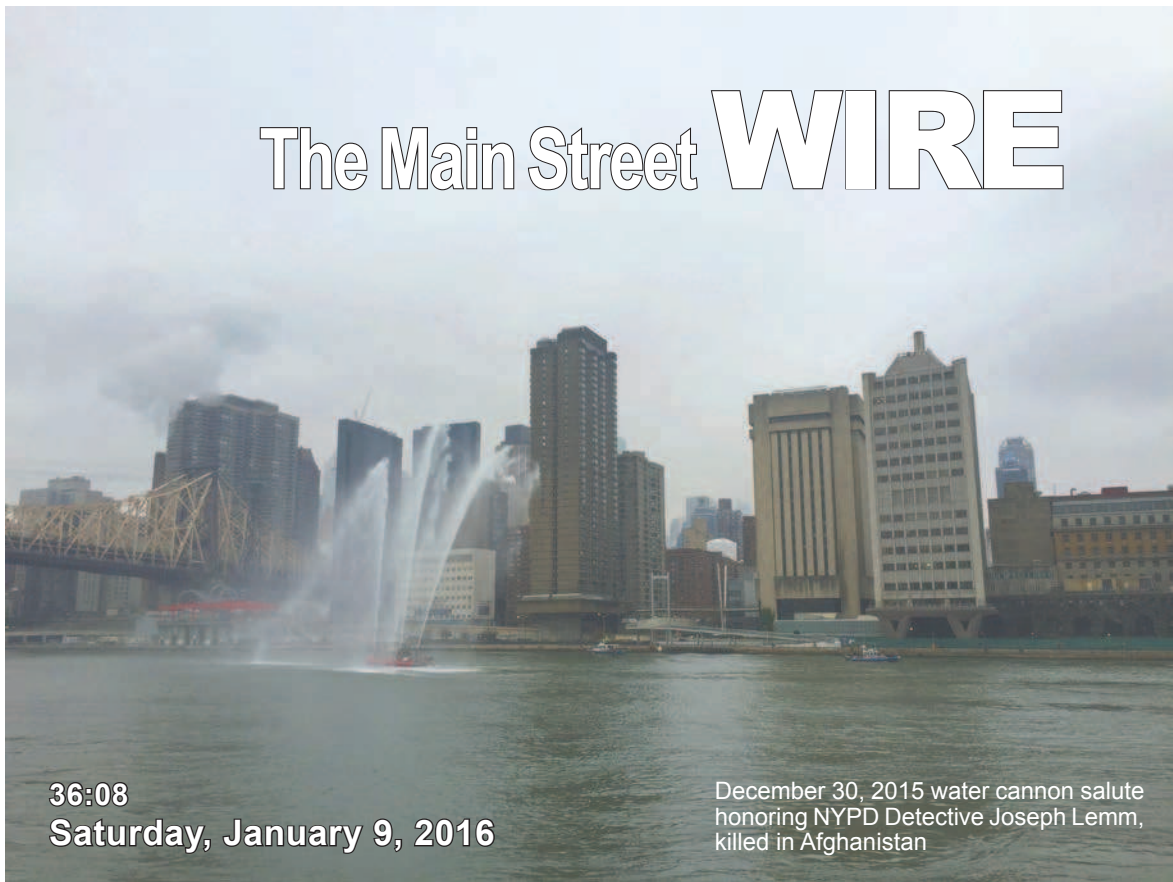


The Main Street WIRE



36:08
Saturday, January 9, 2016

December 30, 2015 water cannon salute honoring NYPD Detective Joseph Lemm, killed in Afghanistan

RI Day Nursery Turns 40

by Briana Warsing

The year was 1976. Gerald Ford was President. Abe Beame was mayor of New York. The pop chart was packed with hits from the Bay City Rollers, Barry Manilow, Diana Ross and Paul Simon (extra points to those of you who can guess the song titles popular that year). *Taxi Driver*, *Carrie* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* hit the theaters. And the Roosevelt Island Day Nursery (RIDN) was started by a group of Island parents seeking quality, community-based, early education, for their two-, three- and four-year olds.

Karen Mann, who moved here in 1977 with two children, aged three years and four months, recalls, "I was told that the preschool here was a disaster. It had just started maybe a year before as the community came to be. So I looked over the Tram. There were a lot of schools and some had great credentials, and I hated every single one of them. They were too rigid and too sterile."

She opted to focus her attention here. "I decided what I was going to do was get on the board and find a great teacher. This was in January of 1978. We put an ad in *The New York Times* to find someone who could head the school. We got about seven responses. I do write a good ad. The minute I met Sara [Sara Seiden, Director 1979-2005] I knew instantly; I just knew that that's the person I wanted to run the school. We interviewed a lot of very nice, acceptable people. But Sara was the smartest and the most capable. Under her leadership, the school was fantastic. I wanted someone who had a vision. I wanted someone who agreed with my philosophy that you learn through

play. Her philosophy was my philosophy. That's how everybody makes decisions and then they cross their fingers but I never had to cross my fingers with Sara. It was fate. Her vision was our vision, it was perfect."

Seiden says, "It was a wonderful hiring process. They wanted to find the right person who was going to create the preschool they wanted. I stayed for 26 years. It was a good fit." Karen Mann explains, "Sara had the vision and we had the opportunity."

Seiden says, "It was just the right moment for the Island and just the right moment for me."

As much as finding Sara Seiden saved the fledgling school, the years were not without struggle, upheaval and challenge.

Politics and Pataki

The original site of the Roosevelt Island Day Nursery was 545 Main Street. According to Seiden, "The architects built this beautiful space with big classrooms. True to date, when the builders built the first buildings, in terms of how they got permission, they had to create certain things in a community. One of those things was space for preschool or early childhood education."

The 545 Main Street facility was occupied for 26 years, from 1976 to 2002. Although the space was given to Island parents by the Urban Development Corporation, the State agency that developed the Island, there was never a formal lease. Over the years, the owners of Island House, through the Roosevelt Island Housing Management Corporation, approached the RIDN to "regularize" the relationship which meant that they were looking to collect rent and/or payment of utility bills.

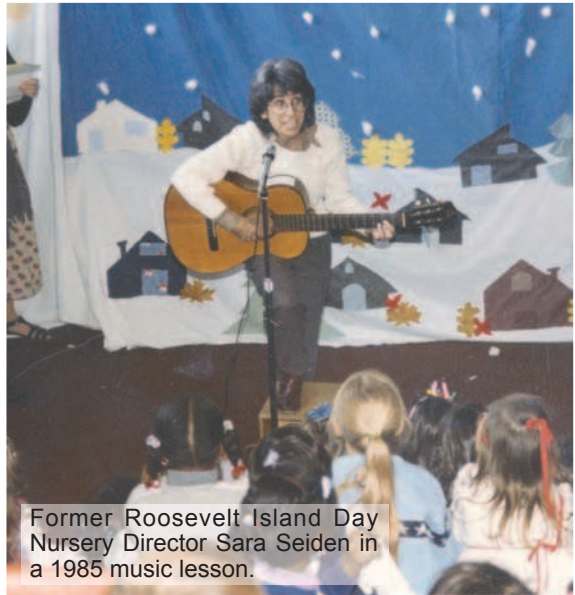
When conflict with the owners over electricity charges escalated during the 2000-01 school year, the housing company refused to do even basic repairs. During the summer of 2001, while the building was unoccupied, a very serious flood caused by a backup of the unclogged drain at the lower entry door severely damaged the carpeting which had to be removed. The floor had to be disinfected due to mildew. Despite the school's best efforts, the Island House owners refused to back down in their demands for payment, and RIO was unwilling to intervene. Seiden recalls, "We decided that if RIO would not protect the future day-care needs of the community, we could not continue this fight on our own."

So, the school had to leave its original site. "Every time the Island went through its political changes and upheavals, you'd either have support from RIO or you didn't," muses Seiden. "All of those Pataki years, we got little support. Even in the ground lease, it said pre-school was supposed to be provided, and they're

See RIDN, page 8



Pamela Stark, right, Director of Roosevelt Island Day Nursery, and Tamara Troadec, Assist. Director



Former Roosevelt Island Day Nursery Director Sara Seiden in a 1985 music lesson.

Community Poll Ready to Roll

by Sara Maher

Beginning January 18, all Island residents will have the opportunity to tell their representatives what they really think about life on the Island.

In the November 21 RIRA Column (*The WIRE*, November 21, 2015, available online at tinyurl.com/wire3606), Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) President Jeffrey Escobar presented the Community Polling Initiative as a way to "directly ask you, our Roosevelt Island Community, which issues you believe directly affect you as an Island resident." The poll will be available both online and via printed ballot.

The goal is to pinpoint the areas most widely considered in need of support so RIRA can allocate its resources and efforts accordingly. RIRA's Community Polling Chair, Adib Mansour, says the poll will help fulfill RIRA's mission to serve and improve the Island community. "RIRA as a whole needs to know the answers to a host of questions [in order] to identify areas of need, plan, and concentrate our efforts to better serve our community."

