



The Main Street WIRE

36:12
Saturday, March 19, 2016

Charlene Indelicato Talks to The WIRE

A week before Charlene Indelicato’s last day on Roosevelt Island as President of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, she sat down with editor Briana Warsing for a free-flowing, frank conversation about all kinds of things including the future of the Island, the RIOC Board, and the best and worst parts of the job. Indelicato seemed comfortable and her responses were thoughtful and well-delivered.

Charlene Indelicato: This is actually sort of hard. There are aspects of this job that I absolutely love. I want it on the record that I love my Board.

WIRE: You inherited a community that had a strained relationship with RIOC and there wasn’t a lot of trust in either direction.

CI: In truth there are some members of the public who are not to be trusted because of actions. There is a large portion of the public who don’t care. They go to work, they come home; they have other things in their lives. That’s a very reasonable position. Then there are other people who really, really care. I have found a number of people on Roosevelt Island who are extremely dedicated to doing things and helping government or whatever agency is doing something and seeing them as a partner. And that’s really what’s best. I think a lot has been accomplished.

I will say that when I first came here one of the biggest issues on my plate was, in addition to the situation with Public Safety, Cornell. It had not

even been started as a negotiation. In truth, I started negotiating prior to coming here. The Roosevelt Island Community Coalition [RICC] was unbelievably helpful. They gave me a position paper and a

briefing paper basically as to what the issues were. It was very factual. It laid out what I would have to deal with. I must say that between RICC and [RIOC Board member] Howard Polivy, and actually the whole Board, we would not have gotten what we have gotten in the contract.

W: You mean bargaining?

CI: A lot of that part was done. [Former Council member] Jessica Lappin did a fine job. It was putting that into a workable agreement. It’s sort of like, the concepts were there; I had nothing to do with that part. It was RICC and Jessica [Lappin] and a number of other

people who really handled the conceptual.

But the contract, the agreement itself, because of the surrounding area; in fact I think [RIOC Board member] Margie [Smith] and the [RIOC] Board

See **Indelicato**, page 10



New Center Organizes Little League

by Briana Warsing

This year Island families have two Little League options. To hear the board of the Roosevelt Island Center of Community Development (RICCD) tell it, this runs way deeper than baseball for them. They don’t have a beef with the Roosevelt Island Youth Program and aren’t trying to compete with the established organization but want to empower high-capacity, high-character leaders for the physical, social, and cultural flourishing of Roosevelt Island. The board is very interested in youth development. That’s where starting a Little League came in.

Little League

According to Dan Sadlier, Chairman of the Board of Directors for

the RICCD, “Baseball just makes sense for us.” He points to the Board as a group and explains that the Board’s thought process was, “What about Little League, why don’t we start there. We think this is something we can do well. We have some resources, people resources. We won’t bite off more than we can chew. Let’s start out with two leagues, two age groups, and Kim [Massey] and I have both been involved in it on the Island before. A lot of our coaches have been involved at some level.”

RICCD Board member Kim Massey, former director of the Roosevelt Island Youth Center’s Beacon Program, says, “We’ve had a lot of parents ask for [Little League] too.” Sadlier agrees, “We had a bunch of people coming to us saying, ‘What do you guys think [about Little League]?’ Part of that is Kim’s been so credible with families.”

The age groups are 6-8 for the

minors and 9-11 for the majors. Sadlier explained this breakdown is typical for Little League programs but that they extended the age by a few months so they could attract more young people.

For Sadlier, a father of six children (not a typo), his family makeup and passion go hand in hand. “I’ve coached with the Island [Beacon Program’s Little League] since we’ve lived here, so this would be the third season.” He says, “I’ve been really involved in it but I really had a hard time getting youth to volunteer beyond that. I ran into roadblocks, just a lack of response.”

Sadlier also said that last year, the program stopped three quarters of the way through the season. That has been confirmed by other parents. Sadlier isn’t sure whether the whole program stopped or just the minors, where he and his sons were involved. He said, “Half of

See **Little League**, page 4

RIOC Love Fest, With Fireworks

By David Stone

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation’s (RIOC) Board of Directors on March 10 unfolded as something of a love fest in tribute to the agency’s parting President and CEO, Charlene Indelicato. But a brief outburst, recalling past frustrations over how the State sometimes ignores the will of local residents, knocked things briefly off kilter.

On the evening’s agenda at the Cultural Center Theater was the appointment of Susan Rosenthal as Acting President/CEO, a fill-in for Indelicato until a permanent replacement is found; the appointments of Kimberly L. Quinones as Chief Financial Officer, and Shelton J. Haynes as Vice President for Operations; an issue involving the Octagon’s lease; and several infrastructure budget additions requiring Board approval.

But first, foreshadowing a blow-up to come, Roosevelt Island Residents Association Vice President, Sherie Helstien, took the microphone during a period set aside for public comments. Among other issues, Helstien wanted to be assured that the search for the next corporate leader would be open and

transparent since so many previous searches have been inexplicably opaque.

NYS Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner and Board chair, James S. Rubin, assured her, “There will be an outside search.”

Helstien thanked the Commissioner and returned to her seat, but moments later, the comity ended.

Helstien’s question resonated with concerned residents because there remains a simmering dissatisfaction over previous executive appointments concluded without transparency. The secretiveness surrounding departures and arrivals has fueled resident distrust for years.

Rosenthal is well-known to the Board since she serves as Vice President and General Counsel and was quickly approved in a unanimous vote. But frictions surfaced when the Board was asked to approve Quinones and Haynes.

Resident member David Kraut asked how many applicants had been interviewed for the positions. Eleven for the Operations job and four for Finance was the answer.

“Yes, there were lots of interviews,” Margie Smith swiftly and passionately interjected. Smith is

See **RIOC**, page 13

Vernissage XV Show Is Open at Gallery RIVAA

review by David Stone

Some art exhibits are so rich with wonders that any attempt at an overview must begin with an apology. *Vernissage XV*, the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association’s fifteenth annual season opening, is one such show.

This writer apologizes: there is so much great artwork now on the walls at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main Street, that there is not enough space to mention every work that deserves mentioning. I’ll start you off with a few highlights and leave it to you go to the gallery and finish the discovery.

As soon as you walk in from the street, your eyes are likely to fix on Ioan Popoiu’s large, ravishing untitled acrylic on canvas. Excited reds and yellows make an expressionist grid that holds in place serpentine threads of blue and white, smearing slightly where they intersect.

Expressionist art is not supposed to be “about” anything. It’s a difficult concept to grasp, even for art lovers, but here, Popoiu makes it easy to accept. When a painting is this exciting, it doesn’t matter what it is or isn’t “about.” It is just its own visual thrill.

After that great start comes this show’s big surprise. RIVAA’s youngest member, two and one-half year old Olivia Sinclair, presents her first

See **RIVAA**, page 12



Blue Havoc by Rachel Garrick

Briefly...

• The schedule has been adjusted for the May issues of *The WIRE*. See *ComingUp*, page 3.

The Editorial Page

Lessons from President Indelicato’s RIOC Tenure

With Charlene Indelicato’s decision to leave her position as RIOC President, *The WIRE* had an opportunity to sit down with her and discuss her tenure, what she views as her accomplishments, her regrets, and what challenges she believes lie ahead for the Island.

In modern journalism there is a seemingly inescapable requirement to provide a “hot take” on the news of the day: to be first, to offer instant analysis of an issue or an arbitrary grade on a person’s performance. With Indelicato, only time will tell whether her tenure will be seen as a success, a failure, or something in between. Rather than a referendum on her time as President, the interview published today offers a few interesting take-aways; some about the person who has held the office and some about the office itself, we get a few surprises and a frank discussion about where the Island is, and where it may be going.

Overall, the impression one takes away from speaking to Indelicato, particularly at such length and in great depth, is that of a competent, pragmatic bureaucrat. This description is not intended to be pejorative. Quite the opposite. After a succession of political hacks inhabiting the office, competence, pragmatism, and an understanding of how to work within the layers of bureaucracy may have been just what the Island needed.

Indelicato inherited a crisis within the Public Safety Department, a tectonic change to the Island's culture brought on by the arrival of Cornell Tech, a fractured RIRA Common Council, an unsettled political environment brought about, in large measure, by Albany’s refusal to acknowledge the Island’s right to democratic self-rule, a lack of commercially viable stores to service Islanders’ needs, budget and personnel issues, overdue capital improvements on a massive scale – the list could go on and on.

Did she solve every problem? No. Did she attempt to tackle issues in a fair and judicious manner? Probably. She certainly expressed awareness and could speak to every issue, so it seems that on the whole, she did attempt to do just that.

More importantly though, is what we can take away from Ms. Indelicato’s tenure and how her successor – and the Island – can build on her successes. In one of the more striking comments from the interview, she discussed her first year and how rocky it was, the community climate she walked into, and the emails she still receives that are complaints blasted to every RIOC Board member, all of our elected officials and so on. Why do we fan flames before going to her first and determining whether there is a fire? Why mobilize troops unless we are certain there is a war? The Island is a small town, and with that comes a requirement to treat everyone with respect. I hope that the next President will be offered some benefit of the doubt, at least at the outset.

It may be that Indelicato’s legacy is that she laid a few z-bricks on the road toward trust between RIOC and the community. And while Islanders cannot be chastised for having a healthy amount of skepticism toward RIOC due to the abuses and incompetence of the past, trust is a two-way street. We thank Charlene Indelicato for her service and hope that her successor can build on a relationship between Islanders and their government that remains guarded, but perhaps cautiously optimistic.

BW

To the PTA:

As you must be aware by now, many of our children who are in pre-K did not get into PS 217. My granddaughter, for example, was assigned to a school in Manhattan that the district wasn’t even sure would open on time for the school year. Further, even though PS 217 was our first choice, she wasn’t even wait-listed here and the district further screwed up by not even offering any other choices. Thus, my daughter-in-law who is an adjunct professor at LaGuardia Community College, managed to get a seat for her in their faculty lab school in late August.

