

Next issue:  
Dec. 17-18

# The Main Street **WI**RE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044



**Listen, Scream, Faint** Rock idol Conrad Birdie (Kevin Gates) sends the females of Sweet Apple, Ohio, into fits of passion in the Main Street Theatre's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*, playing this weekend and next. Ticket information: 371-4449.

## Southpoint Hotel Developer Gets Negative Vibes at Meeting

Developers proposing 26-story hotel towers for Southpoint received a moderately hostile reception last week at a "Town Hall Meeting," as it was billed. Residents applauded when Steven Jamal told them, "If this project is not something that is welcome, and well-received by the people that live on Roosevelt Island, simply put, we pull up our stakes, we pack up our plans, and we go away, and we leave you..."

RIOC President Robert H. Ryan appeared to have anticipated the hostility, and had opened the meeting by admonishing residents that they would be cut off in a later audience participation portion of the meeting if they strayed past asking "questions" or making "suggestions." With Residents Association President Patrick Stewart at his side, Ryan said, "If, in the opinion of myself and Patrick, people are really getting off-target and are making speeches – if we're both in agreement on that – we're going to ask you to please sit down."

Even so, 15 out of the 17 questioners let their negative feelings about the project be known. More than once, Ryan interrupted – apparently with Stewart's assent – asking, "Is there a question in there?" or commenting, "I think that was borderline between question and comment, OK?"

Stewart's role as co-referee during the Town Meeting was a departure from his past practice of participating in such meetings as a critic or as a representative of the views of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association.

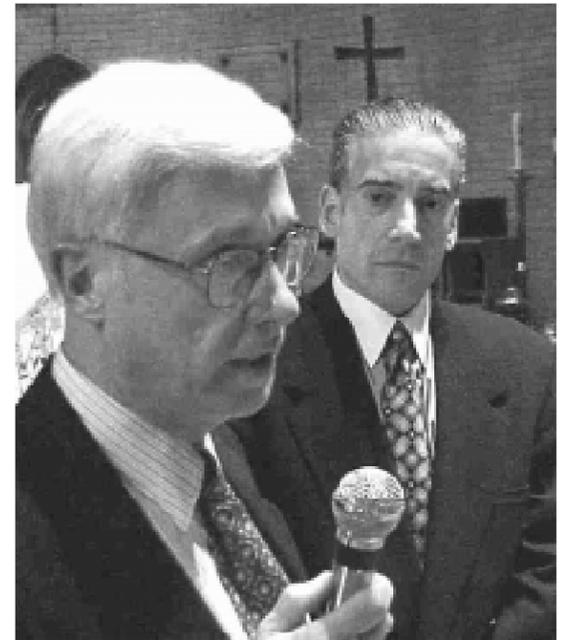
The meeting produced little new information about the project. Architect Ted Brumleve of Brennan, Beer, Gorman gave a clipped, factual presentation that largely stuck to what is already known about the project. "Nothing you see here is a fait accompli," he said. "Nothing you see here represents the final solu-

tions. And I say all that under the heading of, 'We intend to be neighbors.'"

(The transcript of the session is available on Website NYC10044, at [www.nyc10044.com](http://www.nyc10044.com). The architect has been asked for new drawings of the site, but did not provide them in time for this article; the drawings will be included on the website if they are provided.)

Aspects of the plan:

See **Southpoint**, page 6



Developers Mel Katz and Steven Jamal, as they pitched their Southpoint Hotel project to a Town Meeting last week

## The Pacification of Roosevelt Island And Its Role in Smoothing the Road to Development

News Analysis by Dick Lutz

"Good evening. I am Robert Ryan, President of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), and with me is Patrick Stewart, President of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association. And the reason we're both sitting up here today is, we're going to be the referees, and sort of lay out the ground rules of what is going on tonight. What is taking place here is an informational session where the SSJ Development Team is going to lay out their plans for Southpoint. They will answer questions, they will listen to what people have to say, they will take suggestions. This is not a forum, though, for people to stand up and give speeches. It's a forum to ask questions... If, in the opinion of myself and Patrick, people are... making speeches, if we're both in agreement on that, we're going to ask you to please sit down."

With those words, RIOC President Robert H. Ryan opened the meeting, two Mondays ago, in which the SSJ Development team outlined its plan for Southpoint.

From the audience of residents, there was not a peep. Not a word or sound of protest.

Had the same ground rules been laid out by Jerome Blue when he was President of RIOC, how would residents have reacted? Would they have walked out angrily, as they did March 1 when Blue failed to show up to hear residents' comments at a meeting about conversion of the mini-schools to luxury condominiums? Or would they have shouted Blue down with a hail of derision for an attempt to quash free expression?

However it would have been handled, it's unlikely the Island's activists would have taken it quietly. Surely, Blue would never have been able to recruit Residents Association President Patrick Stewart to join him as co-referee in such a session.

Things have changed on Roosevelt Island.

Jerry Blue is gone.

### The Honeymoon

Ryan is the new man, and he's somewhere on the trailing edge of an ill-defined honeymoon period during which activist residents have been taking his measure and allowing him some latitude – temporarily and warily taking him at his word, for example, when he professes to be working for them.

