 to 8 weeks,” said RIOC’s Director of Engineering, John Bost. Bost explained that the WASA group that was primarily involved in designing the new elevator have moved to another firm. Hypothetically, the

RIOC elevator-design contract will, with the blessing of the bankruptcy court and assent of the State, be assigned to that new firm.

None of this is especially heartening to the Island populations who depend on the elevator, a point made by Board Member Fay Christian and echoed by RIRA Island Services Committee members Aaron Hamburger and Simina Kroclicik.

Christian also lamented the poor performance of the company that RIOC has contracted with to perform maintenance of the existing elevator. “I’ve never been happy with them. By now they should know what the problem is and be able to fix it right away.” She said, “It’s like they send new people every time who don’t know anything.”

RIOC President Charlene Indelicato agreed that the company’s performance has not met her expectations, noting that they were, unfortunately, the only company to respond to RIOC’s RFP. “I believe we are

going to RFP again; the reason why we chose them is they were the only ones who answered.”

Part of the problem with keeping the elevator functional stems from RIOC’s unwillingness to invest in anything beyond temporary repairs to the existing elevator with a new elevator supposedly coming by “fall of 2016.” This is why RIOC was once again in the awkward

position of sending out multiple, contradictory “advisories” within minutes of each other earlier this week, confusingly stating that the elevator was, and then was not, functioning.

The issue this time was with the mechanism that operates the elevator doors – a refurbished part that continues to fail and require repair. A new mechanism would, according to Shinozaki, cost approximately \$15,000, a sum RIOC is unwilling to invest at this time.

In addition to discussions regarding the Tram elevator and a proposal to ban bicycles from the
See Tram Elevator, page 8

Former RI Priest Under Fire in Bronx; Questions About His Tenure Here

by Dick Lutz and Linda Heimer

Fr. Peter Miqueli, a Catholic priest who served on Roosevelt Island from 2002 to 2012, may soon be suspended from church duties, according to sources that *The WIRE* considers reliable.

Miqueli, who now serves at St. Frances de Chantal parish in the Bronx, has run into a firestorm of opposition from two groups of parishioners there. A representative of one of the groups says its goal is to have Miqueli removed not just from that parish, but from parish work anywhere. The group’s website (<http://helpsfcdchantal.weebly.com>) contains a large number of anonymous postings, some with notable accusations.

Parishioners accuse Miqueli of setting up the handling of collections at masses in a way that runs contrary to rules published by the Archdiocese – changes from his predecessors’ practices that they feel give him an opportunity to mishandle the funds. Yet those who report Miqueli’s practices to the Archdiocese say they get no action. They suspect that someone is protecting him.

“This is really the Catholic twilight zone,” commented one – a man who asked not to be named to avoid disrupting certain relationships within the parish.

“The manner of how our donations are handled currently in our parish violates all ADNY [Archdiocese of New York] guidelines,” says Jack Lynch, one of the parishioners seeking Miqueli’s ouster. “The money is placed in [an] open bag and the priest takes this bag directly to the rectory [residence] after each mass. We know that the bags are sent directly to FM’s [Fr. Miqueli’s] room and are therefore open to manipulation.” Lynch adds, “You can quote me.” In a separate email, he reports observing the same handling of the collection funds last Sunday (September 6).

Another Bronx parishioner with extensive experience handling Sunday collections and firm knowledge of mandated procedures reports that she stopped volunteering for the “counting staff” when Miqueli changed the procedure. “The money is not secured in the presence of witnesses, so we cannot be sure what happens between the collection of the money and the counting of it,” she says, adding, “I could not be party to such sloppy technique as exhibited by Fr. Miqueli.”

Another describes arriving at the Bronx rectory one day to perform some maintenance work. Alone there, he found that he had to step over or around several piles of cash – “fives, tens, twenties, a foot or a foot-and-a-half high.” He added, “I don’t think [Miqueli] realized I would have to enter that room [to perform the scheduled work].”

The suspicions and complaints at de Chantal have led to a campaign to contribute only by check, and only \$1, each Sunday.

Miqueli was ordered to establish a parish financial committee and to standardize other means of handling parish matters, according to a three-page letter from Timothy Cardinal Dolan that was read to parishioners.

Miqueli has also alienated his parishioners in other ways. Dee Masci Cai wrote, “My daughter recently went to the rectory to ask for a copy of her baptism papers. This so-called pastor asked why she needed them and, when she told him it [was] for a marriage license (she’s not getting married at St. Frances), he took it upon himself to not only deny her the paper, but he had the audacity to tear the paper up in front of her. When is something going to be done with this [derogatory comment] that calls himself a man of God?”

Roosevelt Island

Something similar arose on Roosevelt Island when a parish worker realized that Miqueli was not maintaining the traditional sacramental register in which baptisms, marriages, funerals, etc. are recorded. The worker used public sources like past issues of *The WIRE* to update records, then asked Miqueli for other records. He told *The WIRE* this week that the request,

See Miqueli, page 8



Young Islanders turned out for last week’s Youth Soccer Festival sponsored by the New York Red Bulls, the Palladino Academy of Soccer, and Island Kids. They were treated to a round of soccer-skill challenges, a demonstration by the Red Bulls Street Team players, and music, fun, and games.

Inside:
Helix Bike Safety
(page 8)

Letters

To Arianna Sacks Rosenberg, Hudson/Related:

The summer is ending and there have been droves of tourists on Roosevelt Island, drawn by the magical view from the Tram. Sadly, most of them re-board and return to Manhattan, without spending a dime at Coach Scot’s Main Street Sweets, Riverwalk Bar & Grill, or any other local store.

Where is the signage that will direct visitors to shop, eat, drink, and stay on Roosevelt Island? Why does Related not support its tenants by directing visitors to these establishments?

Please provide an update on this issue, which you can see has been a priority, for me at least, for several years. I have yet to receive a reply from anyone on this email chain, which began in April 2013.

Janet Falk

To RIOC and Hudson/Related:

For many years, Roosevelt Island has offered few food and dining options. That is still the case. Therefore, I am perturbed to have to pretty much eliminate Whole-some Factory from my options. I have suffered intestinal discomfort several times after eating fresh food from this store.

I no longer feel comfortable purchasing anything that is not pre-packaged or able to be washed. I have witnessed flies freely crawling in the uncovered salad fixings, on the meat slicer, and inside the sandwich case.

This situation existed last summer as well, and there is no evidence of attempts to control or eliminate this unhealthy problem. It makes me wonder what other unsavory conditions may also exist. I would prefer not to call the Health Department at this point; I hope that your agencies can handle this without having to resort to that.

I choose not to address the owner directly because he cannot be blind to this situation, so he is obviously ignoring it. Please help!

Gail Montague

To RIOC:

It would behoove you folks at RIOC to get a new elevator. It should have been replaced back when you renovated the Tramway station. Your lack of concern for Island residents is unconscionable. The elevator is 40 years old, and can no longer continue to be patched over and over.

Laila Amatullah

To the Editor:

It is disgraceful that Manhattan Park refuses to provide a temporary bench for people waiting for the Red Bus.

Countless times, I have seen more than a dozen people standing in the sweltering heat. Many are seniors, and some carry canes. Some are burdened with shopping bags. What can be the problem with offering comfort to the community until the bus resumes its stop in the Motorgate turnaround?

I’m assuming that most of those who are inconvenienced by the lack of a bench are Manhattan Park residents. Doesn’t their management owe it to them and to the community at large? I wish they would demand it. Perhaps they do not know that providing one is the responsibility of Manhattan Park’s management, not RIOC. Of course, it behooves RIOC to perform the necessary repairs so that the turnaround can again be operable. This has gone on too long.