Mansour says he had the idea for the survey when he was elected to RIRA in November 2014. "[Before my election to RIRA] I worked with kids and their parents for soccer for about 10 years and the Beacon afterschool program for two years, so I had a lot of interaction with lots of different people... and I realized there are a lot of different issues. We [at RIRA] can't pretend we know all of the issues." He discussed the idea of a survey with Escobar, who said it was something he had also been thinking about. After the idea was presented, RIRA unanimously passed a resolution to do the community poll.

The categories included in the survey were chosen by RIRA Committee Chairs, and could include building upkeep, construction

concerns, public safety and security, health concerns, youth engagement, transportation issues, and senior services. When developing the content of the survey, Mansour sat with the chairs of RIRA committees – including Island Services and committees focused on the needs of seniors, youth, and parents – and gathered their ideas. He thinks this helped create a survey that is inclusive of the different issues people of different demographics might have. "A lot of it is from my interaction with the Island," said Mansour, who has lived here for 29 years. "I am trying to reach all different levels."

When asked which issues he thought would be most common in the results, Mansour says he was expecting the results to be diverse, ranging from building vandalism to disabled accessibility to the more recently discussed problems regarding the accessibility and maintenance of the Helix. "I think we're going to get a lot of different responses, and I think we're going to be surprised... we don't even know [what] might come up."

As to how RIRA will prioritize the issues that do come up, Mansour says RIRA will "go with the numbers." After the survey is complete, the complaints mentioned in each category will be tallied, and any additional comments – the survey will have blanks where survey takers can elaborate on their responses – will be considered. Mansour says RIRA will "analyze all of the responses and use percentages to see how many people from different parts of the Island have a common issue." Mansour says there is currently no budget set aside to specifically address issues brought up by the survey, but adds that the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIO) is "ready to be a partner." RIRA could also

See Poll, page 10



A Wedding in the Air

Jenny and Wes Hansen exchanged wedding vows over the East River on the Tram on December 22. Wes' parents, Cono and Patricia Trubiano, lived in Island, Island House and Rivercross in the late 1980's. The couple says, "Roosevelt Island is a special place to both of us, we think it's a magical place. We have made many trips to Roosevelt Island and would love to live there! It's such an oasis." They met 23 years ago when Wes was working for the Big Apple Circus, then reconnected in 2008.



The Editorial Page

Community Reinvisioned

Community renewal is the biggest issue facing the Island today. Cornell might be the biggest game-changer, but we have to get our affairs in order as a community so we can best partner with Cornell and be most able to maximize its benefits. In order to do that, we have to look in the mirror and be honest about what we see. How much energy do we have, and where do we want to spend it? What kind of community experience do we want?

The pioneer generation who created the Roosevelt Island Residents Association, the Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance, the *Main Street WIRE*, and many of the other groups on the Island is aging. More than that, they are wringing their hands, hoping for succession, hoping their vision of community is sustained. They may not get their wish or they may get their wish in a form they don’t expect.

A New Year is a good time for a shift of perspective and a good time to appreciate that the future might not look like the past and that’s okay. These pioneers want to step down with their organizations’ boards packed and bank accounts full, but no matter how large the public purpose disbursements may be, if the organizations are only running because of the efforts of the old guard, there is no certain future.

Instead an honest accounting must be made of who we are, what we have left, what best to invest in. We have a disparate population – living in different types of housing with different kinds of connection to this place, which determine how much time must be spent working off Island to afford to live here. With that might come some resentment. With that might come a feeling of entitlement.

We are hardwired to find human connection. But perhaps there are evolving ideas of where to find community and different ways of expressing community that are not represented in our organizations. Maybe online communities work better. Maybe many Islanders have very active communities at work so they are not utilizing what is here because they aren’t here for that. Maybe a more generalized concept of membership, like the classpass model, would work better for a lot of people. Maybe Facebook and Facetime make face-to-face contact less necessary for that connection we all crave. Maybe FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) makes committing to meetings impossible.

Or maybe newcomers, never having known our Island as it once was, revel in the shredded remains, unaware of what they missed by arriving late to the party.

Older residents might feel that without the courtesy of an announcement, our community has become like many other New York neighborhoods. Real-estate values and maneuvers dominate the fabric of life. Merchants arrive with their minds set all the more on commerce and all the less on community. But maybe they just need to look closer, reach out, and listen, to recognize that community means something new today. **BW**

The Main Street WIRE™

Published by **The Main Street WIRE**
©2016 *The Main Street WIRE*
531 Main St. #413, NYC10044
e-mail **MainStreetWIRE@usa.net**
MainStreetWIRE.com™

News **917-842-7638**
Advertising **917-587-3278**
Circulation **212-935-7534**
Financial **212-826-9056**

Editor – Briana Warsing
Layout Editor – John Dougherty
Chief Proofreader – Linda Heimer
Proofreaders – Lorraine Altman, Vicki Feinmel, Mary Ellen Gill, Helke Taeger
Reporters – Sara Maher, Alex Marshall, Sara Metzidakis, Laura Russo, David Stone
Photographer – Maria Casotti
Advertising Sales – Ellen Levy – 917-587-3278
Circulation Managers – Sherie Helstien, Matthew Katz
Circulation Assistants – Jim Bates, Brandon Cruz
Human Resources – David Bauer
Legal Counsel – A. Ross Wollen
Island History Consultant – Judy Berdy
MainStreetWIRE.com – Jeff Prekopa, Laurence Vaughan
Acting Publisher / Publisher Emeritus – Dick Lutz
Founding Publisher – Jack Resnick

Peter Alber, Laila Amatullah, Bubu Arya, Marty Atkins, Steve Bessenoff, Ann Biddlecom, Barbara Brooks, Shelly Brooks, Carol Chen, Gloria Cherif-Jamal, Joan Davis, Joan Digilio, Justin Evans, Jan Fund, Gloria Gonsalves, Matthew Gonsalves, Tiffany Gonsalves, Aaron Hamburger, Todd Jagerson, David Kolakowski, Michael Kolba, Anton Luser, Lilya Luser, Mary Mangle, Katharina Mauer, Vincent McClean, Hezi Mena, Bakul Miltro, Clinton Narine, Kiran Narine, Sandra Narine, Kumar Nathan, Halima Nooradeen, Essie Owens, Joan Pape, Christina Park, Lucas Plaut, Judy Quintana, Brian Reccardi, Ronnie Rigos, Ilonka Salisbury, Mondira Sarkar, Bob Specker, Betty Spensley, James Starace, Luca Starace; and...

Allison Pearlman and students of Legacy High School;
Angelo Sacino, Kaitlyn Abdul, and students from the PS/IS 217 Beacon Program,
Juniors and Cadettes of Girl Scout Troop 3324

Letters

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.

Letters deadline

for January 23 issue:
Tuesday, January 19, 5:00 p.m.

To the Editor:

Years ago I sang in a big, amateur chorus led by David Randolph. We adored him, and some of us showed up year after year simply to be in the same room with him. We thought it would go on forever. I guess I thought Dick Lutz and *The WIRE* would also go on forever. When I came here about ten years ago, I became your devoted reader, and never stopped.

You have always struck me as the smartest guy in the room, and I thank you for sharing yourself so generously and tirelessly. You spent your energies speaking truth to power, pushing back the bad guys, maintaining high standards, sustaining a remarkably vibrant level of communication, and – most of all – educating a community, including this fan. Thank you.

Judy Buck

To The Editor:

To us, Dick Lutz and *The WIRE* are synonymous with what Roosevelt Island stands for. In the 10 years that we lived on this oasis in the middle of the East River, Dick was always the eyes and ears of

what a diverse population can accomplish when folks work together.

I (Margery) was fortunate to be a photographer for *The WIRE*. I have many memories of working with Dick on photo ops that appeared in the paper, especially Hollowe’en and Roosevelt Island Days, but best of all was being his friend and enjoying his company.

I (George) was happy to be one of the circulation staff. A paper stuffer and deliverer to the apartments. A shopping cart was always handy when you had to deliver to the two hospitals (Goldwater/Colder.) There was Dick overseeing the entire operation, even to the point of ordering our lunches.

It was a pleasure to watch Dick sitting at a table in the Trellis interviewing someone for an article or just having a meal with Dick and enjoying his stories and humor. All of this was worth the price of admission of living on the Island.

We know he will miss all of this but look forward to his next adventure. With much love and good luck, dear friend.

George & Margery Rubin
Formerly residents of 40 River Road

The Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance (MST&DA) started as the Main Street Theatre in 1982. Conceived by Diana Brill and a group of other arts-minded residents, the first Board recruited theatre veterans Nancy and Worth Howe to run the programs and found space in the Youth Center (now the Cultural Center at 548 Main Street.) Within a year, the Main Street Theatre added a dance program and became the Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance. The organization has continued through the decades, providing training in acting and other theatre arts, a wide variety of dance disciplines, and various forms of fitness. MST&DA offers classes for everyone from young children to adults and strives to be a safe place for those with special needs. Everyone is welcome and given an opportunity to explore their creative side.

We have been able to attract an excellent teaching staff with the professional experience, credentials, and expertise to teach their discipline with competence and safety. The productions we put on every spring are evidence of the quality work going on in our classes. Our most recent productions, the first to take place in the newly refurbished cultural center, were *The World Goes ’Round* (Adult Musical Theatre Studio), *Urinetown* (Teen Theatre), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Children’s Theatre). This year, our productions will be (in order by performance date) *Forbidden Broadway* (Adult Musical Theatre Studio), *Annie Jr.* (Children’s Theatre), and *Xanadu* (Teen Theatre).