The problem with that assignment is:

- 1. There is a younger child who is in a stroller. Obviously he cannot be left at home nor go to a day-care facility elsewhere as the logistics just would not work.
- 2. There is no direct train so public transportation means the F train to Roosevelt Avenue, then a transfer to the Manhattan bound 7 train up 4 flights with elevators that don’t always work. The nearest stop is 33rd Street and Queens Boulevard. There is no elevator at that station. The walk to the college is

Letters deadline

for March 19 issue:
Tuesday, March 15, 5:00pm

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@gmail.com. Expect a response and, if you don’t receive one, resend and call 212-826-9056. Alternatives: Typed copy left at 531 Main Street, and clearly handwritten letters will be considered, if brief.

Roosevelt Island needs to **roar!**

A new example of New York State trampling the U.S. Constitution, and their commitment to our community, took place quietly at the March 10 RIOC meeting. RIOC Director Margie Smith indicated that Andrew Kennedy, in the Governor’s office, had previously assured her that the State would provide three candidates for senior positions. Instead, only one candidate was forwarded to the Board. The RIOC bylaws, (Article IV, Section 2), state clearly that the Board has the right to choose and hire its employees. Our community’s representatives, none of them directly elected by the residents of the Island, but instead appointed by the Governor, failed to hold New York State to its commitment.

Ms. Smith was the only dissenting voice as she eloquently staked her ground. She made it clear that she was voting “no” not because she had any qualms with the people the state was ramming down our collective throat, but because she opposed its lack of adherence to the process it had promised. None of the other resident representatives followed Ms. Smith’s lead.

The resident viewers in the crowd were greatly

Letters

5 blocks which involves crossing Queens Boulevard (the Boulevard of Death) and Van Dam Street with 2 little kids.

- 3. There is no parking there so driving involves dropping them off in a no standing area. Thus, it takes 2 adults to drive them there and then bring the car back to Roosevelt Island, then doing the reverse in the afternoon to pick them up. Thus, I am spending almost 3 hours a day to transport her to and from school.
- 4. There was no provision for bus transportation for the Roosevelt Island kids who are assigned off the Island.

Of course we’ve applied for her to attend PS 217 for kindergarten and haven’t heard yet. She had better be accepted here or you can better believe there will be quite a stink about it. As for siblings in the school, both my son (her daddy) and my daughter attended PS 217 and, like you, both my late husband and I were involved with the PTA.

With that said, each tour of PS 217 has been scheduled for 8:45AM. How the heck can my daughter-in-law or any other parents whose kids have to go to pre-k off the Island make that hour when they are busy transporting

their kids, or is that a way to get more kids from off the Island to come to PS 217? And please do not recite the story about how they come for the G&T program which makes PS 217 more desirable and better rated. I’m not drinking that Kool-Aid! With the increased population of Roosevelt Island, so many young families moving here, and so many kids of parents who are professionals, I do not believe that we don’t have enough kids here who are bright and able to make this school ranked among the best in the city, which it was by the way when we moved here and both of my kids went to PS 217. In fact, most of the kids in my daughter’s class got into the top high schools and many of them are now also professionals.

In the meantime, please schedule tours that are scheduled at times that are convenient for the parents who are not able to make that 8:45AM schedule.

Raye Schwartz

The PTA sent this letter in response.

Dear Raye:

Thank you for your feedback on tour times. However, most of the feedback from prospective families

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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

disappointed. Sherie Helstien, Vice President of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association, was frustrated to the degree that she shouted out her objection.

island observer



Joyce Short

The roll was called:
“Shinozaki?” “Abstain.”
“Polivy?” “Aye.”
“Christian?” “Aye.”
“Kraut?” “Aye.”
“Dr. Grimm?” “Abstain/.”
“Smith?” “Nay.”

With the inclusion of the Chair, Commissioner Rubin, and the State Budget Division representative, each motion carried. Without conducting a broad search, the RIOC Board accepted three separate officers to oversee the community’s affairs. And behind this debacle is the State of New York thumbing its nose at the Constitution of the United States by “appointing” the community representatives in a form of “government by fiat” instead of “government by election.”

The fourth amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants every citizen the representative government of a *Republic*. Roosevelt Island is the only

one of two communities in the continental U.S. that our constitution seems to have forgotten (Battery Park City
See *Island Observer*, page 14

Did you hear? On March 10, the RIOC Board of Directors quietly appointed three executive officers: Susan G. Rosenthal, as RIOC Acting President; Kimberly Quiones, as RIOC Chief Financial Officer; and Shelton J. Haynes, as RIOC Vice-President for Operations of the Corporation – three pivotal and influential roles in the operations and governance of this ship floating in the East River where we, as Roosevelt Islanders, call home. As Roosevelt Islanders, we should be excited with the prospect of new prospective and leadership. We should be excited with the opportunity that such change brings.

But, as Roosevelt Islanders, it is hard to be exactly excited – much less supportive or welcoming – of these appointments when they come at the 12th hour by edict from the Governor’s office. It is difficult, as leaders of the Island, to support such appointments when no vetting by those whose lives will be affected by these officers – namely us, as Island residents – was involved. The Island and its RIOC Board members were not even given the decency of given a choice of candidates, much

less notice that the three top executive offices of RIOC were to be vacated and replaced (much less the reasons why). The Governor’s message to the RIOC Board that its votes and decisions no longer matter without the Governor’s consent was laid clear with these recent appointments: the many years of progress that Islanders have fought not to have Roosevelt Island be ruled by fiat have been rolled back. The only question as Islanders is whether we should choose to accept it.

As your representative body, the RIRA Common Council hopes you will participate in the following upcoming events this Spring intended to bring us together as a community; not silo us as neighbors:

RIRA Annual Egg Hunt

On Saturday, March 26, beginning at 11:00 am at the Manhattan Park Green across the street from Gristedes, you and all of your little ones are invited to put on their spring best and participate in this year’s RIRA Annual Egg Hunt. Hosted by the RIRA Social, Cultural and Educational Services (SC&E) Committee, in conjunction with the generosity of other Island organizations, businesses, and charities invite you and your little ones

ages 8 and under to join us as we celebrate the arrival of Spring and the Spring Holidays. Rain or shine, this year promises to be just as fun and exciting as years’ past, with a visit from the Easter Bunny, story time under the tree, children’s book giveaways, egg hunts for each age group, and so much more. With more than 500 children expected to, space will be limited and registration will be required. If you would like to be placed on the pre-registration mailing list, be sure to drop us a line with your preferred email address, name and the names and ages of your child(ren) expected to attend at SCE@



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

riraonline.com and/or contact@riraonline.com. As in years past, the requested donation will be \$5 per child, capped at \$20 per family. Interested in volunteering to help stuff eggs and to assemble gift baskets? Do you or your organization have items to donate for this year’s festivities and giveaways? Want to donate to this year’s event or be a sponsor? If you have the time, talent, or want to support the success of our Island’s

beloved tradition, drop us a line at either SCE@riraonline.com or contact@riraonline.com, or feel free to reach out to Lynne Shinozaki as Chair of the SC&E Committee at lynnstrong@hotmail.com. We will see you there!

Participatory Budgeting

Not only will Saturday, March 26 kick off this year’s Egg Hunt, but it will also kick off the 2016 Participatory Budget (PB) voting process which runs through Sunday, April 3. As many of you who so adamantly supported Roosevelt Island’s projects last year are aware, the Participatory Budget Process gives residents of New York City to vote and decide how to spend \$25 million of taxpayer money is spent Citywide. Our City Council Member Ben Kallos once again was able to secure a sizeable amount to support the community project of our

See **RIRA Column**, page 13

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

Inspiring young people to problem-solve helps sharpen our thinking and may very well save our existence. It is obvious that growing plants reveals the wonders of science, but what isn’t so obvious is that planting together helps us get to know each other more deeply. Healthy cities need parks and green space, and children who experience nature benefit from the calming effects of being outdoors. iDig2Learn allows children and their families to experience science and plant life by growing healthy food and interacting with nature. By watching city children, who rarely touch soil, grow their own food, you witness the deep joy and connection that overcomes them. You just can’t touch broccoli through a computer.

iDig2Learn educates children about the food they eat. In the PBS special *In Defense of Food*, journalist Michael Pollan gives simple advice: “Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants.” Americans

are experiencing obesity at alarming rates, due to both their lack of movement and eating processed foods. Food boxes on grocery shelves sport loud advertising slogans to attract us, unlike the quiet, unpackaged vegetable and fruit section with the real food. This disconnect was obvious when one iDig2Learn-er, looking around our science garden, asked, “What is good to eat here?” When lettuce was pointed out, she asked, “Wait, is that like lettuce in the store?” After hearing it was not only like it, it was it, she took a quick taste, bringing a big smile and the exclamation, “It tastes like lettuce, but... more fresh!”

iDig2Learn advocates awareness about eliminating unnecessary waste. A 2012 study by the Department of Sanitation showed the City’s commercial waste stream was made up to 35% organic food waste, 37% paper, and 17% other recyclables. Therefore, nearly 90% of our waste could be diverted from a landfill. The Department created 0X30, a program with the goal of contributing 0% waste to landfills by 2030. The Garden Club led the initiative for an Island-based residential food scrap drop site, hosted by BigReuse and the NYC Compost Project. iDig2Learn, RIOC, PS/IS 217 PTA, RIRA, and the Girl Scouts support these efforts with

morning setup, cleanup, and data collection. The drop is held every Saturday near the Wengerd Farmer’s Market. Since November 28, 2015, nearly three tons of food scrap waste from over 1,200 resident drop-offs has been diverted from landfills. That data will be shared with the State via RIOC.

iDig2Learn also helps children interact with nature. In May 2015 the U.S. launched a campaign to save the monarch butterfly by planting milkweed along Interstate 35. In July and October, supported by grants from Grow to Learn, the Citizens Committee of NYC, and The City Gardens Club of New York City, iDig2Learn



Christina Delfico, Founder
iDig2Learn
idig2learn@gmail.com

collaborated with multiple Island organizations to kick off the Monarch Butterfly Corridor Project. RIOC, the Garden Club, the Parents’ Network, the Youth Program, the PS/IS 217 PTA, the Historical Society, and Girl Scout troops 3001, 3244, and 3245 created several milkweed plant sites to help restore the butterfly’s habitat. We hope to see monarch butterflies stop

by twice a year on their eastern migration from Mexico to Canada and back. Be sure to take a walk by the lighthouse, Octagon field near the Garden Club’s garden entrance, and the flag pole turnaround on Main Street to see how the milkweed plants are doing.