Name Withheld

To the Editor:

Thank you and congratulations to Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Rep. Grace Meng, and Sen. Charles Schumer for opposing the agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

What we wanted out of this agreement was peace. But before the ink was dry, the mullahs were declaring Death to America.

If this agreement goes forward, much of this large windfall will find its way from Iran to Hezbollah in Lebanon, Assad in Syria, Hamas in Gaza, etc., all bent on the destruction of the U.S. and our greatest ally, the state of Israel.

Ronald T. Vass

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Allison Pearlman 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

Bikes were my primary means of transportation in Brooklyn for a quarter-century – I was an almost-daily cyclist. I wouldn’t have been able to accomplish my tasks/errands/commuting to school/work without a bike.

I avoided arterial roads, which have chaotic traf-fic with impatient drivers and many trucks, and took side streets whenever possible. I was a member of Transportation Alternatives, and was awaiting the day when there would be an expansion of protected bike lanes and bike paths, such as the one on Ocean Parkway. I welcome the expansion everywhere of the bike network on streets and roads, especially the protected version – whose planned buildout is currently at only 9%.

Some streets – particularly arterial roadways used for emergency vehicles – may not be suitable even for unprotected bike lanes. But, generally speaking, I believe that bikes should be able to go where cars go. Even though I may feel uncomfortable riding on an arterial road such as 21st Street in Queens, some cyclists don’t have a problem with a narrow space between heavy traffic and parked cars whose doors might suddenly fly open.

Roosevelt Island’s helix ramp is a traffic challenge. It’s a narrow, two-way spiral, with limited sightlines and no shoulder. There’s no room for a sidewalk, and pedestrians aren’t permitted. There isn’t room for a dedicated bike lane. The ramp is barely able to accommodate motor vehicle traffic. Oversize and long trucks need to be escorted. It’s also our only land route to/from the Island – including, of course, for emergency vehicles.

The ramp was designed for only vehicular traffic. All others were supposed to use the escalators, elevators, or stairs. But the escalators are no longer in service, the

elevators can’t accommodate large motorized wheel-chairs or tandem bikes, and not everyone can carry a bike up the stairs.

Concerned about safety on the ramp, the RIRA Public Safety Committee presented a resolution, tabled at Wednesday’s Common Council meeting, restricting ramp access to motor vehicles only. The resolution isn’t anti-bike – It’s a recommendation to RIOC’s Public Safety Department that, because of safety concerns for both cyclists and motorists, the ramp be off-limits to bikes, as it currently is to pedestrians.

If bikes are not ultimately banned from the Island’s helix ramp, RIOC should paint sharrows (bicycle im-

ages) on the pavement to remind motorists to share the roadway with cyclists. (Of course, sharrows would not straighten out the spiral, improve the sightlines, widen the roadway, or add shoulders.)

Since the ramp isn’t currently off-limits to cyclists, Bike New York – which is providing a wonderful service in teaching safe cycling, distributing helmets, and so on – is including instruction for Islanders on how to ride it as safely as possible.

Even if bikes are ultimately banned from the ramp, most cyclists will continue to use it, as will people in motorized wheelchairs, because the alternatives (elevators, stairs) aren’t practical or efficient. With that in mind, perhaps RIOC should expeditiously ask the Department of

Transportation to consider adding an ADA-compliant, dedicated bike/wheelchair/pedestrian ramp between the bridge and the promenade. Mayor Bill de Blasio has made Vision Zero – roadway safety – one of the goals of his administration. Maybe the City will build such a ramp.



Helen Chirivas

Chabad Lubavitch of Roosevelt Island was founded in July 2006. My husband, Rabbi Zalman, and I moved to Roosevelt Island with our little son, Mendel, and instantly fell in love with the community. Our hope is to foster the love and sense of community unique to Roosevelt Island by celebrating Jewish experiences, Shabbat, holidays, and life cycle events together, and to welcome anyone seeking to share in these experiences.

The Community Column

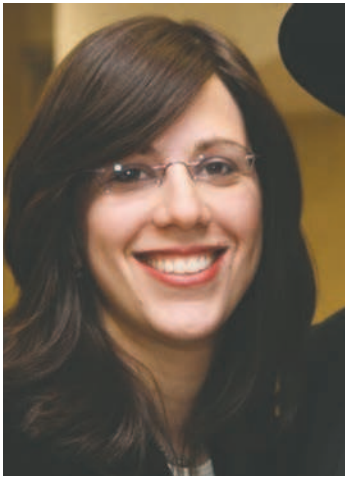
Additionally, we wish to help residents enhance their individual connection with Hashem (G-d) by providing Jewish and holiday needs, like Shofar house calls on Rosh Hashanah, Lulav and Esrog for Sukkos, Koshering kitchens, hanging Mezuzos, providing Bar and Bat Mitzvah lessons, and anything else that is needed. Our dream is to enjoy a Shabbat Dinner with every Jew and interested person on Roosevelt Island.

The names “Chabad” and “Lubavitch” are interchangeable. Chabad is the Hebrew acronym for Chochmah, Binah, Da’at—Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge—which represent the intellectual underpinnings of the movement’s philosophy. The name “Lubavitch” is the Yiddish name for the originally Belorussian village, Lyubavichi, where the movement’s roots are, and means “the city of love.” Today, Chabad Lubavitch is by far the largest Jewish community-building institution in the world. Headed by the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson OBM, Chabad Lubavitch has grown to a network of centers in over 2,500 communities in 76 countries and 49 states. (South Dakota is on the agenda.) Chabad Centers offer a wide array of Jewish services, including educational, social, and religious programming, each according to the needs of the local community.

Zalman and I were both educated in the Chabad educational system in the spirit of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. Zalman is Director of Development at Colel Chabad—the Chabad’s Social Service arm in Israel—and I am a trained educator. We are raising our seven children in the same fashion, following the Rebbe’s

teachings of sharing, caring, kindness, and bringing the world closer to perfection

The goal of Chabad is not to make you Orthodox. Chabad is an educational organization dedicated to providing everyone, regardless of background, affiliation, or personal level of observance, the opportunity to deepen their level of Jewish knowledge and involvement. Chabad’s outstanding educational programs provide the opportunity to expand your understanding of your Jewish heritage in an open-minded and



Nechama Duchman

Chabad Lubavitch of Roosevelt Island
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non-judgmental atmosphere. Some of the programs that Chabad Lubavitch of Roosevelt Island offers to the community are: community-wide traditional holiday celebrations; a variety of children’s activities on a monthly basis (this past Sunday, we went apple-picking for Pre-Rosh Hashanah); Hebrew School; Mini Chefs; and women’s programs throughout the year. Rabbi Zalman officiates at life cycle events. Being the only Rabbi living on and serving the Island, he has a keen understanding of the local community. Chabad Lubavitch of Roosevelt Island also offers individual assistance based on need, be it family-related, health-related, spiritual guidance, or anything in between.

While Synagogue and Temple membership and participation across North America are in sharp decline, a recent study by the Jewish Federation in Miami shows that “more than one in four Jewish households—some 26 percent—have engaged with Chabad programming during the past year, including 42 percent of Jewish households with children at home.” Chabad attendees identified themselves as Conservative (32%), Reform

See **Community Column**, page 10

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters of interest to the Roosevelt Island community, and to/from officials. Recommended maximum length, 350 words; longer letters will be considered if their content, in the judgment of the editors, merits the required space. All letters are subject to acceptance and editing for length and clarity. Letters submitted anonymously will not be published; 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.

Submit by email to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net. 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, and clearly handwritten letters will be considered, if brief (allow extra time for typesetting). We regret that we are not able to take telephone dictation of letters.