We see it as part of our mission to collaborate with other organizations on the Island. We have resources and expertise that are of use to others. An example is the dance and theatre programming we have provided to PS/IS 217 under the auspices of the PTA starting during the 2010-2011 school year, with ballroom dancing for the fifth graders, and this program is ongoing. The third graders had their fourth annual performance of West African Dance right before Thanksgiving. We just signed our third contract for Theatre Games, which originally was for 6th graders but was expanded to include seventh and eighth graders in its second year. These are all held during the school day and are part of the mandated arts program for the school. We have also provided a movement class for the Roosevelt Island Day Nursery for the past two years.

Our main challenge has been to connect a storied organization with a long history to a future on the Island. The Board needed to grow and bring in a new generation with a variety of talents and experiences. Today, the Board, under the leadership of President Isa Abdul and new Executive Director Kristi Towey, is exactly what we hoped for: stable for the long term and able to keep the organization vital and growing as the Island continues to change. MST&DA benefits from the

participation of the children, and perhaps grandchildren, of former students, but we have always welcomed new families and individuals who are looking to connect to Roosevelt Island through the arts. We view ourselves as a meeting place between old and new.

We have a lot of plans. Our Mission Statement charges us with providing arts training to everyone, regardless of means. We have a very active scholarship and work-study program to support the widest possible participation. We send out emails to all of our enrolled students prior to our registration periods, and we are working on setting up a scholarship page on our website that makes it easy for anyone to see what the process is. These programs were recently buttressed by a generous grant from the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation Public Purpose Funds, as recommended by the Roosevelt Island Residents Association. This allows us to widen the scope of our assistance.

We are also developing programs to be offered free to the public. This is a requirement of our Licensing and Operating Agreement with RIOC to use theatre space in the Cultural Center, and it is one that we embrace because it is in line with our mission. Among the slated programs are a multigenerational troupe that would mount a winter production and short summer theatre productions that accomplish everything in a week (casting, rehearsal, tech, and performance). A spring class will be offered in theatre tech, and will include lighting, sound, and stage management. We hope to have a number of specialty classes and events throughout our spring session, such as our Valentine’s Dance and silent auction February 6. We encourage anyone with an interest in theatre arts to get involved with us. Look for more information soon on our website and on posters and flyers.

Our registration for the spring season starts the week of January 18 and runs for the five weeks prior to the start of classes on February 22. Last year we put our registration system online. That had a number of benefits, including allowing credit card payments, but we found that we missed the human interaction of in-person registration. This year, in addition to online registration (mstda.org), we will also assist with registrations in the Cultural Center; specific days and times will be announced by the beginning of next week. We will also have on-site class demonstrations the first two weeks in February. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@mstda.org or 212-371-4449.



Jenine Olson, Board Member
Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance
info@mstda.org

Be the first to finish all five Roosevelt Island jigsaw puzzles!
See ad, page 10.

Happy New Year! 2015 was a very exciting year for Cornell Tech, and we’re looking forward to what’s to come in 2016.

As you know, Cornell Tech is committed to supporting tech education at the K-12 level, and last month, we announced a groundbreaking computer science program with PS/IS 217 and Councilmember Ben Kallos.

We have launched a three-year effort to enable teachers at PS/IS 217 to incorporate computer science (CS) activity into every grade, across the curriculum. Over the three years, every teacher in the K-8 school will receive professional development in K-12 computing education. Our goal is to make it possible for

all teachers to devise and implement CS lesson plans that support their curriculum and give students increasing comfort and skill in technology.

In November and December, all teachers

participated in a 6-session introduction to computer science. Beginning in March, our consultant will begin working with a group of teachers to develop lessons for all grades that will integrate computational thinking and computing into other school subjects. In addition, the Museum of the Moving Image will provide professional development for two lessons for Grades 4-8 focused on game design and digital media.

We are thrilled to launch this program and I want to especially thank Councilmember Kallos for his leadership in this effort. As our “tech Councilmember,” he understands how important CS education is and has been a great partner in getting the program at PS/IS 217 off the ground.

We are seeing great progress in campus construction, with the rise of the superstructure of the residential Passive House, the topping off of the Bloomberg Center, and steel continuing to rise for the Bridge. We are having our next Construction and Community Task Force meeting on Monday, January 25th, from 6-8pm at 546 Main St, 12th floor conference room, where we will provide further updates.

We are very excited about an upcoming Discovery Roundtable with the Coler Rehabilitation and Nursing

Care Center (Coler) that will take place in early February. This event will include Cornell Tech students and faculty along with Coler clinical staff, patients, and hospital leadership. Cornell Tech and Coler will share their organizations’ missions, programs and operations and explore the nature of each other’s work, with a particular focus on how they each view the role of technology in improving the lives of the disabled. Finally, and most importantly, they

will engage in a discussion as to how the lives of people with disabilities might be improved through the creation of new technologies. We look forward to this new, exciting event with our soon-to-be neighbors on Roosevelt Island.

On the academic side, we announced recently two new degree programs

that will start this coming fall. With Cornell Law School, we will offer a new Master of Laws (LLM) degree in Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship. The one-year, full-time LLM degree is designed to provide practicing attorneys and recent law graduates with the specialized skills needed to support and lead tech companies in the increasingly complex and dynamic digital economy. A new Master of Engineering in Operations Research and Information Engineering will also start in the fall. The program will create decision-makers who can provide business intelligence for a fast-paced, data-driven tech world.

I look forward to seeing you all on the Island soon! Please visit construction.tech.cornell.edu for ongoing updates and to get in touch with us.



Jane Swanson
Cornell Community Liaison
sjs399@cornell.edu

The Cornell Column

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.

Neighbors, family and friends – a very Happy and Healthy New Year to each and every one of you! It seems that Jack Frost has finally returned from his vacation, and winter has arrived. As the cold winter sun begins to settle over the City and we begin the long march towards spring, your Common Council has been hard at work. Here’s what been happening over the holiday season and in the works for 2016.

RIRA Polling Initiative

The RIRA polling initiative begins in earnest this month, and now is your chance as a RIRA member and Island resident to directly influence the Common Council’s agenda for the months to come and in the coming new term. Through online polling, traditional and social media, Town Hall meetings with members of

the Common Council, and building representative lobby meet and greets, RIRA will, over the next six months, be creating an action for next term’s Common Council which is shaped directly by *your*

opinion. Stay tuned about how you can participate, and read more about the initiative in this edition of *The WIRE*. (See page 1)

RIRA Youth Initiative

Steered by Common Council member Adib Monsour, RIRA will be continuing to coordinate events this year that bring middle-schoolers and their parents together for fun and learning. Last month’s cultural event at PS/IS 217 brought together over 70 teens and their parents, as Chef Ciro Casella taught his secrets of making pizza with fresh and healthy ingredients. Be on the lookout in 2016 for even more Youth Initiative events, including a planned skateboarding workshop! Want to help out or have some ideas for future events of the RIRA Youth Initiative? Drop the Common Council a line at contact@riraonline.com.

Composting Initiative Partnership

Through the efforts of Common Council member Anthony Longo, the Roosevelt Island Composting Initiative has partnered with RIRA, the Roosevelt Island Garden Club (RIGC) and iDig2Learn to bring local composting to Roosevelt Island. In cooperation with the NYC Compost Project and BIG-Reuse, Roosevelt Island Residents can now bring their organic kitchen scraps to the Roosevelt Island Saturday Markets under the Helix to be composted and used to rebuild Island

and City gardens, all while reducing landfill waste by 20% to 30%. In just the first six weeks of accepting organic materials, the Roosevelt Island Composting Initiative has collected over 1,320 lbs. of organic materials over the span of 280 drop offs. Have you contributed your kitchen scraps to the movement? Join your fellow neighbors, RIRA, the PS/IS 217 PTA, iDig2Learn,



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

RIGC, the RI Girl Scouts and 45 other Island residents every Saturday as we look to reduce, reuse and recycle. And keep your eye out as the initiative grows! Programs in the works include urban organic farm to table gardening at the Senior Center and educational workshops on organic and healthy eating. Want to find out more about how you can join the movement? Send the Common

Council an email at contact@riraonline.com.

Pay It Forward Committee

Chaired by RIRA Secretary Susan Pirard, the goal of the Pay It Forward (PIF) Committee is to identify our Island neighbors, friends, and residents who are in need of food, coats, and other basic items, and to organize collections and initiatives to provide these items to those in our community who are most in need. Just this past December, the PIF Committee partnered with religious groups on the Island, doctors practicing on the Island, anonymous donors and Family Table Food Ministries to acquire items and deliver food boxes and coats to over 72 families. This coming year, the PIF Committee will look in earnest to spread the word of its initiative in the hopes that challenged families and individuals will come forward for help or will be referred by a friend or neighbor, as well as in the hope that more Island neighbors will come out to help and donate. Interested in volunteering or in making a donation? Reach out at contact@riraonline.com.