And Patrick Stewart is not only sitting in on RIOC Board meetings – he's up for State Senate confirmation to become a voting member of the Board.

Things have changed.

The pacification of Roosevelt Island can be traced back to a late-1997 decision by Joseph Lynch, Commissioner of the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, to meet with Patrick Stewart and two other residents, Audrey Berman of the Island House/Westview Task Force and Linda Heimer, an Island activist who later became a member of the RIRA Common Council. Lynch signaled his sympathy with resident dissatisfaction over Jerry Blue's regime by choosing not to defend Blue, and by professing belief in restoring a dialog with the community that had effectively been choked off by Blue's steadfast refusal to interact with the Roosevelt Island Residents Association.

But it wasn't to be. Glued in the saddle by his political relationship with Senator Al D'Amato, Blue found ways to make matters far worse throughout 1998. Blue attempted to increase ground rent at Island House and Westview. With subway repair about to start and no visible progress toward putting the Tramway into the Metrocard system, RIRA planned a Town Meeting on transit. Then, when a construction crane damaged a Tram cabin in an accident that could have been far worse, Blue laid off Tram workers and tried to use the mishap as an excuse to take the Tram out of service for an "indefinite period."

As a chaotic 1998 ranged from one Blue-stirred crisis to another, members of the RIOC Board of Directors and residents discovered that Blue had quietly issued a "Waterfront RFP (request for proposals)," and found plans were being brought forth for Island development that were seen as an ill fit for this narrow sliver of land in the East River that has no ready access to off-Island parks.

Blue had put the development ball in play, wasn't talking with residents' elected representatives on the RIRA Common Council, and a legally rigid set of procedures had been set in motion. Whatever efforts Joe Lynch might care to make to stabilize the Roosevelt Island situation, Blue found ways to rub acid into the wounds in the relationship between the State of New York and the residents of Roosevelt Island.

Residents protested a plan to put an eldercare building on parkland at the Octagon, and the RIOC Board, which had been surprised by the proposal to begin with, set it aside.

Weary of losing their voice in a democracy, a group of residents called The Maple Tree Group crafted legislation

that Assemblymember Pete Grannis introduced in Albany. Once law, it would empower residents to elect their neighbors to the RIOC Board, then hire and fire the President of RIOC, who otherwise would continue to be Governor George Pataki's instrument of colonial-style control over an Island he's never visited.

The proposal for Southpoint Hotel Towers (separate story, page 1) materialized in response to Blue's Waterfront RFP and sent lovers of parkland skyward: It was proposing development directly contrary to their understanding of the Island's General Development Plan – part of a legal contract between City and State under which the State manages the Island and its future – not the City.

As 1998 lurched from one Blue-created crisis to another, Ron Vass, a resident member of the RIOC Board of Directors, resigned the post with an angry blast at Blue. Blue's days appeared to be numbered, but it wasn't to be; he was to serve nearly another full year.

As the year ended, residents, frustrated with a lack of response from the State administration, handed it a slap: a 92% vote to give residents, not State appointees, control over the Island's affairs.

Days after the vote, at a RIOC Board meeting, Lynch made two announcements residents considered significant: Two residents nominated for the Board by Mayor Rudy Giuliani, but never proposed to the State Senate, would now sit in on RIOC Board meetings – Residents Association President Stewart, and Susan Whitaker, the Chair of the nearly-defunct Roosevelt Island Council of Organizations. Furthermore, residents would gain something of a voice in development. Lynch created two committees of the RIOC Board on which residents would have a formal voice: one on Capital Planning and Development, and one on Strategic Planning. These committees, which would include residents, put a new layer of review into the development process: These advisory committees would review development proposals and make recommendations to the RIOC Board.

If Lynch and State government truly wanted to pacify Roosevelt Island, this was seen as a significant step. Presumably, no longer would the President of RIOC take developer proposals to the RIOC Board as jack-in-the-box surprises, and no longer would the RIOC Board be voting with

See **Pacification**, page 2

# Pacification

from page 3

a bare minimum of information. Instead, they would have the thoughtful recommendations of a study group that would include resident views.

Seven months later, in June of 1999, Jerry Blue was suddenly gone, having left behind a relieved Island, but also a portfolio of proposed development that had to be seen through to decisions.

## Development Overriding

Development: It is overriding. Almost everything else about Roosevelt Island is, over time, subject to revision and repair. If the President of RIOC is a dud, he will one day be gone. If Public Safety fails to perform, residents can bring pressure for improvement. If the streets aren't clean, one day they can be. If the red buses occasionally run chaotically, it's a temporary inconvenience. But development...

Development is permanent. Development can change the character of the Island: Where once there was a soccer field and baseball diamond, there is construction, then buildings, then residents, then traffic. The housing economics of the new residences determine much about the nature of new neighbors. They, in turn, change the nature of the neighborhood.

And on a small Island, the neighborhood is everything. There is no relief in looking west if neighbors to the east aren't one's cup of tea. College students don't suddenly turn into parents raising toddlers. Owners of luxury condos don't give up their limousines and deliveries when they move in. Neighborhood – the structures and the neighbors – are everything.