The students carefully enter the data they painstakingly collected into the computer program they had just learned to write. Taken line by line, the code first seemed like a foreign language, but when it finally ran, a bar graph appeared on the screen charting a correlation between birds and trees on Roosevelt Island.

This might sound like an ornithology lab for graduate students, but it was PS/IS 217’s Coding Off the Grid, a new program developed by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in collaboration with Cornell Tech and City University for New York (CUNY) for 7th and 8th graders. Coding

Off the Grid students learned to collect and record data outdoors, then they used the Python coding language to create data visualizations. The program included a backstage tour of the AMNH’s

bird collection and a walk through Central Park with AMNH Ornithologist Paul Sweet. At the end of the two-week session, students came back to the museum to present their findings to Cornell Tech and AMNH staff.

Coding off the Grid came to PS/IS 217 as part of the AMNH pilot through BridgeUP, a STEM program, which focuses on the intersection of science and computer science. AMNH provided the curriculum, training, and funding for Kelly Huang, a former middle-school science teacher at PS/IS 217, and three teaching assistants to lead this unique summer experience.

The program was just one of many in a very busy summer for Cornell Tech. Our second conference, To Code and Beyond: Access for all Students, brought together over 65 educators, nonprofit leaders, and policymakers to discuss how to bring computing education to New York’s diverse student body. Dr. Kylie Peppler, associate professor and director of the creativity lab at Indiana University, delivered a keynote address that emphasized the need to think carefully about the learning materials we use to teach computing. Differing

materials can invite participation by students who might not normally consider computing. The full-day conference included discussion about computer-science standards, developing curricula for students from diverse backgrounds and learning styles, and making computing accessible to girls and students of color.

This fall, Cornell Tech will welcome 130 new graduate students to our temporary campus, and we will also



Diane Levitt
Cornell NYC Tech

be back to work at PS/IS 217. On October 30, our graduate students will come to PS/IS 217 for WeCodeRI, our annual tech event with upper elementary- and middle-school students. We’ll be creating spooky Halloween-themed projects using the coding language Scratch.

We are in the process of hiring a consultant to work with teachers at PS/IS 217 to build their

understanding of computing education and to help develop curriculum and teaching strategies that appropriately integrate computing into the K-8 curriculum. We want to create a series of tech experiences that build on one another, with a focus this year on grades 4-8.

To learn more about our work on Roosevelt Island, you’re invited to our Town Hall Community Update. It will take place on Thursday, October 1, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Manhattan Park Community Center (8 River Road). The town hall will give you a chance to learn about our programs, our campus construction, and most importantly, our commitments to and involvement in the community. We’d love to see you there, and are thrilled to be working so closely with staff and parents at PS/IS 217. Here’s to another great year of learning for all.

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

September 11 is significant for many around the world, and especially for New Yorkers, including those on Roosevelt Island, who lived through the tragedy and lost so much. Our heartfelt thoughts, condolences, and well-wishes go to all who suffered or were affected by the events of that day. When you get a chance this weekend, please take time to reflect on where we were then, where we are now, and where we’re headed.

Public Purpose Funds

The Public Purpose Funds (PPF) process continues to evolve. In the interest of more openness, the PPF Committee has been hard at work with RIOC to schedule Community Presentations for interviewing applicants at venues and times where all interested parties and members of the public are able to attend. The committee has welcomed and

applauded the efforts of RIOC to work with RIRA in this regard, and expects Community Presentations to begin around mid-September. Advance notification will be provided to applicants and the community. Given the turmoil generated in January by guidance from the New York State Authorities Budget Office to Public Benefit Corporations regarding public purpose funds, and the ongoing recovery from that situation, the schedule for Community Presentations will be tight, but the committee is optimistic that its work will get done. It expects to provide recommendations to the Common Council at its October meeting, and if approved, for them to be reviewed by the RIOC Board shortly thereafter. In the interim, the committee is hard at work reviewing the submissions from 10 applicants. As always, the total funds requested greatly exceed the amount allotted for disbursement, and the challenge will be to equitably and fairly determine what amounts to recommend for which applicants.

Join a Committee

With the summer behind us, and with Common Council sessions resuming, I urge all of you to consider service to the Island this fall on one of RIRA’s committees. RIRA’s work is done largely through its committees, and *you*, as an Island resident and therefore a RIRA member, are eligible to serve on as many committees as you wish. For instance, do you have ideas on how our infrastructure can more efficiently and safely serve our growing population while construction at Cornell goes into high gear? The Planning and Island Services Committees need your help. Here are the active RIRA committees that you and your neighbors may, and should, join:

Government Relations: As the representative of RIRA and the Roosevelt Island community to the various local, State, and federal representatives and agencies having jurisdiction over the Island, ensures the establishment and maintenance of relations with governmental and quasi-governmental officials.

Housing: Addresses the issues and concerns of residents regarding the management, living conditions, and rental policies of the residential buildings on the



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

Island, and serves as the liaison for RIRA and the community to various building committees and housing task forces.

Island Services: Supervises and reviews the delivery of transportation, parks and recreation, sanitation, postal, and commercial services and common facilities; assists individuals and organizations who may experience problems obtaining Island services due them; and seeks to provide solutions on

how current Island services can better serve the community.

Planning: Tasked with all matters involving future development of the Island, including but not limited to commercial development, housing, vehicular access, transportation, social services, and energy; monitors and recommends positions on planning matters; recommends and implements policies relating to energy conservation, distribution, and generation.

Public Safety: Charged with recommending and implementing RIRA and community positions on all matters related to safety, security, and vehicular traffic and parking on the Island; looks to work with the Public Safety Department and the New York Police Department Local Precinct 114 on behalf of the community to address residents’ law enforcement concerns.

Social, Cultural and Educational Services: Seeks to create social, cultural, and educational programs and events that promote and improve community bonds; develops initiatives and programming that bind and strengthen the fabric of the community.

Communication: The hub for community publishing and educating the Island community about RIRA
See **RIRA Column**, page 10

COMING UP

— THIS WEEKEND —

Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance registration now open for Fall 2015. (Ad, page 5.)

— REGULAR MEETINGS AND EVENTS —

See separate listing, page 4.

— THE NEXT TWO WEEKS —

Rhythmic Gymnastics Classes by Rogue Rhythmics start **Mon Sep 14**, Sportsark. (Ad, page 9.)

Palladino Soccer Academy fall season has started, will run through Nov 23 on **Mon, Thu, Fri**, Octagon Soccer Field. U8 & under 4-5:30pm, U9-U11, U12-up 5-6:30pm. Info at PalladinoAcademy.com/fall-2015-details.

Symposium – Affordable Housing: What About the Future?, Thu Sep 17 5:30pm, Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Avenue, kicks off an exhibition, in which Roosevelt Island is a part, called *Affordable New York: A Housing Legacy*. Symposium speakers include keynoter Barney Frank and others concerned with affordable dwellings. Museum open **daily** 10am-6pm. Symposium \$35, less for members/seniors/students. Co-sponsored by RIRA.

Demonstration Classes at MST&DA, **Sat Sep 19 & Sat Sep 26**. Info at mstda.org. (Ad, page 5.)

The NYC Be the Match Walk+Run, Sat Sep 19 at Firefighters Field. Tot Trot at 9:45; 5K at 10; 1K at 10:05. Info and registration at bethematchfoundation.org or call Sara Brooks Hart at 612-294-7749.

Kite-Making (and -Flying) Workshop, Wed Sep 23, Thu Sep 24, 3-5pm, & **Sat Sep 26** 1-5pm, Four Freedoms Park, led by Charles Stewart; part of Kite Flight for Peace Week in observance of United Nations General Assembly and International Peace Day. Free. Info: tinyurl.com/FDRkites. (Ad, page 6.)