Hands-Only CPR

Thanks to Amalgamated Bank’s donation of \$1,000, RIRA’s goal of having nearly every family

COMING UP

- THIS WEEKEND -

Kindergarten applications for all NYC schools accepted **through Fri Jan 15**. Apply online (prod.semsnycdoe.com/parentsite), by calling 718-935-2400, or in person at 333 Seventh Avenue, 12th Floor; Room 1211 (Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm).

Community Board membership applications accepted **through Fri Jan 29** 5pm. Apply at manhattanbp.nyc.gov/html/community-boards/community-boards.shtml Info: email Paola Liriano atpliriano@manhattanbp.nyc.gov

– REGULAR MEETINGS AND EVENTS –

See page 4.

- THE NEXT TWO WEEKS -

RIHS lecture, *Is It Trash or Is It Treasure?*, Tue Jan 12 6:30pm at the library. Free.

NYPL: Building for You conversation about the new library, **Thu Jan 14** 6-8pm at the Good Shepherd Center (543 Main St.) Learn more at nypil.org/help/about-nypil/capital-projects

Martin Luther King Day, Mon Jan 18.

RIRA Community Polling begins, week of Jan 18. Look for printed ballots and posters with online survey URL at locations throughout Island.

MST&DA spring registration, week of Jan 18-Feb 22 at the Cultural Center (specific days/times TBA) or online at mstda.org (Ad page 6.)

The Main Street WIRE – Sat Jan 23. Advertising deadlines: Display, **Wed Jan 13**; decision date for circulars/inserts, Tue Jan 19; 6,000 copies due Thu Jan 21. Also: Feb 13; Mar 5, 19; Apr 9, 23; May 14, 28; Jun 11, 25; Jul issue date to be announced; Aug 27; Sep 10, 24; Oct 8, 22; Nov 5, 19; Dec 10. News phone, 917-842-7638; 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 -

Cornell Tech Construction and Community Task Force meeting, **Mon Jan 25** 6-8pm, 546 Main St., 12th floor conference room.

Four Freedoms Democratic Club Annual Election Meeting, Tue Jan 26 7pm at Church of the Holy Trinity (316 E 88th St., Main Church).

See list of candidates and RSVP at fourfreedomsnyc.org

MST&DA Fall Sessions end on the following dates: Mon classes end Feb 1; Tue & Wed ends Jan 26 & 27; Thu ends Feb 11; Sat ends Feb 6.

Crafts with Kids: Valentine’s, Sat Feb 6 or 13 10-11am, sponsored by Roosevelt Island Parents Network. RSVP to eva.bosbach@gmail.com.

MST&DA Valentine Dance and silent auction, Sat Feb 6, 8-11pm, Cultural Center. (Ad page 6.)

Historical Society lecture, *The Stories of the Suitcases*, Tue Feb 9 6:30pm, Library. Free.

MST&DA Spring Session begins, week of Feb 22. (Ad page 6.)

Historical Society lecture, *The SS Columbia and the Return of the Hudson River Day Liner*, Tue Mar 8 6:30pm, Library. Free.

Historical Society lecture, *Childbirth in 19th-Century America: The Role of Charity Hospital*, Tue Apr 12 6:30pm at the library. Free.

General Election, Tue Nov 3.

and household on the Island trained in Hands-Only CPR continues, with over 818 Island residents and households having been trained. New, larger CPR training mannequins have been also ordered and more training events organized. Are you yet to be trained? Keep your eye out on the Island for banners and flyers noticing when and where the next round of training will occur. You might just save a life!

Gifted & Talented Forum

Last December, over 50 families attended the education forum on the Gifted and Talented Program at Roosevelt Island’s PS 217 and had their questions about testing, admission and Gifted and Talented curriculum answered directly by New York City Department of Education Enrollment Director Daniel Hildreth, Principal Beckman of PS/IS 217, the G&T curriculum educators at PS/IS 217 and the PS/IS 217 PTA. Many thanks go out to the Roosevelt Island Committee and Youth and Education Committee of Manhattan Community Board 8, Principal Beckman PS/IS 217 and the PTA of PS/IS 217 for helping pull together the event. Do you have an educational forum you would like to see happen on the Island? Email your suggestions to contact@riraonline.com or reach out directly to Jeff Escobar as President of RIRA and Chair of the Roosevelt Island Committee of Community Board 8 at jeffrey.escobar@gmail.com.

On Roosevelt Island We...

As Chair of the Social, Culture and Education Committee, Chair Lynne Shinozaki is hard at work with Island Girl Scouts, schools and other children’s groups to bring community awareness and service to the Island through the “On Roosevelt Island We ...” public service campaign. Through the use of Island authored pictures and artwork to be posted throughout our community, Island residents will be reminded what it means to be a good neighbor and to take care of the community. Many thanks to our partners at RIOC in assisting the printing and displaying of the pictures around the Island to encourage Islanders to be good neighbors and to highlight the children’s artwork. Want to participate? Reach out at contact@riraonline.com.

Call for RIRA Treasurer

Do you have an Accounting degree or are you a certified CPA? Do you have experience supporting non-profit organizations? Looking to get more involved in your community or joining the RIRA Common Council? Now is your chance. By becoming the organization’s Treasurer, not only will you have an opportunity to support RIRA, but you will automatically become a voting member and advocate for your community. Interested? Drop us a line at contact@riraonline.com or contact me directly at jeffrey.escobar@gmail.com with any questions or concerns. Looking forward to hearing from you!

The RIRA Column

Adventures OFF-Island

curated by Sara Maher

Still trying to snap out of the holiday haze? Start the New Year off right by cleaning up, getting out, and trying something new.

Chip In

Is your Christmas tree still shedding all over your living room? Not sure how to dispose of that big ol’ wreath? Bring your elderly evergreens to Prospect Park, put them through a chipper, and go home with a bag of mulch for your personal or community garden. The rest of the chips will nourish plants in parks all over the five boroughs.

➡F downtown to Fort Hamilton Pkwy and walk east to Park Circle in Prospect Park. Sat Jan 9-Sun Jan 10, 10am-2pm. Free. Please make sure all ornaments and decorations have been removed before chipping. nycgovparks.org/highlights/festivals/mulchfest

Take a Hike

Enjoy this warm winter weather (or a brisk walk, if it cools down by the 16th) with a Scavenger Hunt Hike! Let a NYC Parks Urban Park Ranger (real job!) show you the hidden

gems of Fort Greene Park. This easy “hike” (mostly paved paths) is good for kids of all ages, so they can help each other discover nature while you unwind from the holiday havoc.

➡F downtown to Jay St-Metro Tech and walk east on Wiloughby St to Fort Greene Park; hike starts at the visitor center at the northeast corner of the park. Sat Jan 16, 1-2:30pm. All ages. Free. nycgovparks.org/events/2016/01/16/scavenger-hunt-hike-light

Get Fancy

NYC Restaurant Week is a semiannual event that promotes fine dining at an affordable price. Enjoy a minimum of three courses at the City’s finest restaurants for a significantly reduced rate. The list of participating restaurants will be announced one week before the start of the event, but previous spots include DBGB, Bobby Van’s Steakhouse, and Cipriani Wall Street. Bon appétit!

Various locations throughout Manhattan. Mon Jan 18-Fri Feb 5, lunch and dinner. \$25 per person for lunch or \$38 per person for dinner. Reservations recommended. List of restaurants will appear on nycgo.com/restaurant-week

Dreams and Deep Shots

If you’re unsure how to entertain the kids on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, head downtown. The Museum at Eldridge Street will teach the littler ones about the immigrants who built the Eldridge Street Synagogue and their struggle to find freedom. They will also get to hear a story, What Do You Do With an Idea?, and help make a mural inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.’s ideas, speeches, and their own dreams. If you have active older kids, stay on the train to Prospect Park for a tennis lesson. The three-hour clinic focuses on specific skills, such as serving, and it’s good for both adults and kids. After you brush up on your backhand, enjoy match play (loser has to take down decorations!).

➡Museum: F downtown to E Broadway and walk northwest to 12 Eldridge St. Mon Jan 18, 1-2:30pm. Ages 4-11. Free. RSVP recommended at eldridgestreet.org/events Tennis: F downtown to Fort Hamilton Pkwy and walk east to the Tennis Center in Prospect Park. Mon Jan 18, 1-4pm. All ages. \$80 per person; preregistration required at prospectpark.org/news-events/events/2015/1/19#martin-luther-king-jr-day

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

Affordable New York: A Housing Legacy exhibit involving Roosevelt Island continues at the Museum of the City of New York, Manhattan, **daily** 10am-6pm through Feb 7. Co-sponsored by RIRA.

Winter Treasures at Gallery RIVAA, **through Jan 31**. Gallery open Tue, Thu 6-8pm and Sat-Sun 12-4pm.

Winter Treasures #2 at the Octagon Gallery, **through Feb 14**. Gallery open daily 9am-8pm.

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 RI Visual Art Association, **Sat** 11am-2pm, Sportspark. Free. **We Are New York English Class**, every **Fri** 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.

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

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

Rhythmic Gymnastics Classes, **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, **Mon 9:30am**, Visitor Kiosk in Tramway Plaza. Free. To confirm day and 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 Wed Fri** 7:30-8:30pm, Sportspark.

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

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

Yoga (open-level), **Mon & Thu** 6:15-7:15pm, **Sat** 10-11am, Sportspark. \$5. Mats available.