Development is overriding.

## An Assessment

A year after Lynch's announcement of the Capital Planning and Development Committee (CPDC) and the Strategic Planning Committee, how have they served?

The Strategic Planning Committee, under RIOC Board member Frank McKenna, has barely met. McKenna himself has not been at recent RIOC Board meetings. At least one resident named to the committee considers it nothing more than an ill-disguised sham.

The Capital Planning and Development Committee has met, but not since its pivotal meeting late in August, when its Chair, Frank Angelino, asked its members to recommend full designation of The Hudson Companies and The Related Companies as the developers of Southtown. They did, and within a month, the RIOC Board conferred that status on Hudson and Related as the partnered developer. With those votes, CPDC and the RIOC Board effectively ceded all-important long-term control of the site to Hudson and Related.

So a question arises: *Did residents have a voice?* Was the Capital Planning and Development Committee an effective means of conveying residents' views, or of influencing what Southtown would become? Did the community meetings, the sessions with leaders, and the CPDC meetings really provide today's residents with some genuine influence over what will happen as Southtown is built, as the building proceeds, and when the building is done?

Or has CPDC been simply a component of the pacification of an Island which, under Jerry Blue's management, probably would have fought every suspected move to build?

It's fair to note that the CPDC voted against conversion of the Island's west-shore mini-schools into luxury condominiums. Suspicious of promises that the promenade would never be opened to traffic, and seeing the \$250,000-a-year ground rent as a pittance, CPDC said a firm "no." But the RIOC Board has yet to act on that recommendation, so the jury is still out on CPDC's effect in the matter.

But CPDC did recommend approval of the Southtown developers, and the RIOC Board did approve them. That, some would say, shows that the resident-input process CPDC represents is effective.

But was it? Did the system work?

Actually, there is a seemingly subtle, yet all-important, difference between what CPDC recommended, and what the RIOC Board approved. CPDC voted "yes" to give final designation as developers to Hudson and Related. The RIOC Board voted yes on Hudson/Related *and their plan* for Southtown.

The developers have said they see their plan as approved. RIOC President Ryan has said community input was adequate, and that the developers' plan was properly approved by the RIOC Board.

To see the difference between the CPDC recommendation and the RIOC Board's vote, you have to hear the conversation around the table as Frank Angelino gentled CPDC toward its "sense of the committee" on the developers, then compare it with the words of the RIOC Board's resolution.

As for the latter, it contained language giving final designation to the developer, but also this language: *Resolved, that the Revised Roosevelt Island Southtown Plan and Project are hereby approved.*

But to the extent that the resolution gave an OK to anything more than the developers, it may have stepped well beyond the bounds of the recommendation of the CPDC.

And to the extent it did that, the resident voice in the development of Roosevelt Island may have been diminished substantially.

Here, condensed for space reasons, is the conversation that preceded the August "sense of the committee" CPDC vote (the full transcript is available on *Website NYC10044* at [www.nyc10044.com/wire/2003/cpdctran.html](http://www.nyc10044.com/wire/2003/cpdctran.html)).

**Frank Angelino (Chair):** We have one item that we wanted to take up to get a sense of the committee, on Southtown... I thought this would be a good opportunity for us to go around the table and just state views... We would be designating the final designation of the developer to build on that area... in accordance with a plan that we've seen for housing plus certain amenities, as it's been developing... We want to take it to the final designation in order for them to continue to go through the processes they've been going through... hearings, working out details on the whole proposal.

**Laurence Parnes:** What does that designation do? ... What we saw the last time didn't sound like it was the final site plan... What future actions does the [RIOC] Board have to take? And if the Board does have to take future actions, will the Board look for input from this committee?

**Robert Ryan:** I'm sure the Board would want input, but most of the stuff from that point on will be having to do with engineering, construction schedules, stuff like that.

## To the Editor:

In response to questions from *The WIRE* regarding a concern for lack of community involvement in the Southtown plan, we thought it would be helpful to summarize our work to date in the development of Southtown.

Our two companies, the Related Companies LP and the Hudson Companies Inc. were conditionally designated by RIOC to develop Southtown in April, 1997. Starting with a large public meeting on May 12, 1997 with several hundred members of the community, Hudson and Related adopted the position from the beginning that we would meet in good faith with the community and be responsive to its concerns. We have met numerous times with community groups in meetings large and small, including numerous meetings with the Roosevelt Island Residents Association, its Common Council, public forums held at the Church of the Good Shepherd, the Southtown Housing Development Advisory Committee and the RIOC Board's Capital Planning and Development Committee.

Throughout the design process, the various versions of the Southtown plan have been widely circulated; in *The WIRE* alone, the architectural and massing plans have been printed at least half a dozen times. We stressed from the initial meetings that our early ideas were conceptual and could be modified. Subsequently, we revised many aspects of the plan in response to community concerns. For example:

- In contrast to the Ramati plan's loop road, we adopted the strong recommendation of many island residents for an extension of Main Street.

- We repositioned the southern buildings away from the tram to provide better views as you arrive on the island from the tram.