Please join iDig2Learn at the 32nd Annual Green Thumb GrowTogether conference today (Saturday, March 19) at Hostos Community College (450 Grand Concourse, Bronx.) The conference celebrates New Yorkers who garden and greening professionals from all over the City. I will be presenting at a workshop called “Learning from the Challenges of Creating an Urban Pollinator Habitat” alongside Ursula Chanse from Bronx Green-Up and the New York Botanical Garden and Chrissy Word from Butterfly Project

See **iDig2Learn**, page 14

COMING UP

– THIS WEEKEND –

Americordo reading and book signing, Fri Mar 18 7pm at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Author Gianna Pontecorboli discusses Italian Jews who emigrated to America to escape Fascism.

Crafts with Kids: Easter, Sat Mar 19 10-11am, Senior Center. Sponsored by Roosevelt Island Parents’ Network. RSVP to eva.bosbach@gmail.com

Silent Auction for PS/IS 217, **Sat Mar 19** 2-5pm at Manhattan Park Theater Club (8 River Rd.) \$5/individual or \$20/family of 4+. Raffle, Bingo, DJ, food and drinks.

Spring Concert, Laudamus Children’s Chorus, **Sun Mar 20** 7pm at the Good Shepherd Center. Free. laudamusnyc.org

Registration open for Youth Baseball League (new this spring), **through Mar 28**. Teams for ages 6-8 and 9-11; both co-ed. \$50/child. Info and registration: RICCD.com

Registration open for Island Kids Afterschool Program for Kindergartners for 2016/17 school year (limited space available). Info:islandkids.org or islandkidsri@gmail.com.

Roosevelt Island Day Nursery open enrollment continues 8:30am-3pm daily, until classes are filled, at 4 River Rd. Info: 212-593-0750 (See ad, page 9.)

“**On Roosevelt Island We...**” campaign continues to accept submissions **through Mar 31**. Have your child draw a picture that completes the statement and deliver to 455 Main St., Attn: Leila. Posters with submitted artwork will be displayed on the Island. Info: leila@omniarch-ny.com

Registration open for Palladino Academy of Soccer spring season, **through Apr 1**. Season Apr 4-Jun 24, Octagon Field. Season fee \$600. Info and registration: palladinoacademy.com

Registration open for Master Swim Mar-May session. Classes Mon, Wed, Fri 7:30-8:30pm at Sportspark. Register online (rioc.recdesk.com/recdeskportal/ProgramRegistration), by email (Eddie.Perez@rioc.ny.gov), or by phone (212-832-4569). Residents \$60/session or \$7 per drop-in.

– REGULAR MEETINGS EVENTS –

See page 6.

– THE NEXT THREE WEEKS –

Free Tax Preparation Assistance for low- to moderate-income taxpayers, **every Tue through Apr 15** 9am-1pm, at the Senior Association. Info: 212-980-1888

Immigration services information session, Wed Mar 23 3-6pm at the Library. Free. nysenate.gov/senators/jose-m-serrano.

Annual Egg Hunt sponsored by RIRA **Sat Mar 26** 11am at the Manhattan Park Green for children 8 and under. Pre-registration required. (See *RIRA column*, this page.)

Participatory Budget voting, Sat Mar 26 11am-2pm, 20 River Rd. at the annual Egg Hunt. Info and full list of voting locations: council.nyc.gov/html/pb/home.shtml

Opening reception, atelier, Solo Exhibition by Dan Nistor, Sat Mar 26 6-9pm at Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St. Exhibit through Apr 17.

Participatory Budget voting, Tue Mar 29 4-7pm, F train. Info and full list of voting locations: council.nyc.gov/html/pb/home.shtml

Immigration services information session, Wed Mar 30 11am-2pm at the Senior Center (546 Main St.). Free. nysenate.gov/senators/jose-m-serrano

Participatory Budget voting, Wed Mar 30 4-7pm, Manhattan-side Tram station.. Info and full list of voting locations: council.nyc.gov/html/pb/home.shtml

Participatory Budget voting, Thu Mar 31 7:30-10:30am, PS/IS 217. Info and full list of voting locations: council.nyc.gov/html/pb/home.shtml

The Main Street WIRE – Sat Apr 9. Advertising deadlines: Display, Wed Mar 30; decision date for circulars/inserts, Tue Apr 5; 6,000 copies due Thu Apr 7. Also: Apr 23; May 7, 21 (rescheduled); 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. Email press releases and feature-story suggestions to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net. Advertising (display & classified) 917-587-3278 or msWIREads@gmail.com.

Opening reception, Visions of Gaia, Sat Apr 9 6-9pm at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Exhibit runs from Apr 5 through May 1. Gallery hours: Wed & Fri 6-9pm, Sat & Sun 11am-5pm.

– FUTURE WEEKS –

Ceremony honoring RI Library being named a “Literary Landmark,” **Tue Apr 12** 2pm at the library.

RIHS lecture, Women in Health, Tue Apr 12 6:30pm at the library. Free.

Crafts with Kids: Spring, Sat Apr 16 10-11am, Senior Center. Sponsored by Roosevelt Island Parents’ Network. RSVP to eva.bosbach@gmail.com

Presidential Primary, Tue Apr 19. **RIOC (Roosevelt Island’s Only Comedy), Fri Apr 22** MST&DA, 548 Main St. Details to be announced.

RIHS Annual Cherry Blossom Tour, Sat Apr 23 11am. Tour leaves from Visitor Center, Tramway Plaza. \$12 suggested donation. Reservations: rooseveltislandhistory@gmail.com or 212-688-4836.

Cornell Tech Community Construction Task Force meeting, Mon Apr 25 6-8pm, Gallery RIVAA. Open to the public.

Crafts with Kids: Mother’s Day, Sat May 7 10-11am, Senior Center. Sponsored by Roosevelt Island Parents’ Network. RSVP to eva.bosbach@gmail.com

Subway Station Art Tour co-sponsored by the Historical Society, **Sat May 14** 1-4pm. Donation \$40 RIHS members/\$45 non-members until April 1/\$50 non-members after April 1. RSVP: rooseveltislandhistory@gmail.com Info: 212-688-4836

Cornell Tech Community Construction Task Force meeting, Mon Jul 25 6-8pm, Gallery RIVAA. Open to the public.

Cornell Tech Community Construction Task Force meeting, Mon Oct 24 6-8pm, 546 Main St., 12th floor conference room. Open to the public. **General Election, Tue Nov 8**.





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Little League, from page 1

the games we ended up winning by forfeit because there weren’t coaches for the other team or players weren’t communicated with. So for me, I have kids that I want engaged and the other program just wasn’t functioning.”

Getting Enrollees

The board’s goal number for enrollees in the program is 100 kids, and they are confident they will meet it, with eight teams between the two age groups. Massey says, “I’ve been in the community long enough and I’ve been with people’s kids long enough that they trust me.”

Sadlier underscores this; “Our board, and the people that are volunteering with us, have pretty good standing with the kids and families in the neighborhood. We understand that the Youth Center has a legacy.

For us, it’s not a competitive thing, just a vision, part of a larger community development.” He says, “It just makes sense for us to do youth recreation and beyond that, youth development.”

Sadlier believes that his organization’s Little League is part of a bigger piece and that the Island will suffer if the RICCD doesn’t fulfill its mission. He says, “For me the youth part is so huge because if you don’t do it well, in a gentrifying neighborhood, what will happen is families with resources will go find other programming off the Island and families without resources are left with potentially ineffective programming.”

“I’ve lived in gentrifying areas before and seen it happen. There is a nuanced leadership at the Youth Center and if [quality programming] is not there it’s really sad for kids - both groups, those who can afford off-Island enrichment suffer, and those who stay suffer. And the community as a whole suffers because the next generation is fragmented. So for me it’s important to get it right.”

RICCD has permits for Pony Field on Saturdays for games, and Capobianco Field for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday practices.

The cost of enrollment is \$50 but they say kids in need can play for free. The group raised money from residents and business to subsidize the league. Sadlier explains they chose the \$50 number, “so there is skin in the game.” They also have an option on their website to sponsor another child. Sadlier says of this decision, “All of a sudden you get the community engaged even more.” He added, “A couple of people who don’t have kids are giving some pretty gracious



Kim Massey

gifts. They understand the importance of it.”

As of March 8, they had 30 kids signed up, which Massey said is “not bad for the first couple of days.” Sadlier says, “Most of the kids who signed up I don’t have any connection with, which is good because I know that the kids I’ve coached the past couple of years will sign up.”

Massey says, “We are overstocking on coaches,” and between coaches, assistant coaches, and parent coordinators, 16 adults have already committed.

Sadlier adds, “We’ll do some fun things in the next month to engage kids. We’ll start creating a Facebook group and take it from there. We have a bunch of different ideas. Maybe we’ll get a table at the farmer’s market to get the word out.”