Yoga (Vinyassa-flow) with Keren Messer, **Mon** 7:45pm, **Fri** 10am, Good Shepherd Center. Info: KerenMsrgmail.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)*

Parent and Me Swim Class, **Sun** 11am & **Wed** 10:30am, Sportspark. \$5 for pre-registered Island families.

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

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

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)*

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

preregistration; sneakers required. Info to tc@nyjtl.org or 718-786-7110.

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

Beacon After-School Program, grades 1-8, **Mon-Fri** 3-6pm, PS/IS 217. Free. Info: 212-527-2505.

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.

Women’s Health Organization, **last Wed** except Nov and Dec, when meeting is on third Wed, 6:30pm, 546 Main St, 12th floor conference room.

Knitting and Crochet Group, every **Thu** 11:30am. Library.

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** 3-6pm, Senior Center or Library Info: 212 288-4607.

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

Organics Recycling every **Sat** at the Farmer’s Market under the Helix from 9:30am-3:30pm.

Residents can drop off kitchen scraps to be made into compost for local parks and gardens.

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.

Senior Center

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
11:00 Zumba 11:00 Adv. Computers 5:00 Brain & Body Stretch	9:30 Yoga 10:20 Shoppers’ Bus 10:30 Tone and Tighten 10:45 Spanish 11:00 Social Media 12:00 Bridge 1:30 Scrabble	9:00 Building Strength 10:30 Computers 10:30 Tai Chi 12:00 Korean Exercise 1:00 Art with John 2:00 Pokeno
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Special Events</i>
10:20 Shoppers’ Bus 10:30 Building Strength 11:00 Blood Pressure 1:00 Paint & Sculpt	9:25 Chair Pilates 10:30 Zumba 12:30 Movie 1:00-2:30 Theatre tickets at discount prices; see Rema or Annie	MetroCard Bus Mon Jan 11 11am Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Mon Jan 18 , time TBA, no classes, no lunch

Submitting Event Information

When sending event information, please check against this list:

- ☐ Full name of organization
- ☐ Full name of event / meeting
- ☐ Date and time
- ☐ Ending date, if a series of events/meetings
- ☐ Location, with address
- ☐ Admission charge / donation / free?
- ☐ Range of appropriate ages

- ☐ Email address / website / phone number for more information
- ☐ Name and telephone number (with an answering machine) for *The WIRE* to use to call for additional information
- ☐ Any rain date or bad-weather location?
- ☐ Do you have an organization logo or a photo that illustrates this event? If you do, don’t ask – just send it, even if you think we have it.

It's never too early to get in the game!

Advantage QuickStart gives players age 2 and up a pathway to great tennis.

- “Real tennis” sized for kids
- Stages based on age & ability
- Smaller racquets, smaller courts & slow-bouncing balls
- Something new to learn at every stage
- Customized program, fun from day one!

Classes held at Roosevelt Island Sports
Park Gym – right next door to Roosevelt
Island Racquet Club.

Sign up today for Fall Session!

New students get
the first class FREE!

Call Paul Fontana – 646-884-9644
Email pfontana@advantagetennisclubs.com
Visit www.quickstartny.com



281 Main Street
Roosevelt Island



Philip Groner, Esq.

Counselor at law

- Divorce & Family Law
- Equitable Distribution, Maintenance, Distributive Award
- Custody, Visitation, Child Support
- Prenuptial & Separation Agreements

30 Wall Street, 8th Floor
New York, New York 10005
212-709-8028 / 917-539-6415
Email: notpejorative@yahoo.com

I understand that going through a family separation is a very difficult challenge. I believe that every client has a right to expect that their case is the only case I have and every client has a right to expect that all of their questions will be answered.

Consultations available at office
or home office on Roosevelt Island

This building is being constructed through the Inclusionary Housing and 421(a) Programs of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC) of the New York State Homes and Community Renewal.



Affordable Housing for Rent

47 NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS

92nd & 3rd Associates LLC, 205 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128

Amenities: 24hr doorman & concierge, washer/dryer in every unit, terrace, party rooms, children's playroom, teen lounge, storage, bike storage and more! (*additional fees apply).

Transit: Subway: 4, 5, 6
Bus: M103, M96, M101, M15
No application fee. No broker's fee.
Smoke-free building.

Who Should Apply?

Individuals or households who meet the income and household size requirements listed in the table below may apply. Qualified applicants will be required to meet additional selection criteria. Applicants who live in New York City receive a general preference for apartments.

- 5% of units set aside for mobility-impaired applicants
- 2% of units set aside for applicants with visual or hearing impairments
- Preference for a percentage of units goes to:
 - Residents of Manhattan CB 8 (50%)
 - Municipal employees (5%)

1. View the Available Units...

2. See Unit Requirements

Unit Size	Monthly Rent*	Units Available	Household Size**	Annual Household Earnings***
1 bedroom	\$607	3	1 person 2 people	\$22,218 - \$24,200 \$22,218 - \$27,640
1 bedroom	\$769	17	1 person 2 people	\$27,772 - \$30,250 \$27,772 - \$34,550
2 bedroom	\$736	5	2 people 3 people 4 people	\$26,775 - \$27,640 \$26,775 - \$31,080 \$26,775 - \$34,520
2 bedroom	\$930	22	2 people 3 people 4 people	\$33,326 - \$34,550 \$33,326 - \$38,850 \$33,326 - \$43,150

* Rent includes gas for cooking; tenant pays for electricity.

** Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.

*** Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income for household members. Income guidelines subject to change.

How Do You Apply?

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to: www.nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application by mail, send a postcard or self-addressed, to: 92nd & 3rd Associates LLC, 1357 Broadway, Box 438, New York, NY 10018. Only send one application per development. Don't submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **February 1, 2016**. Late applications will not be considered.

What Happens After You Submit an Application?

After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If yours is selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an interview to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Interviews are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income.

Español

Para recibir una traducción de este anuncio y la aplicación en español, envíe un sobre con su dirección a 92nd & 3rd Associates LLC, 1357 Broadway, Box 438, New York, NY 10018. En la parte posterior del sobre, escribir en inglés la palabra "SPANISH". Las solicitudes llenas deben enviarse por correo a más tardar el 1 de febrero 2016.

简体中文

若要获取此广告和申请表的中文翻译, 请将回邮信封发送到: 92nd & 3rd Associates LLC, 1357 Broadway, Box 438, New York, NY 10018. 请在信封的背面书写英文单词 "CHINESE". 填写好的申请表必须在2016年2月1日当天或之前加寄邮戳.

한국어

이 광고문과 신청서에 대한 한국어 번역본을 받아보시려면 발송용 봉투를 92nd & 3rd Associates LLC, 1357 Broadway, Box 438, New York, NY 10018. 으로 보내주시십시오. 봉투 뒷면에 "KOREAN" 이라고 영어로 적어주시고, 작성된 신청서에는 늦어도 2016년 2월 1일까지의 날짜 소인이 찍혀 있어야 합니다.

Kreyol Ayisyien

Pou resevwa yon tradiksyon reklam sa a ak aplikasyon an nan lang, voye anviwop ki gen adrès pou retounen li a nan 92nd & 3rd Associates LLC, 1357 Broadway, Box 438, New York, NY 10018. Dèyè anvlop la, ekri mo, "HAITIAN CREOLE" nan lang Anglè. Ou dwe tenbre aplikasyon ou ranpli yo anvan dat fevriye 1, 2016.

Русский

Для получения данного объявления и заявления на русском языке отправьте конверт с обратным адресом по адресу: 92nd & 3rd Associates LLC, 1357 Broadway, Box 438, New York, NY 10018. На задней стороне конверта напишите слово "RUSSIAN" на английском языке. Заполненные заявления должны быть отправлены по почте не позднее 1 февраля 2016.



Governor Andrew Cuomo
Mayor Bill de Blasio
NYS HCR Commissioner/CEO James S. Rubin
HPD Commissioner Vicki Been

www.nyc.gov/housingconnect

ROOSEVELT ISLAND VETERINARY HOUSE CALL SERVICES



Pet care offered in your home includes:
Annual Examinations
Medical Treatment & Diagnostics
Vaccinations
Micro-chipping

Call 646.847.8387 (VETS) or 718.624.1200
or email us at VetsOnRI@gmail.com
to book your first appointment

Beth Balsam, DVM
Heather Thomson, DVM



Open 7 Days a Week
Free Island Delivery

ISLAND

WINE & SPIRITS

Mon-Thu 12 noon-10 pm • Fri 11 am-11 pm
Sat 10 am-11 pm • Sun 12 noon-7 pm

605 Main Street • 212.355.3111
IslandWine@verizon.net
facebook.com/islandwinesRI

★ CREATIVE DRAMA ★ CHILDREN, TEEN & ADULT THEATRE ★

MUSICAL THEATRE

BALLROOM

HIP-HOP

AEROPUMP

MAIN STREET THEATRE & DANCE ALLIANCE

Winter is here but ...
Spring is coming

Our Spring Semester starts on February 22nd.

Join a Jazz, Ballet, Hip-Hop, or Tap Class to learn or improve your dance skills. Practice Ballroom dancing with a former international champion.
Now that's an enjoyable way to get moving!