- We preserved a large active recreation space to maintain the soccer/baseball field, which had not been done in the Ramati plan.

- We reduced the height of the northwestern building and added setbacks in response to concerns about shadow lines affecting Rivercross.

- We added drop-off areas at the buildings to minimize traffic problems.

There were other details that impacted the plan as well. For instance, concerns about the subway tunnel required that we reposition buildings away from the subway line.

In sum, we believe that the Southtown plan was available for meaningful public comment, and that we were able to address most of the concerns articulated to us.

**Angelino:** There are issues, Larry, that become of concern that we could bring it back before [this] committee. [The developers] certainly showed a willingness to come to just about every meeting on the Island, so I think that they would be very happy to come back before the committee.

**Mary Camper-Titsingh:** But building height and everything, that's already been determined, for all the buildings?

**Ryan:** No, I don't think they've even designed...

**Camper:** But, I mean, will we have any control over that?

**Vincent Kopicki (RIOC Engineer):** I can't recall off-hand, but on the schematic there is a layout of tiered buildings.

**Camper:** And they're going to stick to that?

**Marc Diamond:** It wasn't presented to us as final... One of the things we ran into with the mini-schools is clearly an issue over what was approved originally and that type of thing. So I just wanted to be clear what this [final designation] means. Then we can decide how we proceed on that. The devel-

# Letters

The significant majority of community members reviewing the plan were supportive in all the public meetings, and this was reflected in *The WIRE's* interview with Robert Ryan on August 28 when Ron Schuppert stated, "Everyone who knows about it is 100% for Southtown."

In a recent RIRA meeting, some community members articulated new criticism of the Southtown plan that we had not heard in any of the prior public meetings over the past 30 months. Needless to say, any plan for Southtown, which will add 2,000 residential units to the island, can be attacked for a variety of reasons. Indeed, many island residents have expressed contradictory views on what should be developed: some want a continuation of the street wall along Main Street, while others want open spaces between buildings to offer river views; some want lower height buildings covering more of the site while others want to maintain as much open space and trees as possible which requires taller buildings. Overall we believe that the current plan has properly balanced many competing priorities for massing, open space and traffic circulation, and the end result has incorporated significant community input.

We look forward to continued community input and participation as we finalize many aspects of the design and planning for Southtown.

**David Kramer**  
**The Hudson Companies Inc.**  
**David Wine**  
**The Related Companies LP**

## To the Editor,

When our forefathers set democracy in motion, they invested in the belief that people are entitled to make choices. They created a system of government in which right and wrong is determined by common concepts, and public opinion is defined by a majority.

I'm troubled by a recent statement that Patrick Stewart made regarding democracy on Roosevelt Island. To a gathering of the Maple Tree Group, he expressed skepticism that a resident of Roosevelt Island who may be elected to a future RIOC board, could be "tempted by bribes" for their involvement. He also stated that, due to his concern, he was not sure what "form" Roosevelt Island's "democracy" should take.

Our forefathers' brand of democracy, grounded in the election process, has successfully weeded out bad apples for 200 years. It's the system by which our country has flourished. Governments that were fashioned out of elitism, protectionism, contrivance and constraint

have fallen by the wayside over those same 200 years.

Solutions to "containment" or "damage control" have been suggested. One such solution is to "fractionalize" the Island or divide it into small districts or buildings that would elect individual representatives. Our tiny Island should be united, however, not divided into camps.

The citizens of Roosevelt Island are entitled to make the same mistakes governing themselves as any other town or village in the United States. Community Board members are not appointed because they live in a specific building, but because they live in a community and have that community's interests at heart. The same is true of City Council members or members of the State Assembly.

Governor Pataki's failure to address the community's needs along with his appointment of a RIOC President who drove the community to the mattresses on several occasions ignited interest over the lack of democracy here. His present development proposals are not consistent with the General Development Plan, a plan whereby the State set itself free from local zoning laws that would allow the community a voice in its own development. Instead his plans jeopardize our parks, outrage our residents, and underscore the pressing need for democracy on Roosevelt Island.

Although Pataki has graced us with a new, more pleasant overlord, in the form of Robert Ryan, he has not changed the role Islanders play in government affairs. Ryan can listen or not listen to residents as he chooses. He can dictate policy according to his own beliefs, interests, and the Governor's agenda. While Ryan has conducted himself as admirably as most Islanders could expect, the hideous breach of democratic principal that put him here is an insult to us all.

Speaking at a recent RIRA Common Council meeting, Ryan said emphatically that the new advisory boards to which residents have been appointed have no decision-making authority, and he is not obligated to follow their recommendations. While his candor is appreciated, it should serve as a wake-up call for democracy to every resident of Roosevelt Island.

Rather than leading the outcry for democracy, our RIRA President, Patrick Stewart, concerns himself over how to protect us from ourselves. It seems our forefathers' concept of democracy has been lost on him. Theirs was a belief that consensus, not contrivance, not elitism, and certainly not fear, served the greater good of society and 200-plus years of history have proved them correct.