Massey and Sadlier were also riffing about possibly hiring an announcer for the league’s all-star game.

RICCD

The group was formed about six months ago. So far they are offering English classes and have partnered with another Island not-for-profit, Do For One (DoForOne.org) whose mission is to develop and support relationships for people with developmental disabilities. They match one person with disabilities in need of companionship with another person who enjoys the more ordinary privileges in life to do their part in promoting a healthier community and richer lives.

Sadlier explains, “The important thing for us right now is, as simple as it sounds, to do two age groups of Little League. We want to do it well. We want to do it to scale. People have come to us to launch things under the umbrella of RICCD and we say, ‘Hey, just wait patiently.’ We want to do things well one at a time.”

Sadlier says, “We have three things going organically. Little League will be next. From that, who knows.”

Island Leaders

A goal of the RICCD is to harness the Island’s talent, in the form of its diverse, well-educated, and interesting

population. Sadlier says, “One of the reasons for the community development corporation is if there are higher-character leaders on the Island that want to do stuff, I want to figure out how to empower them.” He lists “People in the arts, people in politics. And that’s the youth leadership piece for me. How do we have United Nations ambassadors and diplomats and people who are running their own studios and not leverage them in regards to mentoring our youth?”

Specifically, according to Sadlier, “You got a person like Scot Bobo who’s chomping at the bit [to be involved], but the atmosphere on the Island is not necessarily conducive. And Kim [Massey] as well. I’m like, how are we not doing more?”

Massey says, “We even have young single professionals who want to get involved and help and coach and make a difference. Why are we not using the resources that are right here? They want to give back to their community.” Sadlier boasts, “I have some good relationships with young professionals on the Island, a small group of young professionals born and raised on the Island, but many who have moved here in the last four or five years. [They’re all wondering], ‘How do I get involved here?’

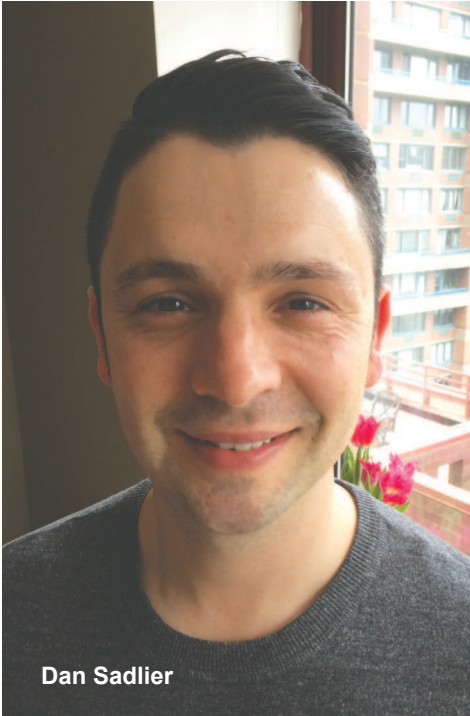
The Island is evolving and according to Sadlier, “If on a growing, gentrifying Island the opportunities aren’t there, it’s not a good thing. So that’s been part of it. The current programs don’t have the opportunity or don’t offer the framework for what it is to launch something tactfully, considering gentrification, and helping along the way to come up from underneath and support.”

What To Look Out For

Both Massey and Sadlier said, “We are going to have fun.” When it comes to uniforms and team names, Sadlier said, “We’ll have some fun with that. Scot Bobo is helping to coordinate a lot of it. Scot’s intense, man, he loves it.”

There will be an All-Star game, possibly with an announcer, noted above. They plan an opening pitch-hit-and-run competition they will open up to the entire Island. And some things they haven’t thought of yet. Sadlier says, “We are going to do some different things and just have fun.”

“This is crazy that this neighborhood is in the middle of New York City. You have to leverage that. You have to have fun with it, it’s a gift. It’s not normal in the suburbs in the Midwest, it’s just not normal in the Bronx. So to not take advantage of it ...” Sadlier and Massey shake their heads.



Dan Sadlier

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Adventures OFF-Island

curated by Sara Maher

Spring is a time of rebirth, and all that. Get a new outlook on your same old life by watching an odd independent film, picking up some trash, eating a weird-looking food made out of other weird-looking foods, or walking around with a bunch of flowers on your head. You do you.

Fresh Films

Spring is full of new life, and some would argue that creating new art should be our goal in this life. New Directors/ New Films introduces audiences to the work of aspiring filmmakers from around the world. Films being shown at F-accessible MoMA have titles like *Under the Shadow*, *Kill Me Please*, *The Fits*, *Donald Cried*, and *I Promise You Anarchy*, but don’t let that scare you off – the fest credits itself with discovering Christopher Nolan and Spike Lee, so who knows what Oscar fodder you could be the first to see.

➡F downtown to 57th St and walk southeast to MoMA (11 W 53rd St.) Mar 16-27; various times. General public \$16, students and members of MoMA or the Film Society of Lincoln Center \$12. Full schedule and tickets at newdirectors.org

Floral Formalwear

It wouldn’t be spring without a new wardrobe. Show off your best bonnet at the Easter Parade and Easter Bonnet Festival, a pageant that started in the 1870s but was popularized by the 1948 Judy Garland film *Easter Parade*. This is not your typical roped-off NYC event; instead, a section of Fifth Avenue is closed to vehicular traffic, allowing bonnet-wearers to bound about like Easter bunnies. After the “parade,” head downtown to the Macy’s Flower Show and see Broadway

Plaza filled with festive floral arrangements. Macy’s will also be hosting a live performance by the cast of *Beautiful*, a Family Fun Day, and Easter-y seminars (think flower arranging and chocolate-making.)

➡Parade and Bonnet Festival: F downtown to 57th St or 49-50th Sts-Rockefeller Center and find a spot on 5th Ave between 49th-57th Sts. Sun Mar 27, 10am-4pm. Free. Note: anyone wearing an Easter bonnet is welcome to join, but everyone is allowed to watch. nycgo.com/events/easter-parade-and-easter-bonnet-festival1 Flower Show: F downtown to 34th St-Herald Sq; activities in the Square and inside Macy’s. Mar 20-Apr 3, various times. Free. social.macys.com/flowershow

Pop-up Plants

Get those wiggly-worm kids out of the house and into the great outdoors. The Prospect Park Alliance is hosting “Pop-up Audubon” sessions in parks around the boroughs. Plant Clues promises a full day of fun in Prospect Park. Your little explorers will receive a Discovery Pack filled with nature activities before going on a nature walk, tracking the growth of significant plants, helping maintain the park, and learning how to use binoculars to spot one of the 250 bird species that live in the park.

➡F downtown to Fort Hamilton Pkwy and walk northeast on Fort Hamilton Pkwy to enter the park; walk north on West Dr and turn right on Well House Dr to find “the Peninsula” by the lake. Every Sat and Sun between Apr 2-30, 11am-4pm. Free. nycgovparks.org/events/2016/04/02/popup-audubon-ii-plant-clues

Get That Garbage

Maybe your kids prefer their nature with a dash of physical

labor (or maybe you prefer that for them). Spend a day on the Junior Volunteer Corps and help take care of Prospect Park. The Prospect Park alliance swears it’s “a day of fun,” but you can bet it also involves mulch and garbage bags. If they don’t scream at the first sight of an insect and are up for a little walk, treat them to the ultimate snack attach at Smorgasburg. 100 local vendors will offer them everything from vegan ice cream to real fruit licorice to s’mores whoopee pies.

➡Junior Volunteer Corps: F downtown to 7th Av (Brooklyn) and walk east on 9th Ave to enter the park. Sun Apr 3, 1:30-3:30. Free, but registration is required at prospectpark.org/get-involved/volunteer Smorgasburg: staying in the park, follow West Dr southeast to Well House Dr, then walk northeast to “Breeze Hill.” To get home, take Well House Dr all the way out of the park and walk southwest on Fort Hamilton Pkwy to get to the Fort Hamilton Pkwy F stop. Every Sun from Apr 3-fall, 11am-6pm. Prices vary; some vendors may be cash-only. Family and dog-friendly. brooklynflea.com/markets/prospect-park-smorgasburg

On Your Toes

The Dance Theatre of Harlem returns to New York City Center with *Power: On Pointe*. This celebration of great female choreographers features the New York premieres of Dianne McIntyre and Elena Kunikova, as well as the return of Helen Pickett. The family-focused matinee performance on April 9 includes a post-show talk and *Meet the Ballerina* event.

➡F downtown to 57th St and walk southwest to New York City Center (131 W 55th St.) Apr 6-9, various times; Family Matinee Sat Apr 9, 2pm. Tickets \$35-125. nycitycenter.org/events

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

Vernissage XV RIVAA anniversary celebration at Gallery RIVAA, **Sat Mar 5-Sun Apr 3**. Gallery open Tue, Thu 1-5pm; Wed, Fri 6-9pm; Sat-Sun 11am-5pm.
atelier, Solo Exhibition by Dan Nistor at the Octagon Gallery, **March 12-April 17**. Gallery open daily 9am-8pm.

PARKS

Southpoint Park open daily 6am-10pm.
Lighthouse Park open daily 7am-9pm.
Four Freedoms Park daily 9am-5pm. **Apr-Sep** 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.
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 and Thu** 9:30am, Visitor Kiosk in Tramway Plaza. Free. To confirm day and time: Eva.Bosbach@gmail.com.
Sportspark parks and recreation website for information on fitness classes and program calendar: rioc.recdesk.com.
Sportspark extended hours (ages 16-25), **Fri-Sat** 9pm-midnight. **Weight-lifting** and **bas-ketball**. 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: 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)

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.
Music with James, every **Tue** 4pm at the Cultural Center (548 Main St.) Ages 4mo-4yr. Drop-in \$15/child + \$5/sibling or \$140/10 classes. musicwithjames.com
Toddler Story Time (18-36 mo), **Wed** 10:15 & 11:15am, Library. No registration required.
Toddler Play Time (18-36 mo), **Wed** 10:45 & 11:45am, 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 pre-registration; 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.
Computer Basics for Seniors, every **Fri** 10:30am at the Library.