The Main Street WIRE – Sat Sep 26.

Advertising deadlines: Display, Wed Sep 17

(ads accepted after deadline on a space-available basis); decision date for circulars/inserts, Tue Sep 22; 6,000 copies due Thu Sep 24. Future issues: 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.



— FUTURE WEEKS —

Roosevelt Island Committee of Community Board 8 meets, **Tue Sep 29** 6:30pm. Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd. (See *RIRA Column* continuation, page 10.)

Cornell Tech Town Hall Meeting, Thu Oct 1 6-8pm, Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd.

I Never Know When to Say When featuring Islander Anita Michael **Oct 1-2** 7pm and **Sat Oct 3** 2pm at the Laurie Beechman Theatre (405 W 42nd St.) \$15 admission + \$20 minimum order. Tickets 212-352-3101 or online.

Fall for Arts Festival, Sat Oct 3.

RIRA Common Council meeting, **Wed Oct 7** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Meeting begins with public session, in which residents and others may address the Council.

Seniors Potluck Dinner, Sat Oct 10 4-6pm.

Columbus Day, Mon Oct 12.

RIOC Board of Directors meets, **Thu Oct 22** 5:30pm. Public comment period, starting 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

Halloween Parade, Sat Oct 24.

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

Daylight Saving Time ends, **Sun Nov 1.**

Election Day, Tue Nov 3.

RIRA Common Council meeting, **Wed Nov 4** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Meeting begins with public session, in which residents and others may address the Council.

Thanksgiving, Thu Nov 26.

Tree Lighting Ceremony, Wed Dec 2.

RIRA Common Council meeting, **Wed Dec 2** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center.

Senior Center

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

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

Wednesday
9:30 **Yoga**
10:20 **Shoppers’ Bus**
10:30 **Salsa with Luis**
10:45 **Spanish**
11:00 **Seniors & Social Media**
12:00 **Bridge**
1:30 **Scrabble**

Thursday
9:25 **Chair Pilates**
10:30 **Zumba**
12:00 **Movie**
1:00 **Art with John**
1:00-2:30 **Theatre tickets** at discount prices; see Rema or Annie

Friday
9:00 **Building Strength**
10:30 **Computers**
10:30 **Tai Chi**
12:00 **Korean Exercise**
2:00 **Pokeno**

Special Events
MetroCard Bus, Mon Sep 14, 11am
Flea Market, Sat Sep 26 10am-4pm
Cake Sale, Sat Sep 26
Membership Drive, Mon-Fri
2-3:30pm, office at back of Senior Center, 546 Main St.

Adventures Of F F-Island

curated by Sara Maher

New Year’s Resolutions are made to be broken, but Summer Resolutions are made to be enjoyed. Squeeze as much as you can into these warm September days by rounding out your beach-filled bucket list with these hot happenings. Summer ain’t over until it drops below 85, right?

Find a New Favorite Food

Need a little nightlife or a new family outing? Sad that Smorgasburg doesn’t set up shop anywhere near the F? Whether you need new entertainment or are seeking the next food fad, our neighbors in Queens have you covered. The Queens International Night Market is a huge open-air farmer’s market-style gathering, featuring independent vendors of food and art as well as family-friendly entertainment. Midnight momos, anyone?

➡ F Queensbound to 169th St and walk southwest to 90-02 168th St (at 90th Ave; look for two parking lots between two churches and a Cookies.) Saturdays from 6pm-midnight. Free. Some vendors cash-only. queensnightmarket.com

Do Something Spontaneous

Improv Everywhere is bringing its YouTube-loved life interruptions to Brooklyn. Be a part of the group’s next antic, presented as part of the BEAT Festival, at an undisclosed location in Prospect Park (no worries – the west and southwest sides are F train-friendly!). All you need to do is sign up, download an original mp3 to your personal device, and show up willing to follow some silly instructions. The event is completely family-friendly, so feel free to bring as many people as you have headphones!

➡ F downtown to 7th Ave, 15th St/Prospect Park, or Fort Hamilton Parkway, depending on location within Prospect Park. Fri Sep 18, 7pm. Free. Sign up at improveverywhere.com/2015/08/21/the-mp3-experiment-twelve-save-the-date-2015

Read More

The Brooklyn Book Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, and you’d better believe it’s up to its top shelf in bookish fun. If you are interested in attending writing workshops, hearing authors speak, and collecting a book bag’s haul of literary swag, head to the festival itself, split between Children’s Day on Saturday the 19th and the Festival on Sunday the 20th. Both days feature famous authors such as Drew Daywalt, David Levithan, Joyce Carol Oates, R.J. Palacio, and Salman Rushdie speaking on panels and signing books. Booksellers and publishers large and small will be showing off their latest literary offerings. The week before the Festival is filled with Bookend Events, including the opening night party (hosted by PEN America and Tumblr); a night of music and performance art inspired by *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*; a “Low Brow Literary Trivia Challenge” and, of course, a variety of poetry, short story, and play readings.

➡ *Children’s Day*: F downtown to Jay St-MetroTech and walk north on Jay St; events at MetroTech Commons (1 MetroTech Roadway) and NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering Auditorium (5 MetroTech Roadway). *Brooklyn Book Festival*: F downtown to Jay St-MetroTech and walk west on Willoughby St to Borough Hall Park (209 Joralemon St). *Bookend Events*: at various locations, but all listed events can be reached by F. Sep 14-21 at various times. Children’s Day and Book Festival events are free; Bookend Events free to \$15. brooklynbookfestival.org

Experience Another Culture

October seems like a long way off, but Oktoberfest will soon be in full swing! This celebration of German food and culture officially runs from September 19-October 5, and there are plenty of ways to celebrate. Kick things off with the German-American Steuben Parade, named after a

Prussian-born general who served with George Washington in the Revolutionary War. The parade showcases German groups in traditional costumes, floats, marching bands, dancers, and other performers. After the parade, enter Central Park at 72nd Street to join the Oktoberfest celebration. If you prefer your ’Fest a little less family-friendly, New York City Oktoberfest gives you eight different bars and eight different beers in as many hours. Prost!

➡ Steuben Parade and Oktoberfest: F downtown to Lex/63rd and walk west to find a spot on Fifth Ave; parade runs north to 86th St. Sat Sep 19; parade starts at noon and is followed by the Oktoberfest celebration. Free. german-paradenyc.org. NYC Oktoberfest: F downtown to 2nd Av and walk southwest to Paulaner (256 Bowery). Sat Sep 19, noon-10. Tickets are \$50 and include eight 12-oz beers; must be purchased in advance from newyorkcityoktoberfest.com

See a Painting That Isn’t in the Met

There are plenty of museums that offer free or discounted admission... as long as you’re willing to peer over the shoulders of a thousand other broke New Yorkers at 9:00 p.m. on a Tuesday. Skip the late-night lines and instead get tickets to Museum Day Live! Hosted by Smithsonian magazine, the Smithsonian Museum spirit of free admission for all is extended to participating museums for one day only. Just go to their website and download a free ticket. Each ticket is good for two admissions, so you can finally call up that friend who’s always too broke to go out with you. Museums off the F include the Museum of American Illustration (Lex Av/63rd St), the Morgan Library (34 St-Herald Sq), the Rubin Museum of Art (14th St), and the Ukrainian Museum (2nd Av).

➡ F downtown to various stops. Sat Sep 26 at various times. Tickets are free and are good for you and one guest, but must be downloaded in advance from smithsonianmag.com/museumday

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

Summer Show at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St., through Sep 30. **Wed & Fri 6-9pm, Sat-Sun 11am-5pm.**

PARKS

Southpoint Park open daily 6am-10pm.