**Joyce Mincheff**

oper made a presentation at a town meeting, I think, where he laid out a scheme, made some comments about the heights of the buildings, talked about the... I think he was going to have a central, town center type of thing, and I think that was generally met favorably. The question is to what extent is he bound at all by that concept, and if not, what, does he have to go through to change it, or can he go now and build...

**Ryan:** I'm not sure on the height of the buildings. The footprints of the buildings and everything, none of that is going to change.

**Parnes:** I understand, but do they have to come back to the Board after this for further approvals, and if so, what are they? Or are they now free to develop as they see fit...?

**Ryan:** No, they're going to have to come... I mean, Vinnie, don't they have to come back with all the plans?

**Vincent Kopicki (RIOC Engineer):** They have to come back with partial plans for approval.

**Continued at top of next page**

Continued from previous page

**Parnes:** And does that require Board approval, as well?

**The Question**

At that point – seemingly with several questions remaining unresolved as to just how much final authority such a vote would cede to the developers – Chair Frank Angelino cut off debate and asked for the committee’s sentiment. His question, which ran over 400 words, is presented here unedited:

**Angelino:** If I may, at this point, because I know that the questions are all vital and also very appropriate, I think that what I was thinking that we could do tonight, knowing what we know so far about Southtown, knowing who the developers are, knowing that they have gone through a certain community process in a number of meetings with the community, including our big meeting in March where there was that whole opportunity for everybody on the Island, knowing that they have a certain window of timing right now because of possible changes in market conditions and financing and other things, and knowing they need to make certain commitments if they want to have users along the lines of the medical facility that he was talking about, or medical personnel, and knowing also that it’s going to be a phased development, we do know... I wanted to get a sense from this committee whether, up to this point, ...it would be helpful if we just went around the committee and got a sense of the committee whether, on what they’ve seen so far, whether... and reserving any opportunity to make any comment on specific aspects of the project, whether or not the committee is comfortable at this point with having the Board taking it up to do the designation of these two people as the developers for the project?

**Ryan:** You have my word, also, that the committee will be part of the process as this moves forward. I mean, it would be stupid for you not to be part of the process.

Angelino then went around the table, taking the “sense of the committee” he’d asked to hear. The uncertainty of some members, and the assumption that the RIOC Board would have to vote on specifics and that there would be a future opportunity to advise the RIOC Board, was apparent in the discussion:

**Patrick Stewart:** Overall, I’m very much for it as presented to us. What I have seen of the drawings and all of that is good. I’d like to have something in writing about the plans that have been presented to date and those that seem to have the general approval of the Island...

**Diamond:** I think there’s probably a distinction between what... We’re looking for final approval at this point, but it’s final approval of the developer as opposed to final approval of his project.

**Ryan:** Correct.

**Diamond:** The conceptual design should be approved by RIOC as they go along: conception, design development, schematic design, whatever... From what I have seen, I’m in favor of final approval for this developer and his conceptual design.

**Hochman:** Well, I agree, but I still take... I agree with accepting the developers, but I really am still so unclear about the project. I will accept the scheme in the way they had it. I cannot go into any details at all since I really have not seen...

**Camper:** Yes, that’s the way I feel, too, frankly. The developer in fine. I wholeheartedly approve and you know, I would like to see them get started as soon as possible. But I think there are still many, many questions about what he’s going to put there.

**Ryan:** Well, this is, you see, the engineering alone is going to take eight or nine months. It’s not something that’s going to happen overnight.

**Camper:** But we want...

**Ryan:** No, I hear you. The committee will be part of the process. You will be briefed.

**Angelino:** I share the same views as the ones expressed. Again, it’s a process where there’ll be a lengthy document which will embody all of the terms that are being discussed now and all of the obligations of the developers and all of the benefits to the Island, and there’ll be a number of steps as Marc mentioned where there’ll be opportunity for... and certainly... I’m sure the Board will be interested, I’m sure this committee would be interested in seeing how the design progresses so that... and especially also not only the buildings themselves but also the surrounding grounds, and I think everybody would be very interested in that, so it’s a process, but I think it’s helpful to have a sense of the committee that generally, with the reservations expressed, that people are generally in favor of those developers and how they’ve conducted themselves and presented the project to date and the benefits that the project will bring to the Island.

**What Happened?**

It’s clear, in reviewing *Website NYC10044’s* full transcript of the meeting, that much was unclear. Were members of the committee approving the positions of the buildings? Their size?