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.
Coloring for Adults, every **Tue** 12pm, Library. Materials provided.
114th Precinct Community Meeting, **4th Tue** 7pm, Riccardo’, 2101 24th Ave., 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** 11am-2pm, 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 ap-pointment 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.

Submit event information by email to saralynmaher@gmail.com. Include your phone number(s) for follow-up questions.

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Indelicato, from page 1

were instrumental in changing the language in that it would be considered not just a throw-away-given but would be a negotiation. That set the bar. That set the whole program clearly. But for that, and but for RICC, the agreement would not be as good as it is. And some people may disagree as to whether it's good or not. The fact is, and money aside, because in truth those issues could not be solved by money. Traffic problems could not be solved by money. You could put as much money as you want into it and those trucks are going to be there.

W: There's one street.

Cl: Exactly. So looking at RICC's list, it wasn't a money list, really; it was a quality of life list.

W: What do you consider your signature accomplishments?

Cl: Other than Cornell, there are three things that, with a lot of help, I've accomplished. I don't think that anybody does anything alone. It would be solving the Public Safety situation in the sense of bringing Jack [McManus] in [as Chief of Public Safety]. And then Jack bringing Linda [Marmara] in [as his Deputy]. It was a fit.

I didn't know Jack beforehand. I worked for Guidepost [Solutions] long ago and I asked them for help. I gave them all of the specifications. I wanted a community police person. I got a community police person, but I also got a kind and compassionate man who I like very much and I don't think anybody would disagree. Do I get credit for hiring somebody that's really good? Well, I hope so!

W: I think so.

The Cultural Center

Cl: So that's one very very fine accomplishment. And Cornell, with the help of the Board and RICC and the State, we got an agreement that was workable. I think that the relationship with Cornell is one more of collaboration, and eventually integration, than it is anything else. And we're almost at the completion of that. Last thing I would point to, which is still a work in progress, is the Cultural Center.

W: Really?

Cl: Where else would you get the Muslim society, two Jewish communities, an Evangelical church, the Main Street Theatre; and all of these groups using it at the same time. It's not world peace, but I have to say again, it's a major thing. It took a lot of movement by a lot of people. It was about having the mindset of cooperation. It was a learning experience for all of us. Before the renovation, there weren't as many people using it. Now there are a lot more people, and a lot more groups coming in. There have been issues with the floors and stuff and we are going to get that done. We are just now going to the community to pick some dates; we're going to need a month to get them to fix the floor.

W: Have you actually officially announced that you're leaving yet?

Cl: I will make a formal announcement. I am leaving on the 18th.

W: What's been the worst thing about the job?

Cl: The commute is brutal. It is just a brutal trip. There was a recent Monday where it was raining and it took me 2½ hours to get home. It took me 2½ hours to get in and 2½ hours to get home.

W: You were going to move here originally, weren't you?

Cl: The State sort of implied that when I took the job but then that implication was not correct. I wanted to. I would have. I just couldn't afford it.

W: What is the best thing about the job?

Cl: The best thing about the job was the job itself. I enjoy municipal management. It is very rewarding. Added to what will be accomplished very soon, we almost have an agreement with the ferry. For that, I would really, really like to compliment Seth Meyers of the City. Not the comedian. He's with ECD [New York City Economic Development Corporation]. We almost have an MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] done. We are going to have to do

some maintenance of the pier and they're going to do an EIS [Environmental Impact Statement] and a traffic study to see if we can get any mitigating measures.

W: Will the ferry terminal be at the oil dock?



Cl: Yes. They are going to make a platform barge. They've looked at it. They know what they're doing.

Meditation on Local Government

W: In terms of your successor what issues will they be dealing with that you're in the middle of?

Cl: Susan Rosenthal [acting RIOC President as of Indelicato's departure] has been instrumental in the ferry too. She's up to speed on many, many of the issues. Remember, what I do is really a reflection of a policy of the Board. My job is to implement. There are decisions that I make but they're decisions; they're not issues; they're not policy.

Basically, the assumption you make is everybody [in the community] is right. But then you have to decide where you're going to make everybody unhappy. It's like the lights on the field. We had a discussion about the lights on the field. The people who want to sleep want the lights off at 8:00 pm. The kids and parents who want to play on the field want it 11:00 pm. So where do you go with that? You're wrong no matter what you do. You go in the middle and nobody's happy. But you go in the middle because it's more judicious.

That's local government. You're always making a whole bunch of people unhappy trying to do the best thing. Much of our work here is that. It is sort of refereeing. That's why the Cultural Center was such a big success. One of the things I am going to be sorry that I can't see through, although we put it on the agenda at least to start the process, is the sea railings. And at least we're starting the process now.

The pipeline, except for the risers, is done. And z-bricks are going to be replaced. What ConEd had to do, because the z-brick place we used went out of business and we only had a finite amount left, they made a new cast. And we're going to get the cast at the end. The judicious thing (now I won't be here, just my opinion), when

they're done, would be a DOT [Department of Transportation] road. A DOT road is not z-bricks.

The Red Busses

Another thing that we did that was not my idea, was the bus being free again. It was Cy's idea. He said, 'Look, you know you can't raise the fare. Anyway you'd have to raise it to \$2 to make it feasible, which is stupid.'

So what we did in order to make up the money – in fact, we got written up in *Crain's* [Crain's New York Business] and the *Wall Street Journal* about it – was to raise the parking meters and raise the tickets for non-residents in Motorgate. So we made up the money for that and now we have free buses. We saved money, actually, by doing it that way. Cy [Opperman, Director of Operations at RIOC] was absolutely right. It makes sense because we're not supposed to have so many cars here and you can get back and forth with so much ease taking the bus.

When the Tram comes, you'll have a bus waiting. When it's not there, we hear it! We have

tracking, we know exactly where the bus is, but sometimes they get stuck. Cy runs it great.

W: What issues do you see impacting Islanders' lives in the future?

Cl: Obviously Cornell. I think Cornell will be very, very good. I think they have started to integrate, as has Four Freedoms. I think a lot of that goes back to the delineation of their permits.

When I came in, why I am hated by some people, I put rules in and tried to be as fair as possible. But people don't like rules because they're used to getting special treatment. And when you go down the middle, you're going to make enemies.



So people sometimes get aggravated but I think it helps it move forward.

Tram Elevators

One of the failures that I absolutely own up to is the [Tramway] elevators. We put it out for a design build and we didn't get any takers. Then we put it out again with WASA [one of the country's oldest architecture and engineering firms, whose predecessor designed Grand Central Terminal train station].

Now WASA is one of the biggest engineering companies in the world, they're internationally known, it's not only price, it's responsibility. We've been guilty, like a lot of municipalities, of going with the lowest bid, versus the lowest responsible bid. So now we're looking toward the lowest responsible bid. So with WASA, this renowned company who does elevators, they're 90% done [with the Tramway elevator plan] so when we're waiting for the last percentage, to open up the paper and read that WASA went under. It's like, *I can't believe this. Can't believe it.*

We have it back on track and it's more than back on track because one of our biggest issues was New York City and how they would feel. They approved the footprint conceptually and so pretty much now we can get it done. It's slightly bigger and a different configuration.

RIRA

W: How do you think RIRA [the Roosevelt Island Residents Association] and RIOC should work together? And how does RIRA weigh in with you?

Cl: It depends on who's there, what committees, and who's chairing the committees. It's a people thing. I believe I work with the community. Some groups don't, some groups do. Some committees, we work together, and other committees don't.

W: Do you see RIRA as a resource?

Cl: Sometimes they seem very closed, and sometimes they're very open. It depends on who chairs the committee. It depends on how they view working with us. Some representatives are more active, some just want to state their complaints and act as a repository for complaints.

If you have a complaint, I always prefer, without publicly going out, give me a chance to fix it before you go out and tell everyone. I think we've been fairly responsive. The graffiti is an example. We will probably take care of it this week, but to do it, we need to turn the water on and we couldn't do that until now. If you ask me, I will tell you. Some people just don't really respond to that. And they'd rather just go out in public. That's valid for them and sort of disturbing, because then they'll take credit for whatever you're doing which you were going to do anyway.

There's an open relationship and there is an open-door relationship but it's not consistent throughout RIRA, well, with certain committees it is consistent.

Looking Ahead

Cl: Do you want to know what to look forward to?

W: Yes!

Cl: We're going to have Cornell start in 2017. You're going to have buildings 8 and 9 [of Southtown]. However, it will then become time to do all of the infrastructure work for us, for RIOC. We can't do it now. There's too much going on, there's one Main Street. Local law 11 [pursuant to the law, owners of buildings greater than six stories must have their buildings' exterior walls and appurtenances inspected once every five years and file a technical report with the Department of Buildings] will be done so you'll have some room for the helix improvements. Do you know about AKRF (an environmental, planning and engineering consulting firm) with Cornell? The ramp off the helix? That's really in the works. This is something that Cornell and RIOC, I

believe, will join together, and seek grants for. It would require some funding. It is, in truth, a very sexy thing, because you have the vents over the steam tunnel and since the steam tunnel is not in use anymore, it stands to reason that one can get rid of those for a more continuous loop around. This is conceptual. You work toward something and you know you can't do it but you keep talking about it and Cornell has been really great about a lot of things.