Lighthouse Park open daily 7am-9pm.

Four Freedoms Park daily 9am-7pm. **Closed Tue.** Free guided tours **Sat** 11am, 3pm; **Sun** 11am.

CLASSES

Art, taught by members of the RI Visual Art Association, **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 Class, every **Fri** through **Oct 28** 10:30-12:30 at the library.

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 Summer Ride Series, alt Thu through Oct 1: Aug 6, 20; Sep 3, 17; Oct 1. Meet at container under helix ramp. Info: 212-870-2080, ext. 2.

Pilates with Karen, Wed 8:30am. Info 212-750-6223.

Ping Pong (all ages), **Tue Wed Fri** 6-9pm, Sportspark. \$5.

Rhythmic Gymnastics Classes begin **Sep 14.** **Mon** 4-6pm for beginners, **Thu** 4-6 intermediate, Sportspark. Information: RogueRhythmics@yahoo.com or 917-331-2044.

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

Palladino Soccer Academy season **Mon, Thu, Fri** from through Nov 23, Octagon Soccer Field. U8 & under 4-5:30pm; U9-U11 and U12-up 5-6:30pm. Fees and additional info at palladinoacademy.com/fall-2015-details

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 Wed Fri** 7:30-8:30pm, Sportspark.

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

Tai Chi (all ages & levels), **Mon** 10:15am. Members, free; others, donation suggested, Four Freedoms Park, **Aug 31-Sep 28.**

Tennis for Kids, see **Older Kids** entries, below.

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, **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 (listed Sat-Fri)

Baby Story Time (0-18 mo), **Mon** 10:30am, Library. No registration required.

Baby Playtime (0-18 mo), **Mon** 11am, Library. No registration required.

Parent & Me Swim Classes for children 6 mo. to 3 yrs Aug 9-Sep 27 **Wed** 10:30 and **Sun** 1:30 or 2:00. Info at rioc.ny.gov.

Toddler Story Time (18-36 mo), **Wed** 11am, Library. No registration required.

Toddler Play Time (18-36 mo), **Wed** 11:30am, Library. No registration required.

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

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

Tennis – New York Junior Tennis & Learning program, **Mon-Fri** 3-6pm (ages 8-18); **Tue** 5-6pm & **Thu** 3-4pm for ages 5-7 (with parent/guardian), Octagon Park Courts. No pre-registration, sneakers required. Info: tc@nyjtl.org or 718-786-7110.

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.

Little Dragon Tang Soo Do (Korean martial art), ages 12 & under & caregiver, **Mon** 4:15pm (Jun 8-Jul 13, Aug 10-31), Four Freedoms Park. Members free; others, donation suggested.

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.

Anime Club (teens), **Thu** 4-5pm, Library. No registration required.

Kids & Family Yoga (ages 4-7 & caregivers), see Exercise & Sports.

Reading Aloud (children), **Fri** 3:30pm, Library. No registration required.

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’s office. Also see additional listings, this page.

REGULAR MEETINGS (listed Sat-Fri)

Toastmasters (public speaking), **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, 2101 24th Av., Astoria.

RIRA Common Council meeting **1st Wed** (except Jul-Aug) 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Sep meeting moved to **Wed Sep 9.**

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. Info: 212-832-4540.

Conversations with Cornell Tech Staff at Gallery RIVAA, **Wed & Fri** 10am-12noon & 1-4pm, 527 Main St.

Constituent Service Hours:

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1st Wed 4-7pm, Library.

City Council Member Ben Kallos, 4th Wed 2-5pm, Senior Center, 546 Main St.

State Senator Jose Serrano, Wed 3-6pm, Senior Center or Library. Info: 212-828-5829.

OTHER

Clinic on Housing Law, 1st & 3rd Mon 3-6pm, district office of City Councilmember Ben Kallos, 244 E. 93rd St. Reservations and questions: 212-860-1950 or RSVP@BenKallos.com.

Free Legal Clinic, 1st Mon, sponsored by Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright. For appointment call 212-288-4607.

Policy Night, 2nd Tue 6:30pm, Kallos office (see above), 244 E. 93rd St.; help formulate policy.

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

First Fridays with Kallos, 8-10am, district office (see above); questions and issues.

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

Senior Center listings are on page 3.

★ BALLET ★ BALLROOM ★ CHILDREN'S THEATRE ★ TEEN THEATRE ★ CREATIVE DRAMA ★ HIP-HOP ★ JAZZ ★ TAP ★

★ AEROPUMP ★ ADULT MUSICAL THEATRE ★ ADULT THEATRE ★

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Theatre	Dance	Fitness	Music		
MONDAY 3:15 - 4:00 Creative Pre-Ballet 3 - 4 years (Clark) 4:00 - 4:45 Intro to Tap 4 - 5 years (Clark) 4:45 - 5:30 Tap 1st Grade + (Clark) 5:00 - 6:00 Ballet 4th Grade + (Ishimori) 5:45 - 6:45 Tap 3rd Grade + (Clark) 6:00 - 7:00 Advanced Ballet 7th Grade - Adult (Ishimori) 7:00 - 8:00 Teen Theatre Grade 8, 9, (10) (Taylor-Leach) 7:00 - 8:00 Ballroom Level 1 (Marceau) 7:45 - 8:45 Vinyasa-Flow Yoga (Messer) 8:00 - 9:00 Teen Theatre Grade (10), 11, 12 (Taylor-Leach) 8:00 - 9:00 Ballroom Level 2 (Marceau)	TUESDAY 10:00 am Music Together® 0 - 5 years (Johnston) 4:30 - 5:15 Tap 5-6 years (Harrod) 4:30 - 5:30 Ballet 1st Grade+ (Ishimori) 5:00 - 6:00 Children's Theatre Grade 3, 4, (5) (Lucid-Cusick) 5:15 - 6:00 Tap 7-8 years (Harrod) 6:00 - 7:00 Children's Theatre Grade (5), 6, 7 (Lucid-Cusick) 6:30 - 7:30 Hatha Yoga Adult (Messer) 7:00 - 8:00 Teen Theatre Grade 8, 9, (10) (Taylor-Leach) 8:00 - 9:00 Teen Theatre Grade (10), 11, 12 (Taylor-Leach)	WEDNESDAY 5:00 - 6:00 Jazz 1st Grade+ (McCatty) 5:00 - 6:00 Children's Theatre Grade 3, 4, (5) (Lucid-Cusick) 6:00 - 7:00 Jazz Teen (McCatty) 6:00 - 7:00 Children's Theatre Grade (5), 6, 7 (Lucid-Cusick) 7:00 - 8:00 Rejuvenation Adults & Teens (McCatty)	THURSDAY 10:45 - 11:30 Little Dancers 18 mo - 3 years (Orenstein) 2:30 - 3:30 Yoga (Orenstein) 3:30 - 4:15 Creative Pre-Ballet 3 - 4 years (Orenstein) 4:15 - 5:00 Pre-Ballet 5 - 6 years (Orenstein) 4:30 - 5:15 Hip-Hop 3 - 4 years (Brown) 5:05 - 6:00 Creative Drama K - 2nd Grade (Orenstein) 5:15 - 6:00 Hip-Hop 5 - 6 years (Brown) 6:00 - 7:00 Jazz 4th Grade + (McCatty) 6:00 - 7:00 Jazz 4th Grade + (McCatty) 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Jazz Open Level (McCatty) 7:30 - 8:30 Acting for Adults (Mihut) 8:00 - 9:00 Adult Tap (McCatty)	FRIDAY 10:00 am Music Together® 0 - 5 years (Johnston)	SATURDAY 9:00 am - 9:45 Creative Pre-Ballet 3 - 4 years (Clark) 9:30 - 10:30 Aeropump (Parker) 9:45 - 10:30 Creative Pre-Ballet 3 - 4 years (Clark) 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Adult Musical Theatre Studio (Lucid-Cusick) 10:30 - 11:30 Hip-Hop 10 - 13 years (Parker) 10:30 - 11:15 Pre-Ballet 5 - 6 years (Clark) 11:15 - 12:00 Intro to Tap 4 - 5 years (Clark)

The 2014 Annual Water Supply and Quality Report
is now available for viewing at
www.nyc.gov/dep/2014waterquality

This report contains important information about your water supply and the quality of your drinking water. Water quality test results from the drinking water supply are summarized in the tables in this report. Please go to www.nyc.gov/dep/2014waterquality to view the report and learn more about your drinking water. For a translation of the report, or to speak with someone about the information in the report, please call 311. If you would like a paper copy of the report mailed to your home, please call 311 and DEP will mail you a paper copy.