**The WIRE**

Published by **The Main Street WIRE**  
©1999 Unisource2000™ Inc.  
531 Main St. #413  
Roosevelt Island, NY 10044

**Saturday, December 4, 1999**

News (212) **826-9055**  
Urgent news **1-917-353-1647**  
Advertising (212) **751-8214**  
Circulation (212) **935-7534**  
Fax (212) **755-2540**  
email **mainstreetwire@rcn.com**  
in association with **Website NYC10044**

Managing Editor – Dick Lutz  
Chief Feature Writer – Anusha Shrivastava  
Chief Proofreader – Kay Thompson  
Advertising Manager – Ellen Levy  
Circulation Managers – George Rubin, Sherie Helstien  
Founding Publisher – Jack Resnick  
Editor Emeritus – Jim Bowser

Sophia Adams, Amy Ambrosino, Russell Aragon, Rafael Asenjo, David Bauer, Judy Berdy, Steve Bessenof, Laurence Brodsky, Mary Camper-Titsingh, Melanie Castline, Lynn Chambers, Malcolm Cohen, Debra Mount Cornet, Shirley Cruz, Morris Diamond, Arlise Ellis, Norm Ellis, Enrique Fernandez, Sarita Fonseca, Claire Friedland, Karen Ganzi, Atul Golchale, Jayashree Golchale, Teresa Hasing, Linda Heimer, John Hennessey, Peter Kaplan, Mickey Karpeles-Bauer, Matthew Katz, Deolinda Leitao-Greene, Ruth Limmer, Curtis Lowery, Nina Lublin, Lena Lutz, Hazel Lynch, Clarissa McCraley, Donny McIntyre, Merle McLean, Myrna Mendis, Jill Milner, Terry Moses, Bruce Munsch, Louise Munsch, Sandra Narine, Juan Nieves, Nancy Olivera, Joan Raimone, Steve Raimone, Margery Rubin, Ron Schuppert, Bernie Schwartz, Beryl Seaforth, Marilyn Sherman, Stuart Solway, Joyce Speziale, Karen Stewart, Pearl Thomas, David Tsireskin, Elena Vrinceanu, Rece Walford, Maggie Warner, Robin Williams, Nina Winteringham, Rose Woods

**COMING UP**

Compiled by Claire Friedland – phone/fax 317-8523

**Sat., Dec. 4, 8:00 p.m., Main Street Theatre** production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. Additional performances Sun., Dec. 5, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.; and Fri.-Mon., Dec. 10-13, same times. For information, **371-4449**.

**Fax or phone event information to 317-8523. Please provide a phone number for follow-up. There is no charge for listing Island events here.**

**Wed., Dec. 8, 8:00 p.m., RIRA Common Council Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Public

welcome to address the Council in the public portion of the session.

**Thur., Dec. 9, 11:00 a.m., RIOC Board of Directors** meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

**Fri., Dec. 10 (and successive Fridays), 7:00 p.m., Roosevelt Island Art Association, Sketch Session**, live model, 546 Main Street. Information, **921-5939**.

**Fri., Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., Magic and Variety Show**. Chapel of the Good Shepherd, produced by Lila Gilbert, featuring Engle Conrow, Mel Haughwout, and Edmund Johnston. Free.

**Fri., Dec. 10, 8:00 p.m., Main Street Theatre** production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. Additional performances Sat., Dec. 11, 8:00 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 12, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m. For information, **371-4449**.

**Mon., Dec. 13, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters**. For information, call **687-4010**.

**Wed., Dec. 15, 7:45 p.m., Roosevelt Island Photographic Society** meeting. Field trip, shooting holiday lights at night. Information: **752-5034**.

**Sat., Dec. 18, Christmas/New Year’s issue of The Main Street WIRE.**

**Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Dec. 10; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Dec. 13; bag materials due Dec. 16. **Future issues:** Jan. 8, 22; Feb. 5, 19; Mar. 4, 18; Apr. 1, 15, 29; May 13, 27; June 10; July 1 (for July 4); Aug. 26; Sept. 9, 23; Oct. 7, 21; Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 2, 16; Jan 13, 2001; generally every two weeks thereafter. Advertisers wishing to be included in unscheduled **EXTRA** editions, without notice at the time, are invited to call **826-9055** to make their interest known. **Phone/fax** for news, (212) **826-9055/755-2540**; urgent/breaking news, 917-353-1647; phone/fax for advertising inquiries, (212) **751-8214/755-2540**; phone/fax to list your Island organization’s event here (no charge), **317-8523**.

**Sun., Dec. 19, 11:00 a.m., Memorial Service** for Lois Schwab, Main Street Theatre.

**Tue., Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion Group, The Stranger** by Albert Camus, Library. Meets third Tuesday of each month; admission free but pre-registration suggested.

**Mon., Dec. 27, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters**. For information, call **687-4010**.

**Wed., Jan. 5, 2000, 8:00 p.m., RIRA Common Council Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

**Mon., Jan. 10, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters**. For information, call **687-4010**.

The location of Main Street in the new area? The placement of a soccer field at the Southeast corner of the site near the Queensboro Bridge? The order in which the buildings would be constructed?

In community meetings after the RIOC Board’s resolution gave Hudson/Related “final designation” and approved the final *Plan and Project*, as its resolution put it, CPDC members shed some light on what they thought they were recommending.

Jeff Hochman, for example, spoke briefly at a meeting of the RIRA Common Council, of which he is a member, when RIOC President Ryan visited for a give-and-take session. Hochman said, speaking of the final designation voted at the August CPDC meeting, “We didn’t have it on the agenda... There was a sense, not a vote. People have come to me and said we voted on the specific plan. I don’t agree.”