Or join our Aeropump, Pilates, or Yoga classes to get toned and fit. You'll get a workout but our teachers will also make sure you learn the right technique to get strong and avoid injury.

Have you always wondered how great actors do it? Join our Adult Acting Class and learn Method Acting from the best.

Registration begins on January 18th.
You can register on our website or in person.
See the 1/23 WIRE or our website for the in-person schedule.

Save the Date!

Join us on
Saturday, Feb. 6th
from 8–11 pm
for a fun and festive
Valentines Dance.

MSTDA.ORG • INFO@MSTDA.ORG • 212-371-4449
548 MAIN STREET ROOSEVELT ISLAND NEW YORK 10044

PRE-BALLET

TAP

BALLET

JAZZ

PILATES

YOGA

FREE EXAM FOR YOUR PET

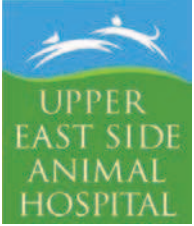
New Clients Only. Please present this ad. (a \$72 value)



212-396-3020

310 East 65th Street (Between 1st and 2nd Avenue)
Suite 1C, New York, NY 10065

www.uppereastsideah.com







Come and meet our friendly staff!



CAT SITTER

Ellen Levy Call 212 751 8214 or 917 587 3278
eglevy123@gmail.com

Does your bank
offer a return
on your values?

Join the bank that's been
fighting for economic and
social justice since 1923.

To learn more, stop by
619 Main Street or give us
a call at 800-662-0860.

© 2016 Amalgamated Bank. All rights reserved. Member FDIC.

NOW OPEN 24 HOURS

City Fresh Market



the easy market making life just easier

10% OFF Senior Citizen On Wednesday
NOT INCLUDING SALE ITEMS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & MEAT PLANS • 65 YEARS & OLDER

FREE DELIVERY WITH \$40.00 PURCHASE OR MORE

Free Parking

WE HAVE LOTTO WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS, WIC CHECKS, EBT, & FOOD STAMPS

NEW YORK LOTTERY

Like us on facebook 

FREE PHONE & EMAIL ORDERS OVER \$45.00
ASSOCIATED2115@GMAIL.COM

www.facebook.com/associated2115

We Now Carry Halal Food

Take advantage of our **FREE SHUTTLE** to City Fresh Market
Free with \$40.00 purchase or more

Every Day!! 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Call us to schedule a pick
up 718-728-1112



Check our weekly sales

www.mycityfreshmarket.com

2115 Broadway Astoria NY 11106

cityfreshmarket2115@gmail.com

RIDN, from page 1

not providing it,” Seiden says.

The school acquired its present River Road space in 1989. As with the previous developments on the Island, the builders of Manhattan Park were required to create a space for a preschool facility, but not required to open one. They invited RIDN to provide services in this space.

To be consistent with the school’s mission, Seiden was intent that children from every building on the Island could attend the school, even from the newly constructed 4 River Road, home to RIDN and, incidentally, an exclusively lower-income building.

She says, “At that point, we went to the Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Agency for Child Development [of the Administration for Children’s Services] and I made the case that we needed City funding

says current director Pamela Stark, “If you don’t get a spot [on the Island] it’s a hardship for families to take a Tram, subway, or bus in inclement weather. Some families have younger kids or other kids to drop off elsewhere, so having more spots locally is very important.”

Seiden used a similar rationale when RIDN initially won UPK funding, “We are an isolated community in the middle of the East River and if families want these services, they need to travel to either Queens or Manhattan. Without this service, our population is underserved.” But RIDN couldn’t sustain the program, again because of politics. “We had it when it was half day when it was more common for private schools to have it.”

“Part of our mission as a not-for-profit is to serve the needs of our community and it

a project.”

Troadec explains that a goal of hers and the school’s is, “to figure out a program more based on what you observe the children are interested in, where they are developmentally, and how best to support them.”

This genesis of use of this philosophy at RIDN was in the school’s Extended Day Program (EDP), River Road’s after-school program. “The teachers in the Extended Day Program have a little more freedom to be more experimental in terms of how much choice time they offer,” Troadec says. In this way, the EDP sometimes serves as a lab.

But it’s more than that. The school is always evolving and the teachers, even the most senior and educated, are interested in learning fresh perspectives. Troadec says the attitude among teachers is not, “‘But we always do it this way.’ They believe in trying new approaches.”

EDP is also unique in that it serves mixed ages. Troadec says mixed-age groups are good for all ages involved. She says, “The younger ones benefit by hearing complex language, observing complex problem-solving skills, and seeing older children exercise executive function skills like impulse control and being focused longer. For the older children it’s very exciting to be in a position where they can share and teach. Research also shows that peer teaching, direct or by modeling, is the most effective learning situation for younger children.”

“In that way EDP is very exciting,” Tamara says, “Pam [RIDN Director Pamela Stark] and I have discussed exploring it further. There is tremendous value in mixed-age groups and many schools around the world do it.”

A Look Ahead

One of Stark’s goals for her tenure as director is to see the school receive the renown on the Island that it already gets in early childhood professional circles.

She says, “Before coming here full-time, I worked at a lot of different preschools

Bank Street’s Infancy Institute put our program on their visiting list the last couple of years. When people come from all over the country to attend the Institute, one of the programs they see is ours.”

But, Seiden says, “There were, and still are today, a lot of [Island] parents who just think, ‘This was the neighborhood school, kids seemed happy.’” She clarifies, “It’s more than that.”

Stark sums up, “My goal is to increase the knowledge in the community about what a wonderful resource the school is, because professionally, the school is very well known and well regarded.”

The Core

No matter how the school has changed in 40 years, according to Stark, the changes have just been on the outside, “The idea has always been to keep the core quality and identity while still being flexible and adaptive.”

Stark recounted a recent Board presentation featuring school photos dating back to the 1970s and 1980s that showcased the same staff and student diversity the school boasts today. Stark says the professionalism and quality of the teachers has always been



to support the families that were coming to the Island [in] Section 8 housing. You can’t have families move in with a school in their building that they can’t go to. Yet, the school couldn’t afford to offer scholarships to all of these kids. We went and got the vouchers. We had the maximum of 20 vouchers per year and we didn’t have to turn anyone away. “Unfortunately, that didn’t last forever. Ultimately, the city money dried up and the vouchers could only be used for children with special needs and foster kids. So we would then give full scholarships to a couple of kids and it was first come first served.”

UPK

The school’s experience with Universal Pre-Kindergarten [UPK] is similar. Luckily, for parents who have growing preschoolers, it looks like the school will be offering it next September once again.

Seiden says, “What we saw this last year was a tremendously unmet need on the Island.”

“Not getting into your local pre-school is a bigger deal when you live on an Island,”

is really clear there is a big demand for it,” says Stark.

Stark was told by the New York City Department of Education [DOE] that they weren’t able to place 50 families in UPK on the Island last year. Stark has 26 children currently enrolled at RIDN who will be age-eligible for the program next year. To that end she has been working with the DOE and Council Member Ben Kallos to secure spots at RIDN. The school is holding upcoming open houses for other Island families who would also be interested in this UPK option.

“[The process of becoming certified] should be pretty smooth but I can’t say we’ve got it until we get it,” Stark lists. “We have the space, we already have done it in the past. One of our teachers, Jessica, has a lot of experience with it. We’ve got a lot of the things set already: the facility license, credentials for director, and teachers.”

Reflective Practitioners

One of Assistant Director Tamara Troadec’s functions is to oversee staff development for the school. She explains, “Teachers are doing a lot of emergent curriculum as a driving force.”

An emergent curriculum constantly evolves in response to children’s changing needs and interests, parental and community interests and concerns, and teachers’ priorities. Each of these key elements shapes the direction for future learning.



The way emergent curriculum manifests, says Troadec, is in, “actively observing children, paying attention to their thinking, not jumping in to fix things, allowing the children’s interests to help guide the curriculum, and help the teachers make choices that will be the most meaningful in terms of the best timing to go for

in Manhattan, as consultant, social worker and special educator. What struck me about [RIDN] is that it was a very special gem that doesn’t have the same renown as a lot of other places with similar quality. We have student teachers from City College and Bank Street [College of Education], we have professional visits; one of the Assistant Directors from Rockefeller came to do a tour. Bank Street holds a big early childhood education conference every June that people travel to from all over the country for which we were featured as one of a handful of model programs to visit, which is a very big deal.”

Seiden echos Stark’s point, “You’re not going to find a better infant-toddler center anywhere in the city. It’s really a model for what infant-toddler programs should be.



consistent.

Parent, alumna, and current board member Sarah Lenzi attests to the strength of the core. “I moved back here when [my oldest son] Ethan was turning two and I wanted him to attend RIDN. Even more than wanting him to have the great memories I have, I wanted him to be in a place where the people taking care of him are dedicated, educated, and stay. The turnover rate for teachers at RIDN is low. The teachers are Master’s level-educated. They are committed to early childhood education, not just early childhood care. That doesn’t mean workbooks and worksheets and sitting still. It means carefully curated options and opportunities to learn through play, even for the youngest children.”