For more information about the New York City Water Supply and to view previous years' reports, go to www.nyc.gov/dep.

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Kite Flight for Peace Week: September 20-26 *at* Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park

KITE-MAKING WORKSHOPS WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 & 24 3PM - 5PM

Design and fly your own kite at our drop-in kite-making workshop led by kite-maker Charles Stewart! These two workshops coincide with the public school holidays this week.

KITE-MAKING WORKSHOP & KITE FLYING DEMONSTRATION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 (RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27) 1PM - 5PM

Design and fly your own kite at our drop-in kite-making workshop led by the Conservancy's Education Department! Then join us for an interactive kite-flying demonstration by Archie Stewart of the American Kitefliers Association.

Both events are free!
No registration required, all ages welcome.

For details and the full events calendar, please visit www.fdrfourfreedomspark.org/upcoming
The Park is free and open to the public, 9am -7pm. Open 6 days a week, closed Tuesdays.



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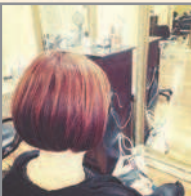
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Between Two Meetings, How to Make Helix Bike-Safe Largely Unresolved

by Briana Warsing

Following a July incident in which a cyclist was injured when he was struck from behind by a passing car while riding up the Island’s helix ramp, both the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) have considered ways to make Island access and egress safe for cyclists, resulting in a lot of back and forth, inaction, and ultimately a “soft ban” on bicycles from the helix.

At present, the RIOC plan is to add signage at the top and bottom entrances to the helix, directing cyclists to use the Motorgate elevators to enter and exit the Island. At the most recent meeting of RIOC’s Operations Advisory Committee, RIOC President Charlene Indelicato stopped short of calling this a “ban,” however, because “[RIOC] can’t enforce it” without posting a Public Safety officer at the helix, and “we don’t have the manpower.”

Within RIRA, the cause has been taken up by the Public Safety Committee. “We decided to shift from being reactive to being proactive,” explained Committee Chair Erin Feely-Nahem at the September 9 Common Council meeting. She added that bike safety has been brought to her committee before, and now they want it on everyone’s radar.

RIRA failed to act on the Committee’s motion, voting to table it in favor of further research on the issue.

At the Operations meeting, Caitlin Goodspeed, the Roosevelt Island representative from the cycling advocacy group Bike New York, noted that, prior to the accident in July, cyclists had been using the helix for years without issue, and her group “adamantly oppose[s] banning cyclists from the ramp.” In her opinion, safety concerns are best resolved through “signage and education.”

RIOC Board Member Michael Shinozaki was blunt at the Operations meeting, stating simply “I don’t think it’s safe for bikes to be on the helix.” He believes that the solution may be to restore the Motorgate escalators, and have cyclists use them rather than the helix. “We are not trying to ban cyclists in any way,” he said, “it’s just that that spot is dangerous.”

The Motorgate escalators have been out of service for years, and their condition is unknown to RIOC. According to Indelicato, the Cornell engineering team has offered to “look at the escalators...find out what the story is and [whether] the escalators can be used.”

In the meantime, RIOC intends to focus on “striping” (repainting the yellow and white lane markers on the crumbling helix roadway), signage directing non-motorized vehicles to the Motorgate elevators, and cyclist education offered by Bike New York.

News Updates and the *WIRE* archive, too: MainStreetWIRE.com

Tram Elevator, from page 1

helix [see story page 1; commentary, page 2], there were several other noteworthy topics:

- “Winter is coming.” So says Shinozaki, and with it, more damage to the surface of the helix roadway. Unfortunately, significant repairs are impossible at present, due to the amount of traffic from the Cornell project. The hope is to maintain the roadway with some temporary fixes to keep us as pothole-free as possible through the winter.
- If you thought (as I did) that the Gristede’s turnaround was closed due to safety concerns after the death of a cyclist there last year, you would be wrong. Apparently, the timing was coincidental, and the actual reason is a sinkhole that developed under the pavement and is currently covered by a large piece of plywood. The cause of the sinkhole is unknown.
- Board Member Christian wanted to know why there is no bench at the Manhattan Park Red Bus stop that replaced the one in the Gristede’s turnaround.

According to Indelicato, RIOC has approached Manhattan Park about adding a bench on their property, but has to date been rebuffed.

- The check is in the mail! Repairs to the South-point seawall are on hold pending FEMA funding, as are renovations to the interior of Blackwell House (including the porch, which is rotting out) pending funding from the City. There has been progress on the latter, however.
- RIOC is withholding a final payment of \$30,000 to the contractor who performed repairs on the West Pier, and will allocate that money to pay a different contractor to perform additional repairs there.
- The Con Edison trench work on Main Street will continue simultaneously with the Roosevelt Landings façade work, despite the fact that the Con Edison project will not be fully completed before the winter, and will now require Main Street to be torn up again in the spring.

Miqueli, from page 1

and what he had done, clearly displeased the priest; the other records were not made available.

Soon after Miqueli’s 2002 arrival, he lost some of the natural allegiance given to a new priest when he effectively “fired” Sr. Regina Palamara, after which there were rumors of trumped-up grounds involving the Cabrini Thrift Shop. With the active assent of Miqueli’s two predecessors, Palamara had run the Thrift Shop as a community service, occasionally employing parishioners who were in need of income instead of relying solely on volunteers. At times, its weekly gross revenue was twice that of collections at masses. Miqueli took control of the shop and chose new management.

Ultimately, Miqueli gave management of the shop to Keith Crist, a bodybuilder who has apparently followed Miqueli to his new post in the Bronx.

Palamara now lives in California. After her departure, the Catholic Youth Organization essentially ceased to exist.

Miqueli also fired Mary Jo Claugus, who had served as minister of music and choir director under Fr. Joseph Gorman.

A subsequent priest, Fr. Kevin Malick, who served here only briefly, revitalized the Thrift Shop, only to have it close in the Hudson/Related reshuffling of retail properties.

Keith Crist

Miqueli’s relationship with Keith

Crist has raised eyebrows in the Bronx, and with some of Miqueli’s 11 siblings. Crist traveled to Israel and Rome with Miqueli. Miqueli signed a \$1,075.50 rent supplement guarantee for Crist in 2014 – a step required for Crist to get an emergency bail-out from the City’s Human Resources Administration, Department of Social Services, to avoid eviction. There are seamy rumors, unconfirmed and subject to possible exaggeration, about the Miqueli-Crist relationship. One off-Islander who has had contact with Crist called him “Miqueli’s goon” in a conversation with *The WIRE*. Miqueli made Crist a trustee of the parish.