Ryan responded, “I don’t agree with that,” then reminded Hochman, “It is an advisory committee... Your job is to give *advice*. You are telling what the community feels, OK? You are advising the Board. The Board then has to take an action, OK?” Searching his memory for details of the CPDC meeting, Ryan continued: “What I think was given, what took place that night... advice was given to the board that, in the big picture, the community liked the development and liked the concept of the development... that as the process works forward... They haven’t... you see... everybody thinks... I mean, this is what kills me about ‘trucks are rolling down the street next month.’ They haven’t even done their engineering and architecture work yet.”

Hochman tried for clarification, and got some help from RIRA President Patrick Stewart:

**Hochman:** I’m saying there was a misinterpretation.  
**Stewart:** My understanding of all of that was that it was the sense of the committee to approve the de-

**At the Senior Center**

**Monday**  
9:00-10:00, **Stay Well** (Exercise)  
10:00-11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beg)  
11:00-12:00, **English as 2nd** (intermediate)  
6:30-7:30, **Line Dancing**  
**Tuesday**  
10:00-10:45, **Jazzercise with Barbara Parker**  
1:30, **Bingo** (RISA)  
**Wednesday**  
9:00-10:00, **Stay Well** (Stretch)  
10:00, **Friendship Doll-Making Workshop**  
10:00-11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beg)  
11:00-12:00, **English as 2nd** (intermediate)  
1:30, **Games**  
8:00, **Bridge**  
**Thursday**  
10:00-11:00, **Tai Chi**  
12:30, **Movie**  
**Friday**  
10:00-11:00, **Citizenship Class**  
10:00-11:00, **English as a Second Language**  
10:00-12:00, **Creative Arts Workshop**  
10:30-11:30, **Blood Pressure Screening**  
12:30, **Friendship Doll-Making Workshop**  
7:00-9:00 p.m., **Korean/English Class**  
**Saturday**  
7:00 p.m., **Bingo**

**Special Events**

**Call in advance for details: 980-1888**  
Sat.-Sun., Dec. 4-5, **Annual Flea Market**  
Mon., Dec. 6, **Atlantic City Trip**  
Mondays (Dec. 6, 13, 20), 10:00 a.m., **Baby Bibs Project**  
Fri., Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., **Magic & Variety Show** (Chapel of the Good Shepherd)  
Mon, Dec. 13, 11:00-12:30, **Metrocard Bus**  
Tue., Dec. 14, 12:30, **VNS Service** (tentative)  
Sat., Dec. 18, 7:00 p.m., **Holiday/Birthday Party**  
Mon, Dec. 27, 11:00-12:30, **Metrocard Bus**  
Fri., Dec. 31, 8:00 p.m., **New Year’s Eve Party**

veloper, not the plan, not the architecture, none of that, because there wasn’t anything to approve... They haven’t done any of that stuff yet, so what we agreed to was to approve the developer and nothing else. When the developers appeared before a subsequent session of the RIRA Common Council’s Planning Committee, David Wine of Related and David Kramer of Hudson told *The WIRE* that they felt their massing plan – the layout of the buildings, the soccer field, Main Street – had received the approval of the RIOC Board. But not all CPDC members were so sure of that. Mary Camper-Titsingh, for example, told *The WIRE*: “We said clearly that we were in favor of the developers, but we specifically required the right to comment on any of the specific plans that they proposed for that area, because we had never really been given a final picture of what they were planning to do... the height of the buildings, and all those things, were hypothetical. Larry Parnes and Jeff Hochman specifically wanted to be able to comment on the proposal that they finally came up with.”

*The WIRE* queried all the members of the committee, as well as the developers, and Ryan of RIOC, in an attempt to determine just what they thought had been approved by CPDC, and whether the RIOC Board’s approval of the “plan and project” was in conflict with CPDC’s advice. Developers Wine and Kramer responded by indicating they felt there had been significant opportunity for community input, and said they look forward to continued community input. Their letter, which is published in full in this issue of *The WIRE*, did not back off from their earlier statements that their massing plan, the location of Main Street, and the placement of the new soccer field have the final approval of the RIOC Board of Directors.



## A Friendly Place for Children to open their first account and start learning how to manage their finances

### FEATURES:

- LOW \$25 Minimum Balance lets you start saving right away**
- NO Monthly Service Charges**
- NO Maintenance Fees**

### BENEFITS:

- Dividends paid on balances of \$25 or more**
  - Deposit funds in person, by mail, direct deposit or payroll deduction**
  - Access funds by mail, telephone (MON-TALK), or in person**
  - Convenient access to funds and account information 24 hours a day**
- We recommend that a parent or guardian become joint owners with children under 18.**  
**Call today for more information.**  
**Children opening an account will receive a free gift (while supplies last).**

# Montauk Credit Union

*MCU – Your Financial Neighbor*

559 Main Street, Roosevelt Island, NY 10044 • Phone (212) 643-3900 Fax (212) 588-1123  
**ALL MEMBER ACCOUNTS INSURED UP TO \$100,000 BY THE NCUA**