Infant Care

Lenzi has children at both school sites. She opted to have her twin sons in infant care at RIDN’s Riverwalk site that Seiden came out of retirement to facilitate five years ago. Seiden says, “The builders, to their credit, David Kramer and Hudson/Related, were very generous. What they were buying was what they got, the highest quality program that would attract tenants. They wanted to serve the younger cohort, infants and young toddlers, which wasn’t being served.”

Regarding whether to expand to infant care, Seiden says, “It doesn’t matter what you believe [whether a parent should be at home with their infant]. The bottom line is that some babies will be in care. For whatever reasons, family reasons, if a baby is going to be put in care, it should be the very best care.”

In deciding to go the school route instead of opting for a nanny to care for her twins, Lenzi explains, “A few factors sway, for me, in favor of a school setting. First, the twins have access to an endless round of educational toys, rather than strictly commercial ones like we have in our house. The teachers know the developmental stages of

young children, and know when to bring out which objects and manipulatives to help them develop their burgeoning skills. I know that there will be no screen time. I know that they will be brought to nap twice a day. I know that they will be taken outside whenever possible, even if the teacher is feeling a bit lazy. I know they will have the undivided attention of the people taking care of them. I know they will learn to be comfortable with many adults and many children. I know they won’t be hit or otherwise abused. I know all of these things because there are checks and balances in an environment where more than one adult is taking care of my children. I know that the school [teachers and administrators] will listen to me, and my needs for my children, and will also advise me in areas I want to know more about. I know they will be honest if there is cause for concern. They will see things I might not. I feel incredibly safe and so lucky to have my children being taken care of at RIDN.”

Origins

According to Seiden, “In my understanding, in about 1976, a group of parents started a preschool in an apartment. They had all the

good will in the world and they really wanted a community school” because “the original settlers were building a community.” Seiden recalls, “What attracted me was that we were all pioneers.”

Lenzi says, “We are lucky to live in this naturally boundaried place for many reasons, but one I have come to be especially grateful for is the freedom, the sense of agency and ownership and community. RIDN cultivates that Roosevelt Island sense of belonging and community in the children.”

Seiden was hired as director by Karen Mann, then chair of the hiring committee. Seiden says, “The way that it was told to me, I was the fourth director in as many years.”

Of the parents’ goal for the school Seiden explains, “They wanted a school to reflect their philosophy; to be more open, more nurturing, with a high quality education to prepare their children. It had to be rigorous but in a developmentally appropriate way.”

Nellie Finnegan, who was involved in RIDN from 1979 to 1985 as a board member for two years and chairperson of the board

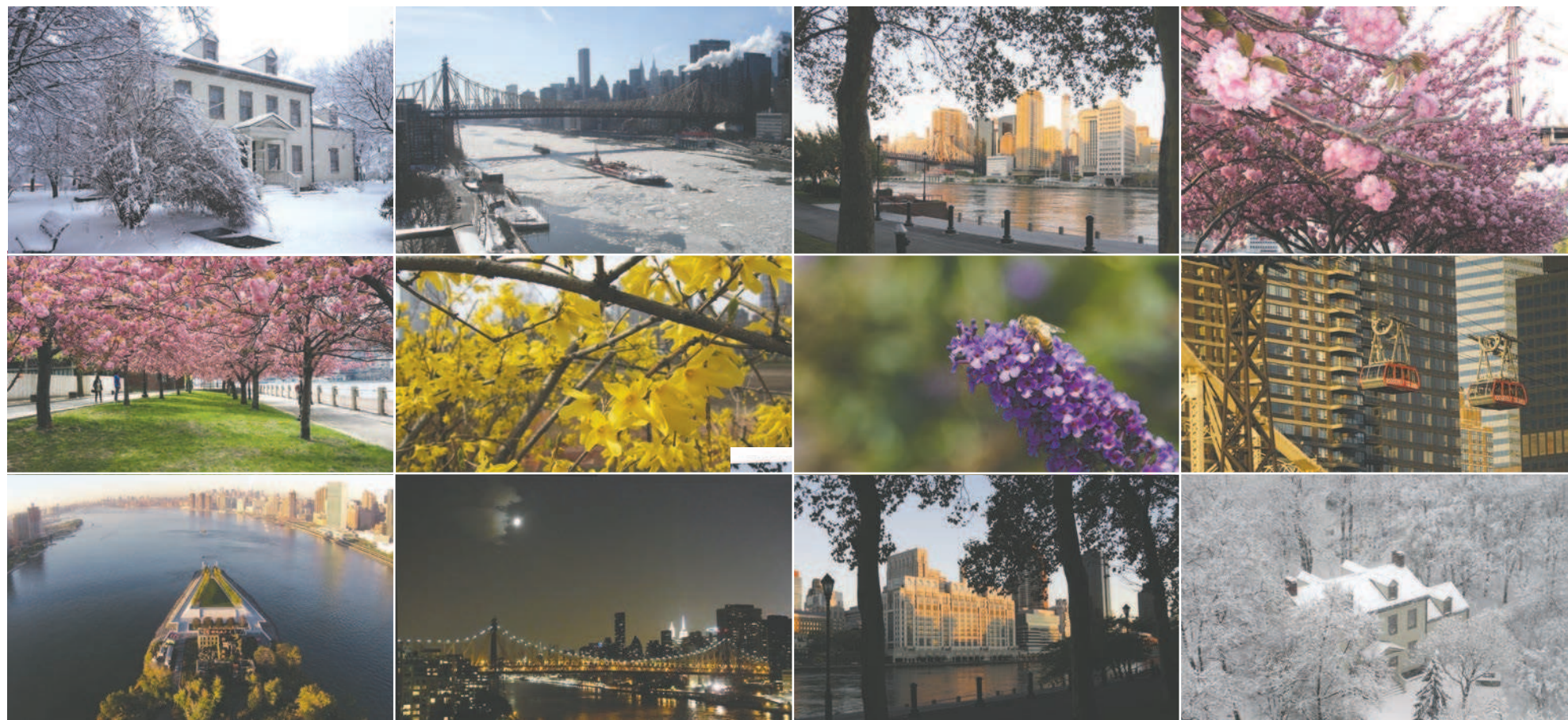
for another two years, remembers Seiden’s vision and commitment, “Sara was the guiding force behind all of the early childhood curriculum, and management and hiring of the professional and administrative staff. She also brought great wisdom and experience in helping to advise young parents on early childhood issues. Parents and children alike all benefitted from her kind, knowledgeable and clear direction.”

Mann concurs, “We had lived in Greenwich Village and David had gone to this amazing preschool. It was at the bottom of a church and it had nothing but two brilliant teachers. It wasn’t your classic preschool. So of course when I came uptown, I wanted to find a school that I thought I understood. I’ve never been educated in teaching but I think I am instinctively pretty smart when it comes to stuff like that.”

Lenzi wants RIDN to last forever. “I want, for all our sake, for the Island to maintain its small-town community feel. And RIDN has always been Roosevelt Island’s community school.”



A few left: The 2016 **Roosevelt Island** Calendar



Use this form to order. Calendars will be delivered to doorkeeper buildings. (If there’s no doorkeeper in your building, supply your telephone number and email address; we’ll let you know when your order is ready for pickup.) For off-Island USA mailing, add \$2.25 per calendar. Check payable to (and proceeds benefit) *The WIRE*. Note: Doorstation personnel at 531 Main Street do not have samples to show

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Telephone(s) _____

Email address(es) _____

To The WIRE: I enclose \$20 each for _____ (number) calendar(s). On-Island delivery free to buildings with a doorkeeper. (If none, we’ll notify you with an email or phone message when your order is ready for pickup.) Add \$2.25 for each calendar to be mailed off-Island in continental USA. Send order to *The WIRE*, 531 Main Street #413, NYC10044 or leave your order at the Rivercross front desk, 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. **Questions?** Call **212-826-9056**. Leave your phone number at beginning **and** end of your message. Or email MainStreetWIRE@usa.net



RIWHO

Wishes all a 2016 year filled with Wellness.

Supporting the community with FREE seminars on: nutrition, cancer care, chakras, stroke prevention, heart care, yoga, tapping, juicing, pharmaceutical info, depression, dental care, meditation, pain relief, and more.

Suggestions on subjects welcome. Volunteers needed.

Contact info: **646-895-3618**
Tax Deductible Donations Accepted

unClassified

50¢ a word • 212-751-8214
Deadline for January 23 issue: Monday, January 19
Please see ComingUp, page 3, for other advertising deadlines

ATTORNEY NEEDED to revise will, create power of attorney, etc. marycav@aol.com. 1/9 only

NOTARY, CPA, tax e-file, 212-644-0985, www.russellfieldscpa.biz. thru 12/12/15

RUSSIAN/ENGLISH INTERPRETER is teaching on Roosevelt Island. Exceptionally good prices 347-612-2630.

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

NOTARY PUBLIC – 212-935-7534.

FRIENDLY GUITAR TEACHER with a master's degree in music is looking for Island students. All ages, ability levels, and musical tastes welcome. Results guaranteed! Contact Andrew to learn more. 512-626-3072 / ascottbaird@gmail.com. thru 10/10

VOCAL TEACHER – Specializing in teaching beginners. For appointments & consultation, bohaidave@aol.com. 646-256-5102.