Roosevelt Island’s Catholic parish is now served by Father Richard Baker, but between Miqueli and Baker, there have been three priests. One is known to have been threatened by Crist, though it is unclear whether Crist was acting on his own behalf or at Miqueli’s behest.

Pipe Organ Fund

Shortly before Miqueli’s time on here, members of the Island’s Protestant parish, which shares use of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd with the Catholics, received the offer of a pipe organ, and a joint fund was created to pay for necessary work on the instrument – its installation and maintenance.

Two parishioners – one from the Catholic parish and one from the Protestant parish – took on the management of the funds raised for

the purpose. Mary Fitzgerald, a retired NYPD Detective, represented the Catholic interest in the organ, and Carol Kennedy, a Rivercross resident, represented the Protestant interest.

At some point, control of the Organ Fund account, kept at Montauk Credit Union, which had an Island branch at the time, passed into Miqueli’s hands. This was discovered when Kennedy left for Peace Corps service and fellow Protestant parishioner Audrey Braver went to the Credit Union office to change the Protestant signatory on the account. It was empty. A transfer document showed that both Fitzgerald and Kennedy had assented to a transfer of the Organ Fund to Miqueli’s control, but both have now signed affidavits attesting that they did not sign the transfer document – indicating that their signatures were copied or forged.

In an April 2014 meeting, Braver and other representatives of the Protestant parish confronted Miqueli about the change. “Father Miqueli told us the fund was safely deposited in his church’s Candle Fund,” Braver told *The WIRE*. “He assured us that he had no intention of using that [Organ Fund] money [for other purposes], since it was restricted.”

The amount in the Organ Fund around the time that Miqueli took control of it was about \$14,000. The Candle Fund had been established by one of Miqueli’s predecessors. A cashier’s check dated August 3, 2004, shows that \$12,851.18 was

James Michael Hook

James Michael Hook, beloved husband, father, son, and brother, passed away unexpectedly on September 4. He was born October 19, 1971, in Kansas City, Missouri. After graduation from East Hartford High School in 1989, he joined the United States Marine Corps Infantry, and served with honor and distinction from 1989-1997. In 1991, he was forward-deployed as part of Operation Desert Storm / Desert Shield with the 25th Marines. During his Marine Corps career, he was decorated with and awarded numerous medals, letters of commendation, and other honors.



Following his military career, James attended Manchester Community College and graduated from Western Connecticut State University with a B.A. in Communication, Theater Arts in 1998. It was there that he met his wife, Nicole. Upon graduation, James and Nicole worked together at the not-for-profit TheaterWorks in Hartford, Connecticut, before heading to New York City, where they have lived for the past 16 years, with the last seven on Roosevelt Island. When James arrived in the city, he immediately landed his first Screen Actors Guild role, playing “the hot guy” in an episode of *Sex and the City*. He worked non-stop professionally as

a SAG-AFTRA performer, print model, and, in the past few years, stunt double and stunt driver. He also had the opportunity to work alongside his son Kellen in the major film remake of *Annie*.

James’ love for life was infectious. Affectionately nicknamed “Jim James,” he was often the life of the party, whether he was out with friends or at home with his adored family. He will be missed immensely.

He is survived by his wife Nicole Hook (La Forgia) and their two sons Kellen and Connor; his mother Vicki Lynn Hook (Mooneyham); his brother and sister-in-law Jarrett and Hillary Hook and their son Aidan; his father-in-law and mother-in-law Nicholas and Denise La Forgia; his sister-in-law Danielle La Forgia; half-siblings Ella DiPietro, George Hook, Don Hook, and Rob Hook; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

Family, friends, and colleagues are invited to a memorial service to celebrate James’ life at his alma mater, Western Connecticut State University, on Saturday, September 26, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The service will take place on the main stage at the Visual and Performing Arts Center, 43 Lake Avenue Extension, Danbury, Connecticut. In lieu of flowers or other gestures of kindness, the family requests that donations be made to the James Hook Memorial Fund, which has been set up to assist his wife, Nicole, and his young sons, five-year-old Kellen and seven-week-old Connor. Please make checks payable to Nicole Hook, with the memo “For the Benefit of the James Hook Memorial Fund,” and send to First Command Bank, PO Box 901041, Fort Worth, Texas 76101-2041.

taken from the Candle Fund account, then deposited by Miqueli the next day in Cabrini’s Stipend Fund. That fund is common in Catholic parishes; it is the account into which priests deposit fees that they are allowed to charge for weddings, funerals, baptisms, and special masses. Money in the Stipend Fund belongs to the priest.

Thus, an amount roughly equal to the April 2004 Organ Fund appears to have been moved, by Miqueli, through the Candle Fund into the Stipend Fund, available for his personal use.

Records Destroyed

Just before Miqueli left Roosevelt Island, many financial records accumulated during his tenure were destroyed. But papers that escaped destruction show that Miqueli withdrew a significant amount from the Stipend Fund. Close observers suggest that, in the time period involved, it is not likely that the usual stipend sources would have provided so large an amount.

Shortly after Miqueli’s departure, it was discovered that an Island House apartment rented by the parish for the priest’s use had become listed in Miqueli’s name. It was around this time that talk of privatization of Island House was about to create an opportunity for apartment owners to benefit from insider pricing (or buy-outs) on their apartments.

The result was that Miqueli’s immediate successor was denied use of the apartment, and even several months later, it was not available to the next priest assigned. *The WIRE* has not been able to determine its present status, but Fr. Richard Baker, the new priest, will live in a Riverwalk (Southtown) apartment,

at least initially.

Miqueli reportedly owns a mortgage-free house in Brick Township, New Jersey, that he apparently acquired while serving his Roosevelt Island parish.

A Family Matter

Miqueli, the 11th of 12 children, is apparently a respondent, with a sister named Laura, in a lawsuit over his parents’ will. As explained by one of his brothers, at some point Peter persuaded his parents to will all their possessions to him, and a house they owned may explain at least part of a brokerage account in Miqueli’s name that approached \$700,000 in net value in 2013. Sometime before his death, their father revealed the change in the will to two of his sons, and they arranged for it to be revised for equal distribution among the siblings. But after the father’s death, they think that Laura, who they believe was working with Peter, had further changes made, and the disposition of funds in the estate is unknown. The brother who spoke with *The WIRE* said that “nobody will answer the phone,” so the matter has been given to an attorney to pursue.

How things will play out for this former Roosevelt Island priest is likely to be handled privately and quietly by the hierarchy of ADNY, but some complainants have taken charges to law enforcement in an attempt to invoke subpoena power to force additional evidence into public view – and possibly to recover funds.

Miqueli did not respond to messages left on his cell phone seeking comment, nor to a message left with an assistant.

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548 Main Street (unless otherwise noted)

Rosh Hashanah Eve, Sunday, Sept. 13

6:51pm Candlelighting
7:00pm Maariv, evening prayers
8:00pm “The Taste of the New Year”

Rosh Hashanah First Day, Monday, Sept. 14

10:00am Shacharis and children’s program
11:30am Shofar followed by Kiddush and Tashlich
6:00pm Family Rosh Hashanah Dinner (RSVP)*
AFTER 7:48pm Candlelighting
7:50pm Maariv*

Rosh Hashanah Second Day, Tuesday, Sept. 15

10:00am Shacharis and children’s program
11:30am Shofar followed by Kiddush
7:46pm Rosh Hashanah ends

Friday, Sept. 18

6:42pm Candlelighting
7:00pm Maariv*

Shabbos, Sept. 19

10:00am Shacharis followed by Kiddush
4:30pm Shabbos Party*
7:39pm Havdallah and Shabbos ends

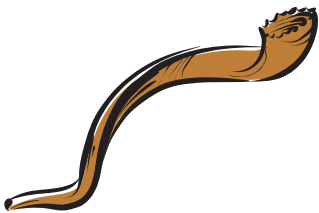
Yom Kippur Eve, Tuesday, Sept. 22

6:35pm Candlelighting and Fast begins
6:45pm Kol Nidrei and evening prayers

Yom Kippur Day, Wednesday, Sept. 23

10:00am Shacharis and children’s program
6:00pm Neilah
7:32pm Shofar blowing and break fast buffet

* At 425 Main Street



www.RIJewish.org

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Our second session will be on **Tuesday, November 24, 2015** entitled *How to Handle the Holidays*. Please R.S.V.P. by November 20, 2015.