You build a relationship on trust. We have an agreement with Cornell that has one exhibit that is the most important and that is the exhibit about truck traffic. But the numbers don't matter, the times don't matter, it's how you develop it. You make times that work for both of you. Andrew Winters [Senior Director of Capital Projects at Cornell Tech], Jane Swanson [Assistant Director, Government and Community Relations at Cornell Tech], and Peter Krokondelis [Kasirer Consulting] have been an excellent team working together to make this as unintrusive (and that's not saying it's not intrusive) as possible. That's also not to say there's no room for improvement. You learn as you go.

Layers

W: What has surprised you about spending three years here?

Cl: What I did have to get used to is the vast number of layers and people that are involved. Remember, although we have a lease [New York State has leased the Island from New York City] until 2068, there's property that is controlled by DEP (Department of Environmental Protection), there is property that is controlled by HHC (New York City Health + Hospitals), the Department of Sanitation, the Fire Department, there's property that's controlled by Four Freedoms, Cornell, it goes on and on and on. I am shocked that the federal government doesn't have a piece of this.

So anytime you do something, you have to have at least a thought, that just because you tell RIOC, doesn't mean you've told everybody. There are a lot of stakeholders.

The facilitators thing we are going to do in Southpoint (we had the kickoff meeting), that's going to start and there are going to be stakeholders in that. That should be very interesting. I realized we were going to need a facilitator because I went to a meeting and was like, *Oh my God, if everything gets done, you won't be able to move, it won't be a park anymore.* You literally will not be able to move with the statue, the pavilion, everybody has to get together and figure this out.

I think that's what surprised me the most, the levels of interplay between the City and the State but, even with the State, you have two agencies, you have us and the parks, then the Four Freedoms Park Conservancy and the Department of Parks (The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). So even the State is bifurcated. And then you have HHC. It's that type of thing. You're dealing with City and State agencies and you're running the gamut over here. Then there is Hudson/Related (H/R), the agreement with the stores and the master lease to consider.

Need Vs. Want

W: If you could decide what the Island needs, if we could get anything, what would it be?

Cl: I think that being a capitalist, because we are in a democratic society, it's what you need, and what you can support. Right now those are two different things. We definitively need certain things, but somehow we can't support them. The hardware store wasn't paying rent. [Not paying rent] makes people sloppy. It wasn't an attractive store. With H/R there's been a lot of improvement. We would never have gotten the quality of the wine store (Island Wine).

Wholesome Market seems to be doing well. I know this is not a popular view, but it is really hard to rent stores when you have scaffolding and netting. When you're showing somebody something, even the most imaginative people don't see this as an attractive thing.

First they had to fix up the ceilings and the lighting, then you had Local Law 11, then you had pipeline going down Main street. A lot of stuff is happening. It was difficult. That's not to say that [H/R] shouldn't put more effort into it. Actually it was at the suggestion of the Board that [H/R] decided to make the empty stores more attractive, and RIVAA helped with that. But everybody could always do more.

Every local business has the same problem; you bring in a hardware store, but there's Home Depot. My father owned a local pharmacy and when I go into Duane Reade, I feel guilty every time. So that's what every small community suffers. Yes, we need it because we are an Island, but there's the Tram. I know people want



things on the Island but they have to be supported.

Government should subsidize; we subsidize the Cultural Center, even though we charge, but that's more for control than anything else. But the fact of the matter is, government is not geared like that. You have to balance. I think the master lease is a good thing. It's a personal opinion; I didn't have to make that decision. I didn't have input in it but it's there and I have to live with it.

One thing I would change is the Island House outcropping – those stairs cut off half the sidewalk and you have people in wheelchairs who can barely make it through. I don't understand that kind of design.

Shout Outs

W: Who deserves a shoutout?

Cl: There's a whole list. Life was very contentious with the Public Safety Committee in the beginning. We have established a relationship with them. Jack [McManus] deserves one. The RICC committee continues to be very involved. You have the Garden Club which is an excellent organization. I don't want to leave people out. We work with so many amazing community groups like idig2learn. Vicki Feinmel is dedicated to the Good Shepherd Plaza. Then there are the unsung heroes whose names I don't know, like the one woman I see cutting the flowers and trimming in Good Shepherd Plaza. That's great, that makes you feel good. There are whole bunch of people who do that. The CERT team has been revitalized. But there are so many others. It has really been so wonderful. Once we got past the trust issue.

The beginning was very rocky. It was rocky for a number of reasons. You had an IG (Inspector General) report hanging over everybody's head. But relationships have improved.

W: How long was it rocky for?

Cl: A good year.

W: How long has the hiring process been going on? Why is there so much secrecy?

Cl: You know, job offers come. And interviews are usually not held in public. When I interviewed with Dobbs Ferry, a couple of months ago, I met with a board. There's a lot that goes on, should I do it, should I not? I didn't know what I wanted to do. It was a hard decision for me.

W: There is a public perception that Susan Rosenthal was brought in as a successor. Does that have any merit?

Cl: We advertised for CFO (Chief Financial Officer). We advertised for VP of Operations. I took the operations onto myself. It came a time when it's just too much and I couldn't handle it all. Even if I were to stay, I need a VP of Operations. We need a CFO and I've been doing that too. The secrecy, if you're not looking for a CFO job, you're not going to see the ad. But we didn't do it in secret. If anyone on the Island wanted a CFO job they would have seen our ad.

Perceptions

W: Can you speak to the perception that political appointees are put here primarily to enhance their retirement status. Will RIOC be encumbered by a lot of retirement income?

Cl: Larry Schwartz [formerly Governor Andrew Cuomo's chief aide] was Deputy County Executive when I was [Westchester] County Attorney. We worked very well together. Local government has different ways of looking at it, different wants; county is ten thousand feet up for example, and local is boots on the ground. So he (Schwartz) used me as a liaison with local communities and would ask what makes sense and I would know because that's my origin. [At the time] I was still friendly with a lot of people who do that. When he came here, there were a lot of problems and he lured me in with Cornell (I love negotiations) and that's how I was recruited. I do have a resume for this. The only thing

I have not done that I had to look at on the Island was the Tram. However I did represent a bus company in my private practice.

I am not retiring so you have no burden. Dobbs Ferry encumbers it. Actually the State encumbers it. When I'm here you pay. When I retire, the State takes over. But the fact is, I am not retiring and this hasn't done too much for my salary. I was recruited because I have local government experience. In truth, why would I ask for a favor that is an hour and half from my home?

The RIOC Board

W: What about the RIOC Board? The perception was that there would be elections every four years. The Board members terms are all expired.

Cl: I can only speak legally that there are gubernatorial appointments and it is up to the governor whether or not he wants to honor RIRA's recommendations.

I know that this is not the popular point of view but those are not elections. Legally, a number of Board members have to be residents. There are five votes. My feeling is that regardless of what resident is put on, you still have to go to the Farmer's Market and have to put a bag over your head because you get so many complaints. And that's what's required. I know there's a move to have more, but you don't need more. You have a majority.

Secondly, [RIOC] is a public benefit corporation; it isn't local government. It is an aberration and it has to be treated a little differently. I think with having somebody here who is involved, and I think RIOC is very involved in the community, you're

servicing the residents as a local government.

Island Representation

Additionally, I believe that Roosevelt Island gets the best of both worlds. You get the responsiveness of somebody here that you can complain to and ask for stuff and get something immediately, more so than most places. Then you have the City with your representatives like Ben Kallos, and he's very responsive; you have Assembly-member Seawright on the State level. So you have a lot of people to go to as opposed to right across the way in Queens where you go to one and if they ignore you, then that's it.

W: Do you get sufficient community input from the resident Board members you have?

Cl: It offends me when people say that they just want to hang on to their jobs. Zero is zero. You have to recognize that zero salary is not really attractive. Everybody comes to the table with their own ideas so that's why you have that type of government. They discuss it and whatever has the most votes wins. Just because you favor this over that, doesn't mean you're wrong. It's all volunteer. There's no benefit to them to hold back. It is a State Public Benefit Corporation. There's a structure that is State, like with the procurement of the public purpose funds. They are fighting for the community but it is what it is, you can't change it because you think differently. It's under the laws and the law was changed for the public-purpose benefit and we did what we had to do.

Letters, from page 2

is that tours are best done during the school day when they are able to get a feel for the school with students and teachers present. For that reason most public and private school tours are during school hours, typically in the morning. However, the PTA and school administration recognize some parents prefer evening tours and we have offered an evening tour this year. I am sorry that you missed that particular tour. The PTA and school administration are currently discussing tours for April, and while we are hoping to offer an evening tour in April, we may not be able to make it happen.

It is important to note school tours are often exclusively run by the PTA, a group of volunteers. I am a parent volunteer and want the school to be as accessible as possible to prospective families, so I run tours as often as I am able. I am unable to run tours in the evening on a regular basis. My schedule does not allow for evening obligations beyond what our family already has scheduled. Teachers and administration arrive to school each morning by 7:30am, many after a long commute, so on days we offer evening tours the staff is putting in a 12+ hour day. We don't ask them to stay late during the week if at all possible.

To address your concerns about placement, there has been only one year in the recent past where there has been a wait list for general education kindergarten at 217. Before the end of last summer, the DOE opened additional kindergarten seats at 217 and all zoned kids were placed. Unlike PreK, Kindergarten is compulsory and the DOE is obligated to offer you a seat and they want that seat to be in zoned schools. The PTA wants all of our zoned kids in our school. It makes for a stronger school and community.

The PTA and administration advocate for our Island community because we absolutely believe the strength and success of our school grows with each Islander who invests in the neighborhood school. We have worked very hard over the past two years to rally our community behind 217, and it's working. People want to be at 217. That's a good thing.

Please let me know if your granddaughter did indeed get a spot in 217's incoming kindergarten class. We want to know if there is a wait list. We want to advocate for you. The school doesn't know yet who has been offered a spot or if there is a waitlist. That information is yet to arrive from the DOE. While the administration and PTA can advocate, placement and the number of seats is ultimately up to the DOE.