CHESS INSTRUCTOR – Island resident, 10 years experience. 2-hr rate \$40. 212-750-9087.

LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST / Certified Reflexologist – Island resident Diana Brill. Gift certificates available. 212-759-9042.

ISLAND SEAMSTRESS – 30 yrs experience. Free pickup & delivery. RooseveltIslandSeamstress@gmail.com or 646-449-8725.

ERRANDS: Organizing, special projects, personal assistance. You run your life, I'll run your errands. Call Vicki Feinmel, 212-223-1108.

CATCH YOUR CAT – Efficient help with your feline escape artist. Vet-recommended, Island references. 917-355-1867 / catchyourcat@gmail.com.

EXPERIENCED CAT SITTER – 917-587-3278. RI resident. Will also check mail, etc.

FREECYCLE.ORG/RooseveltIsland – Give your unneeded stuff a better home through Freecycle. It's free to give/receive; just post needs & wants. Get everything for free.

WIRE Classifieds work. 212-751-8214.

Poll, from page 1

approach Councilman Ben Kallos and Cornell for additional resources. “I think RIRA has a lot of connections and possibilities... [but] it will depend on the issues.”

Mansour wants to emphasize the importance of everyone filling out the survey because “it is a tool for everyone to be heard.” The survey will only be effective (and the resulting actions satisfying for residents) if all Islanders participate. “The more we hear, the more we can understand the issues and deal with them.”

The printed ballots and the online survey URL will be distributed the week of January 18 (the URL will be published in *The WIRE* on January 23). The survey URL will be

circulated on posters and fliers distributed throughout the Island, and the printed ballots will be available at building door stations, from the RIRA representatives, and the Public Safety Department. The library staff will also distribute printed ballots and help patrons fill out the online survey. The survey will close February 12 and the results will be available at the RIRA Common Council meeting on March 2. RIRA also plans to send monthly newsletters and updates to those who filled out the survey. For more details on the Community Polling Initiative, contact Adib Mansour at RIRAdib@earthlink.net.

Roosevelt Nails

570 Main Street
Monday-Saturday, 10am-8pm
212-759-2014



Manicure (Color Gel, French) Pedicure

- Crystal wrap, lasting extensions
- Pedicure with Jacuzzi, Foot Massage
- Men's Manicure & Pedicure
- Ear Piercing (earrings included)
- Facial • clean blackheads
- Waxing & Threading
- Gift Certificates Available

10% OFF
Manicure & Pedicure
February- March

Pup Care with Christine

- *Dog-walking*
- *Dog-sitting*
- *Overnight Care + 3-4 hours of daily walking or as specified*
- Affordable prices!



Please Contact Christine:
(917) 363-4465 or PupCare10044@gmail.com
Dog owner & lover

Also available for cat-sitting (details provided upon request)



Form and Function

We build websites that are easy to use and easy to look at



www.bigcitysoftworks.com

1000-Piece ^{Large Jigsaw} Puzzles!

Challenging and Fun!
Supports *The WIRE*
Limited quantities
Each 20x28 inches
(This *WIRE* page is 11x17)



\$20 each. Indicate quantity below, left. We will deliver to Island buildings with doorstations; otherwise, provide phone and/or email and we'll notify you when order ready for pickup. If ordering for an off-Island address, add \$3 per item. Check payable *The WIRE*. Send to *WIRE*, 531 Main St. #413, NYC 10044. Questions? Call 212-826-9055; if leaving message; give phone number twice.

___ Blackwell Fall	Name _____
___ Good Shepherd	Address _____
	Phone _____
	Email _____
	Amount enclosed \$ _____

Dental Love LLC

501 Main Street, Suite A
212-752-8722
MyDentalLove.com

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-6:00pm
Friday-Saturday, 9:00am-3:00pm

**Come experience the Convenience, Comfort,
and Confidence our dental office has to offer.
Your entire Family is welcome!**

Services offered:

- General Dentistry
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Specialists on staff:
- Periodontist (Gum Disease)
- Endodontist (Root Canal)
- Orthodontist (Braces/Invisalign)

**Call 212-752-8722 NOW or
Book appointments online at
MyDentalLove.com**

Insurance Accepted – CareCredit Financing
All that is good begins with a SMILE.

Eco-Friendly Drycleaning

- Exceptional Quality Dry Cleaning
- Shirts Laundered
- Expert European Tailoring
- Convenient Monthly Billing



MINERVA
Cleaners & Tailors
Established 1969

*Proudly Serving Roosevelt Island
For Over 20 Years*

Free Daily Pickup & Delivery

29-09 Broadway / Astoria, New York 11106 Tel / Fax: 718.726.2336

Pilates

with Karen

strength, balance, flexibility

Certified Instructor

Private/Group classes on Roosevelt Island

212-750-6223



455 Main Street
7 days, 11am-11pm
212-583-1688
Free delivery
for orders \$15 and over.
All major credit
cards accepted (\$15
minimum).
www.fujieast.com

609 Main Street
11am-11pm Sun-Thur
11am-midnight Fri-Sat
212-588-0663
Free delivery \$6 & over

**CHINA 1
KITCHEN**

David Lloyd Marcus, Ph.D. Psychotherapy and Counseling

Associate Professor
NYU School of Medicine
501 Main Street
Roosevelt Island

212-777-8222

HOME VISITS AVAILABLE
MOST INSURANCE PLANS, INCLUDING MEDICARE, ACCEPTED
E-mail david.marcus@med.nyu.edu

Jack Resnick, MD

Specialist in Adult Medicine
501 Main Street – 212-832-2310
office practice and housecalls for the homebound

Visit our Website
therooseveltdoctor.com

- check lab results
- make appointments
- take a survey
- internet health resources
- get help finding insurance
- read opinions



The Roosevelt Doctor
Jack Resnick, M.D.

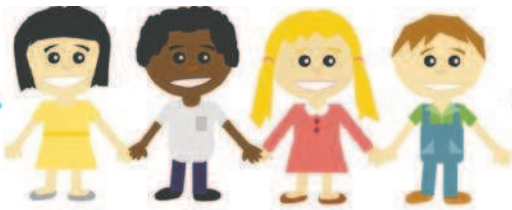
DASH

Disabled Association
Support for the Homebound
DO YOU NEED...?

- Help with shopping
- Medications to be picked up
- Someone to talk to

Call DASH and one of our volun-
teers will come to your apartment.

917-558-0534



Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D., FAAP

Board-Certified Pediatrician and Pediatric Allergist

Deborah Saltzberg, M.D., FAAP

Board-Certified Pediatrician

We accept Oxford, Cigna, Blue Cross, HIP, Aetna,
United Health Care, GHI, Health Net, Multiplan
501 Main Street • Roosevelt Island • **212-753-5505**

Office hours by appointment

Coverage provided at all times, when office is closed, by Uptown Pediatrics
We provide comprehensive health care to children and adolescents.



A few left:
2016 Roosevelt Island Calendar



To The WIRE: I enclose \$20 each for _____ (number) calendar(s). On-Island delivery free to buildings with a doorkeeper, but no orders can be filled until January 21. (If no doorkeeper, we'll notify you with an email or phone message when your order is ready for pickup.) Add \$2.25 for each calendar to be mailed off-Island in continental USA. Send order to *The WIRE*, 531 Main Street #413, NYC10044 or leave your order at the Rivercross front desk, 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. **Questions?** Call **212-826-9056**. Leave your phone number at beginning **and** end of your message.

Or email MainStreetWIRE@usa.net. Thank you for supporting *The WIRE*.

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip

Telephone(s)

Email address(es)



at 405 Main Street and 4 River Road



- ❖ Teachers with graduate degrees in Education and NY State Certification in every class room
- ❖ Financial aid available

RIDN at 405 Main Street, for children age 3 months to 3 ½ years
 RIDN at 4 River Road, for children age 2 ½ to 6 years old

For more information please to visit our website at www.ridn.org
(212) 593-0750, infant.toddler@ridn.org

**From open house to dream home,
we're with you every step of the way.**

Citibank offers:

- SureStart® Pre-approval so you can shop with confidence.*
- Lower rates with Citibank Relationship Pricing.
- An experienced team to work exclusively on home purchase transactions.

Michael J. Pierce
917-405-9635
michael.pierce@citi.com
NMLS #395605



* SureStart is a registered service mark of Citigroup Inc. Final commitment is subject to verification of information, receipt of a satisfactory sales contract on the home you wish to purchase, appraisal and title report, and meeting our customary closing conditions. There is no charge to receive a SureStart pre-approval. However, standard application and commitment fees will apply for the mortgage loan application.

Terms, conditions and fees of accounts, programs, products and services are subject to change. This is not a commitment to lend. All loans are subject to credit and property approval. Certain restrictions may apply to all programs. Offer cannot be combined with any other mortgage offer.

©2016 Citibank, N.A. Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC. NMLSH 421915. Citibank, Arc Design and Citi with Arc Design are registered servicemarks of Citigroup Inc.



EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER

Samossa Bites

Home Style Indian Cooking

Healthy • Free Local Delivery (min \$18)

• Vegetarian / Vegan Friendly •

Now Open 7 Days 11AM-10PM

718-606-9150

35-27 31st Street, Long Island City
www.samossabites.com