These programs will be led by Dr. Kenneth J. Doka, an author and international expert on grief; the sessions will offer solid therapeutic advice on ways to best cope with grief.

Dr. Doka will review the many ways we might experience grief and we may deal more effectively with our loss. All our sessions are designed to be useful to people involved in a series of loss situations. We welcome you to join us.

Our third event this season will be held Tuesday Dec 1, 2015; this is our Annual Memorial Tree Lighting, whereby guests can bring an ornament in honor of your loved one to decorate our Memorial Tree and to participate in our Service of Remembrance. Please R.S.V.P. by November 27, 2015

We, at Thomas M. Quinn and Sons, and in all of our Dignity Memorial Funeral Homes, are thinking of you throughout the year. We welcome you to join us for these events. Please R.S.V.P. to let us know you will be attending any or all of these sessions.

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Community Column, from page 10 (19%), Reconstructionist (1%), or “just Jewish” (23%). Chabad Lubavitch of Roosevelt Island enjoys a steeply higher participation rate among the approximately 400 Jewish households. Fifty percent of households, including 80% of families with children, participate in activities at least once a year, though just 1% classify themselves as Orthodox.

Jewish women are in high standing in the worldwide Chabad community and are central to its success. Rabbi’s wives, or Rebbitzens, like myself, take a leadership role in the operation of the Chabad Center. As the cornerstone of Jewish family life, the woman can attain a profound and meaningful spirituality, one that fulfills her deepest needs and aspirations, opening fresh perspectives on self-understanding, growth, and Torah knowledge. Misconceptions and myths about Jewish women have been used to turn many people away from an appreciation of Torah and a traditional Jewish lifestyle. Chabad is working hard to correct those misconceptions.

Chabad Centers are not financed by the Chabad Lubavitch world headquarters in Brooklyn. It is Chabad policy that each center be supported by the community it serves. All funding for local Chabad programs is solicited locally, so all donations received from Roosevelt Island remain right here in our community. Chabad Lubavitch of Roosevelt Island does not charge any membership fees, nor is anyone turned away from any programs due to lack of funds. Donations and sponsorship are welcomed and encouraged.

Upcoming programs include weekly Shabbat prayers and Community Kiddush; High Holiday prayers and Kiddush on Rosh Hashanah; Yom Kippur break fast [space intentional] and services (if you don’t know Hebrew, don’t worry; we will help you along, and we insert English readings into the celebrations); Sukkos in the Sukkah; Simchas Torah Hakafot; and Chabad Hebrew School. Some of the programs have a suggested donation and requested RSVP, but all of our prayer services are always free of charge and open to all. Chabad of Roosevelt Island is a regular advertiser in *The WIRE*, so look for our ads before the holidays!

Tomorrow, Sunday, September 13, at 6:51 p.m., join us in ushering in the Jewish New Year (Year 5776), celebrated not with a ball-drop and party in Times Square, but with prayer and Shofar-blowing (Monday.) Chabad is pleased to offer free holiday services with enough seats for everyone (no reservation or ticket required) in the Renwick Room in the Roosevelt Island Community Cultural Center. See our ad on page 9 for a full schedule of services

Additionally, we invite the whole community, regardless of where you pray, to The Tastes of a New Year. We’ll have tastings of various traditional and symbolic Rosh Hashanah foods from Jewish communities around the world at 8:00 p.m. in the Community Cultural Center

We would like to thank *The WIRE* for providing us the opportunity to share a bit about Chabad Lubavitch of Roosevelt Island. We hope we answered some questions, and hope you’ll give it a try and see for yourself. If you have questions or comments, feel

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Deadline for September 26 issue: Tuesday, September 22
Deadline for October 10 issue: Tuesday, October 6
Please see ComingUp, page 3, for other advertising deadlines

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RIRA Column, from page 3 initiatives and community events; seeks to find and develop better means of increasing the visibility of the community, and build better systems for information and event-sharing among the Island’s community groups.

Legal Action: Responsible for advising the Common Council and RIRA-at-large about the viability of legal action as a means for solution and recourse.

The success of each of these committees, and of the Island community, depends on the time and effort each of us invests in their work. No matter how rich or poor a service organization may be, it is only as successful as, and can only help the community to the extent of, those who commit themselves to its operation. I call on each of you who has even a remote interest in serving on any of the above committees to contact me at jeffrey.escobar@gmail.com. By joining and participating in a RIRA committee, not only will you become more engaged in the community, but you’ll be providing an important service to those on the Island who really need it.

Open Council Seats
Turning from service on a RIRA committee to service on the Common Council: A reminder that the Octagon and Manhattan Park delegations are lacking Council members for a significant proportion of their allotted seats. If you think that you could better serve the Island through direct advocacy and representation on the Common Council, you may occupy one of those seats through petition. Interested? For more information, please contact me at jeffrey.escobar@gmail.com or Aaron Hamburger, Chair of the Nominations Committee, at ashamburger33@gmail.com.

Community Board 8
The Roosevelt Island Committee of Community Board 8 will hold a meeting on September 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Manhattan Park Community Center. There will be a presentation by Rosina Abramson of Envac, a waste-collection company that served as consultants to the NYC Department of Sanitation on the upgrade of Roosevelt Island’s AVAC system and the current planned non-use of the system by Cornell. The meeting will also involve discussion of recent developments in the construction and installation of the Hope Memorial in Southpoint Park, and the review of the Memorial’s design by the Public Design Commission. For more information concerning the meeting and how you can be more involved in the work of the Roosevelt Island Committee and Community Board 8, contact one of the Committee’s Co-Chairs, Larry Parnes at harlar.onri@verizon.net or me at jeffrey.escobar@gmail.com.

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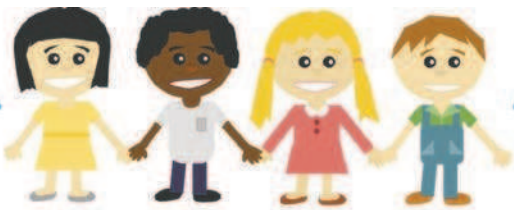
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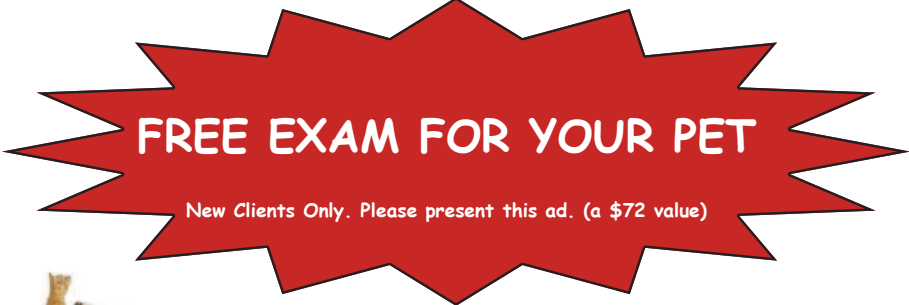
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