Erin Olavesen, PS 217 PTA

RIVAA, from page 1

public artwork, a traditional rocking chair decorated with her brush, then mounted like a bucolic throne on a wood block.

In creating this surprisingly well-realized piece, Ms. Sinclair had help. She is a student of master painter Valeriu



Foot & Mouth Disease by Marius Mitroiu

Boborelu, and her grandmother, pastelists Georgette Sinclair, lends a hand. The inspiration, though, is all Olivia's.

Not to be outdone, her grandmother has four paintings nearby. Each shows her skill at capturing subtle variations in unspoiled country landscapes, but *By the Pond*, a winter scene that discovers lyricism in ice, snow and leafless trees, may be the best.



Untitled painting by Edel Stuehmke

Next up, Marius Mitroiu's group of oils on wood includes *Foot & Mouth Disease* which, like its companions, seems to spring from both Salvatore Dali's and Yves Tanguy's imaginations with a pinch of Joan Miró mixed in. If you like your expressionism freaky and flavored with paranoid nightmares – and many art lovers do – Mitroiu's paintings will reward you with inventiveness with a humanizing touch of humor.

Tadeusz Sudol's contributions to RIVAA exhibits always make a point of his flair for new ways of making a statement.



This year, he contributes *Calypso* and *Odysseus*, thematically different pictures that look like twins. After creating images with a limited brown and black palette of inks, Sudol digitizes them and blows them up into prints, exposing delicate tracings of ink that would not otherwise be as dramatic.

Adding to his work with Olivia Sinclair, Valeriu Boborelu presents two dissimilar works, both worth mentioning. The *Mind of Clear-Magenta Light* is the kind of large and vivid acrylic on canvas for which Boborelu is known. As a mature artist, he normally stays within his own creative corral, producing variations on spiritual themes. Here, the spiritual dimension is a passionate furnace of red and yellow that seems too hot to touch.

Surprising then, is his black and white drawing, *Toward Enlightenment*. The large-scale work is a kind of family portrait. Stylized images of the artist's wife, grandson and his beloved dog, Max, among others, are parked in rectangular portrait spaces that abut others filled with constructions never quite coalescing into beings. Boborelu's universe has a personal frame of realism.

More gentle and affecting is Edel Stuehmke's untitled oil painting. What looks like streams of black rain run down a port of muted colors while brighter tones are being shuffled off the right side of the canvas. Stuehmke does not produce large volumes of paintings, but every one she shows is fully realized and memorable, like perfectly captured moments in time.

By contrast, Deepti Shukla returns to Gallery RIVAA with four detailed acrylics staged as a quartet. In her previous work, Shukla's gift for intricate design was evident.

An emerging talent, her newest works add electricity to the eye-catching beauty. In *Untitled #2*, strokes of white and deep red dance vigorously across the surface.

Another painter, whose style has become recognizable for the way she uses sturdy, barefoot women from a mythical Mediterranean past to create visual harmonies, improves on her impressive body of work with an unexpected flourish. Laura Hussey links her Greek beauties with a deeper past by adding an effect with her oils that reminds viewers of deteriorating ancient mosaics. Time has stripped patches of tiles from some sections while leaving others intact. The effect is penetrating with its streams of history holding on to values that cannot be completely erased.

Diversity is a RIVAA hallmark as we see in Rachel Garrick's *Blue Havoc*. Shades of blue seem to struggle to break free of each other in an element tightly bound at the center of an otherwise cheerful canvases.

Nearby, Piaskowski's skills with a camera are aided by her painter's eye in a sequence of *Sunset Over the Catskills* pictures. Each gathers abundant colors of light streaming over



the mountaintops and merges them as if they are accumulating inside her lens. It makes a good marriage of visual arts.

Hanne Støvring continues her impressive run of acrylics on canvas with three paintings that expand her expressions of communal connection. In *Together Is a Good Place to Be*, a narrative is offered in layers of presence. In an impossibly perfect sea of gentle colors, a contemplative figure is watched over by hovering figures who themselves are seen in a larger familial context. Viewers may find their own embracing story in each of Støvring's lovely works.

Dan Nistor, who will be opening a solo show at the Octagon Gallery this weekend (see details below), contributes three oils. Most striking is *Smiling Model*, which does its work with as limited a palette as possible, whites, grays and black only, by focusing intensely on the composition. Details would be reduced by color.

Closing out with some playfulness, Constance Tanner offers *House* and *Jezabelle*, two works related only by their sense of fun. Wood and tissue paper are manipulated to produce a miniature Victorian home, filigreed with details and offering a welcoming girl sketched onto the front beneath the highest portal. *House* escapes being a place for dolls when it takes off into fantasy.

And finally, *Jezabelle*, a three piece oil painting, tempts you with a shapely figure in a very short skirt, a glass of wine in her hand and a melancholy look on her face. Tanner uses her gift for color to make this instant narrative into an artful composition, playing blues and reds off an intense, black background.

Jezabelle is waiting.

Vernissage XV will fill the 527 Main Street gallery until April 3. Opening hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and weekends from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission is free. Donations are accepted.

Dan Nistor's solo exhibit, *atelier*, opened at the Octagon Gallery, 888 Main Street on March 12. An opening reception is scheduled for March 26 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The public is invited.



Together Is a Good Place to Be by Hanne Støvring



The Mind of Clear-Magenta Light by Valeriu Boborelu

RIOC, from page 1

a resident member who has previously objected to the way executive hires are handled. “But we were given only one person, although we were promised we’d have multiple people to interview. We weren’t, and that’s why I’ll be voting ‘No.’”

Fellow resident member, Mike Shinozaki, added, “I don’t agree with this process,” but abstained rather than vote “No.” With the exception of Katherine Grimm, who also abstained, the remaining local Board members, Kraut, Howard Polivy and Fay Christian, voted in favor of both appointments.

An audible groan rose from a group of public observers when Christian, who said she also disliked the process, voted for the appointments anyway, saying Rosenthal would need their help in getting started in her new role.

As soon as the voting concluded, Helstien shouted, “It’s cowardly to not let the Board do their duties.”

She later explained that she was referring to the Board, once again, getting only a single candidate for an up or down vote without any information about other candidates or the search involved. The same had happened with the appointments of both Indelicato and her predecessor, Leslie Torres, among others.

If Commissioner Rubin was unmoved by Shinozaki’s and Smith’s objections or ignored them for some other reason, saying he was in favor of “...putting all this behind us and support the

candidates,” he appeared more unsettled when Helstien spoke up.

“The Board is doing its job,” Rubin insisted, but no explanation was offered about why a questionable process that previously angered some residents and Board members was repeated.



Charlene Indelicato, front center; Howard and Ellen Polivy, rear

When Helstien refused to accept his statement, Rubin was dismissive in a way that could easily have been understood as

condescending. “It’s more complicated than you’re suggesting,” he said, ending the conversation.

Rubin was unavailable to answer questions afterward because he left immediately after his confrontation with Helstien for a previous engagement.

“Enjoy your cocktail party,” Helstien commented as Rubin packed up to leave. The Board moved on to other business until it was time for Indelicato’s President’s Report.

Indelicato was modest in her farewell. “I just want to thank everybody,” she said. Noting that her term as president started when RIOC was embroiled in controversy, especially regarding Public Safety, she cited the hiring of Jack McManus as Director: “That’s when my luck turned.” Indelicato recalled “bad blood” that had developed with Cornell as well as Four Freedoms Park and had been fixed. “Better communications were necessary.”

“If some people have been disappointed, I apologize,” she concluded before thanking the Board for making her job easier than it might have been. “I have done my best. I believe I am leaving you in good hands.”

Among Board members, Kraut spoke first, thanking Indelicato, joking that a smooth transition has been a rarity during his time on the Board. “You came here in a very difficult period in Island history, and you dealt with it. You have done a splendid job of managing.” He nodded at Rosenthal. “Susan, you have some very large shoes to fill.”

“I want to second that,” Margie Smith added, and the remaining Board members chimed in, saying a few words in turn.

“It was very rewarding,” Indelicato said, and with that, she ended her final President’s report.

It’s expected that, following Indelicato’s



Kimberly L. Quinones, front center; RIOC Board Members Margie Smith and Howard Polivy, rear

departure, Helstien and others will work to insure the next search is transparent enough that it shows more respect for the interests of the Roosevelt Island community.



DHCR Commissioner James Rubin, Charlene Indelicato, RIOC VP Susan Rosenthal



Shelton J. Haynes

Con Ed Updates Gas Main

The construction work on Main Street is on schedule to be completed in early 2017, according to Allan Drury, a Public Affairs Manager for Con Ed.

Con Ed is replacing our steel gas main with a new plastic main. Drury says, “We are performing work that will help ensure that our gas and electric service on Roosevelt Island remains safe and reliable for years to come.”

Specifically, the goal of the work is to bring high-pressure service to the Island. Drury explained that, “Our gas work on the Island will improve reliability, as we are replacing older infrastructure. It will reduce the amount of maintenance needed for our gas infrastructure on the Island. That means less excavating and disruption to traffic in the future. It will also increase the capacity of our system for future gas demand.”

Drury also explained that a plastic main means cleaner air because the new main will accommodate the oil-to-gas conversions taking place. In 2011, the city put in place a regulation that required large city buildings burning No. 6 fuel oil to get off of that fuel by 2015. The regulation also calls for those burning No. 4 fuel oil to

switch by 2030. Natural gas burns cleaner than oil. For more information on this program Drury cites this on www.coned.com/gasconversions/. The City’s information on it is at: nycleanheat.org/

Con Ed is working with RIOC in an effort to minimize inconvenience to residents and businesses. One of the examples of that Drury gave is the timing of the work. Another important goal of Con Ed’s is preservation of the Island’s character. Drury pointed to Con Ed’s purchase of a customized mold to ensure the Z-brick patterning on Main Street remains.

RIRA Column, from page 3

district, which includes the Upper East Side, a portion of Midtown East, and Roosevelt Island. Through your support in last year’s Participatory Budget cycle, we were able to secure \$500,000 of the \$1.5 million needed to bring a 6,750 square-foot green roof and green STEM learning hub to our Island children at PS/IS 217. Because of your support, Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer pledge an additional \$250,000 towards the \$1.5 million needed for PS/IS 217’s green roof. We need your support again, not only to help PS/IS 217 secure the last round of financial support PS/IS 217 needs to make its green roof and STEM learning hub dream a reality,

but also to bring 10 Computer Carts to 10 New York City Public Schools, including our very own Roosevelt Island school, of which each school will receive 32 new computers. We need your vote!

To vote you do not need to be a registered voter or U.S. citizen; you only need to be a resident of Roosevelt Island. This year, anyone over the age of 14 can vote, giving more young people a voice and a choice. Voting begins on Saturday, March 26, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm during the RIRA Easter Egg Hunt at Manhattan Park, and continues on the following dates: Tuesday, March 29, from 4:00-7:00 pm at the Island F subway station; Wednesday, March 30 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the Tramway Plaza on the Manhattan side; and Thursday, March 31 from 7:30-10:30 am at PS/IS 217. There’s tough competition, against many others on the Upper East Side, so be sure to get your neighbors, family, friends, and pastor to come out vote in support of the Roosevelt Island initiatives. And be sure to vote and show the elected officials that Roosevelt Island has a strong voice and that we care about our community!

Composting Initiative

We asked that Islanders help make the Composting Initiative a success, and you have overwhelmingly

responded! Since the launch of the Composting Initiative late last November, over 188 Island households are registered composters diverting over 5,404 pounds of organic materials which would otherwise clog our landfills to be composted to enrich our City’s parks and gardens. That’s nearly three tons of organic kitchen scraps and materials to be composted. Keep spreading the word. Every household counts! The Roosevelt Island Composting Initiative will continue its cooperation with the NYC Compost Project and BIG-Reuse and will continue to accept organic kitchen scraps at the Roosevelt Island Saturday Markets under the Helix every Saturday from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. So keep bringing every Saturday your food scraps and leftover vegetables, fruit, bread, rice, egg shells, coffee grinds, paper tea bags, flowers and indoor plants that beyond their prime (but leave the meat, oil or dairy at home please) and join your fellow neighbors, RIRA, the Roosevelt Island Garden Club, the PS/IS 217 PTA, iDig2Learn the RI Girl Scouts and 118 other Island households in the movement as we look to reduce, reuse and recycle. Want to find out more about how you can join the movement? Send the Common Council an email at contact@riraonline.com.

**The 32nd Annual
GreenThumb GrowTogether Conference**

Saturday, March 19, 8:30 am - 4 pm
Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY

Opening ceremony with Parks Department
Commissioner Silver, 9:30 AM

There will be **two workshops**: 11:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.

iDigLearn’s workshop will be in RM 554
from 11:30 am-12:45 pm.

Also, experts, vendors, lunch, T-shirts, gardeners, etc.



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Please see ComingUp, page 3, for other advertising deadlines

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START-UP PROJECT needs Tech and social-media knowledgeable H.S. or college student for 6-month internship. Modest stipend. Call 917-678-3740.

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.

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.

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

NOTARY PUBLIC – 212-935-7534.

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.

WIRE Classifieds work. 212-751-8214.

iDig2Learn, from page 3

NYC and the City Parks Foundation. Children under 12 are free and adults are \$7. (See box on page 13 for more details.)

On Monday, March 28, at 4:15pm, iDig2Learn will reunite PS/IS 217 students, the Garden Club, RIOCC, and Girl Scout troops 3001, 3244, and 3245 with Trees New York, an environmental and urban forestry non-profit organization, to check on the progress of the apple trees we planted together last October near the Octagon soccer field. Trees New York's Director of Youth Programs, Cheryl Blaylock, and arborist Sam Bishop chose five unusual varieties of trees known for tasty apples: Crimson Gold, King David, Pink Pearl, Red Summer Rambo, and Tolman Sweet. Girl Scout Olivia Schaefer measured her height next to the trees to record their growth. She plans on doing this annually, and even joined the City Parks Foundation's Green Girls, a program that inspires young women to excel as environmental scientists, because of her experiences with this and other iDig2Learn initiatives. Like Olivia, we can hardly wait for the apples to grow, but thankfully patience, along with pruning, is taught as part of the multi-week spring educational session Trees New York provides. Islanders Vicki Feinmel and Willa Klein participated in Trees New York's citizen pruners course and are now certified to help keep our trees looking their best.

Seeing how enthusiastic children were about learning science through plant life, coupled with PS/IS 217's desire to expand its STEM curriculum, led to the pursuit of a 21st-century outdoor classroom in the form of a green roof. Along with being a haven for wildlife, it will be a model for other schools in the city and a welcoming place to learn for generations to come. This 1.5 million dollar Green Roof Project secured \$500,000 from City Council Member Ben Kallos' 2015 Participatory Budget for District 5 and \$250,000 from Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer's capital funds, but this is only half of the required funding. Saturday, March 26, marks the start of the 2016 Participatory Budget voting, a process that allows residents to vote on how one million tax dollars will be spent in their district. Of the fourteen projects on the District 5 ballot this year, two would directly impact the Island, including the balance of funding needed to finish the STEM-focused Green Roof Project and create a science hub. To vote you do not need to be a registered voter or U.S. citizen; you only need to be a resident of District 5. This year, anyone over the age of 14 can vote, giving more young people a voice and a choice. You can vote on or near the Island on Saturday, March 26, from 11:00am-2:00pm (during the RIRA Easter Egg Hunt) at 20 River Road (Manhattan Park); Tuesday, March 29, from 4:00-7:00pm at the Island F subway station; Wednesday, March 30, from 4:00-7:00pm at Tramway Plaza (Manhattan side); or Thursday, March 31, from 7:30-10:30am at PS/IS 217. Voting is open through Sunday, April 3. Please vote and show the elected officials that Roosevelt Island has a strong voice.

There are many ways to help the environment. Personal choices make a difference. Bring your own reusable shopping bag to the Wengert Farmer's Market, Gristedes, Wholesome Factory, or DuaneReade to cut down on the use of the plastic bags that end up in our parks and on our beaches. Small steps feel good and are surprisingly easy.

To learn more about iDig2Learn, visit iDig2Learn.org. Stay connected to iDig2Learn on Instagram and Twitter by following @iDig2Learn.



**STEM GREEN ROOF for PS/IS 217
& COMPUTER CARTS for SCHOOLS**

The City Council has announced the PS/IS 217 STEM Green Roof is on the 2016 Participatory Budget ballot to finalize funding. PS/IS 217 is also listed as one of 10 schools to receive a Computer Cart. There are 1 million dollars available for District 5 projects, but the competition is fierce, **voter turnout matters**.

Imagine 6,750 square feet of underutilized riverfront school roof that can be transformed into a Green STEM learning hub with views of Manhattan. Show our elected officials the island has a powerful voice, **spread the word and vote**.



Eligibility: Anyone living in District 5 (Roosevelt Island, Upper East Side, Midtown East) who is 14 years or older can vote. You don't need to be a US citizen or a registered voter.

You have several opportunities to vote on the island:

Manhattan Park, 20 River Rd. (During Egg Hunt)
SAT 3/26 | 11 am - 2 pm

F Train at Roosevelt Island
TUE 3/29 | 4 - 7 pm

Tramway Plaza at 59th St.
WED 3/30 | 4 - 7 pm

PS/IS 217, 645 Main St.
THU 3/31 | 7:30 - 10:30 am

You can also vote in Ben Kallos' District Office on Upper East Side:

District Office, 244 East 93rd St.
3/28-4/01 (Weekdays) | 9 am - 6 pm
3/26-27 (Weekends) | 11 pm - 5 pm
4/02-03 (Weekends) | 11 pm - 5 pm



Island Observer, from page 2

being the other). And our RIOCC representatives, with the exception of Margie Smith, quietly allow that to happen.

Our new RIOCC President & CEO, Susan Rosenthal, has been appointed on an "interim" basis. The other two offices were filled permanently: Kimberly Quinones as CFO and Sheldon Haynes as VP of Operations. At least the permanent position of CEO will come back to the Board for approval. We need significant public outcry that the conduct of the Board and the State must adhere to the provisions that are mandated by RIOCC's bylaws and by what is right and decent for our community. In fact, the RIOCC officers should hold a "meet the candidates" night and allow the community

to cast their votes to fill the position. They should use this public referendum to determine who to support in the RIOCC meeting that will be convened for approval. Our community should have an active voice in selecting the CEO of RIOCC.

Each of our resident RIOCC Directors serves in a long-expired position. The Governor has long ignored his responsibility to fill those positions and snubbed the last two community elections that nominated our choices. It's time for our Legislators to protect our rights and insist on directly elected government for our community!

As Roosevelt Island residents, if the State of New York tries to ram another staff appointee through, it is incumbent upon you to

be a visible and vocal presence in the public meeting to object to the process. In this way, we show the Governor we know how to unite. But it takes a lot of voices. Will **you**s be one? Will you join RIRA (Roosevelt Island Residents Association) in raising your voices to the **roar**? We cannot do it alone.

The Government Relations Committee of RIRA will do everything possible to get the press involved and shine a huge light on this issue. We will insist that RIOCC Directors fully exercise appropriate due diligence in filling any further RIOCC offices. But, we cannot do this without your help and that of our legislators, on whom we count to support our community's rights.

Will you roar with us?

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