**Tell advertisers  
you saw them in *The WIRE*.  
Every mention helps!**

# JAY'S SEA WORLD FISHMARKET

530 Main Street • Roosevelt Island  
**(212) 935-1702**

### Japanese Sushi

- Veggie Roll Combo \$5.99
- California Roll \$3.99
- Tuna Roll \$5.99
- Tuna Combo \$5.99
- House Moriawase \$5.99
- Super (Sushi Combo) \$8.99
- Veggie Tempura \$1.99

### Fresh Sushi Delivered Every Day!

- Live Lobster
- Snow Crab Legs
- Sea Food Mix

### Ready to Eat (Microwave)

- Cajun Marinated Catfish
- Lemon Pepper Marinated Catfish
- Salmon Teriyaki

**Mon-Sat, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
Closed Sundays

Sales & Service  
Est. 1961

## CHRIS TV Repair Service Center

License #730671  
Credit Cards Accepted

TV-VCR-STEREO-CD-PROJECTION TV-CAMCORDERS and more...

Free Estimates in Shop.  
Free Pickup & Delivery with Repair  
In-Home Service  
All Work Guaranteed

**718-392-7444**

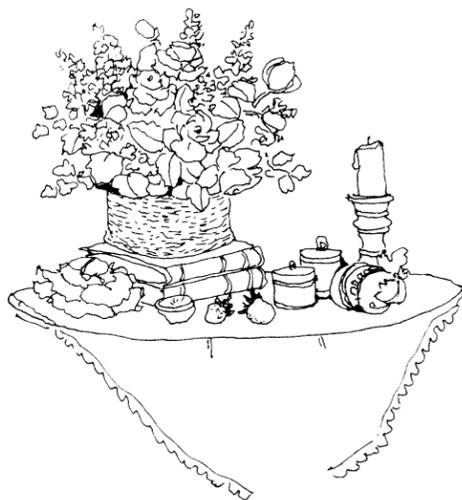
Mon.-Fri. 9-7  
Sat. 9-6  
21-16 36th Av.  
LIC, NY 11106

Give your apartment a lift

## HOME SHOPPING SERVICE

Let me do your legwork

*Budget Oriented  
Time-saving*



- Furniture*
- Upholstery, Slipcovers*
- Wallpaper & Fabric*
- Carpet & Area Rugs*
- All Window Treatments*
- Floor & Terrace Tiles*
- Lighting*
- Carpentry*
- Kitchen Renovation*
- Paint & Faux Finishes*
- All Accessories*
- Closet Design*

**Ellen Levy**  
Interior Decorator  
531 Main Street

free initial consultation

**751-8214**

# Acacia

French Comfort Food



*"All our entrees had our group cheering..."*

Gael Greene, *New York Magazine*

Lunch and Dinner  
Monday-Saturday  
Happy Hour 4-6 p.m.

**LIVE MUSIC**  
Friday & Saturday evenings  
No cover, no minimum

217 East 59th Street  
btwn. 2nd & 3rd Aves  
**212 751-5557**

*Catering at our place or yours*  
**Take-out Available**  
**Steps from the Tramway**

# Domenick's wines & spirits

*Make Domenick's your holiday cheer center*

**OVER 90 GIFT SETS, UNIQUE BASKETS, &  
MILLENNIUM ITEMS ON DISPLAY**

**WE HAVE KOSHER WINES ALWAYS IN STOCK**

**28-22 Astoria Blvd. PH: 718-728-4666**

*in Astoria*

**FREE PARKING IN REAR  
FREE DELIVERY FREE GIFT WRAP  
EVERYDAY BARGAIN PRICES**

*Happy Holidays from Domenick's*

## Pacification from page 3

But two resident CPDC members, Camper-Titsing and Byron Gaspard, were unequivocal: *Do you feel the community has had adequate opportunity for input [on Southtown], either through CPDC or by other means, regarding (a) the order of construction of buildings, (b) the massing plan (size and positioning of buildings), (c) the location of the soccer field, and (d) the location of Main Street?* Camper and Gaspard answered, “No,” on all points.

The WIRE also asked the committee members, *Do you feel CPDC has endorsed any of the listed items.* Again, Camper-Titsing and Byron Gaspard answered unequivocally, “No.”

Patrick Stewart, on the other hand, seemed to disagree with the statements he’d made when Ryan visited the RIRA Common Council meeting: He answered “yes” to every item, then added a note saying, “Committee approved concept and principle... Construction matters, infrastructure, positioning of buildings, layout of building interiors... etc., have yet to be determined.”

Hochman responded to *The WIRE’s* survey by saying “there [have] been many meetings with the developers in which our opinions have been listened to,” suggesting he is satisfied with the level of community input. “I will agree or disagree when each individual aspect of the plan is fleshed out,” he wrote. “I think the order of construction makes sense financially... I approved the location of Main Street. We have asked them to change certain aspects of the building size and bulk, including location. Although the developers did not change 100%, they did make some movement.”

CPDC member Larry Parnes commented, “I distinctly remember the developers stating how they had modified the site plan in response to residents’ comments... my feeling was that I was getting into the thing a little late.” Parnes added, “The recent approval by the committee basically supported the schematic site plan. The committee was assured by Rob Ryan that issues related to construction impacts, the nature of the housing and design details were not finalized and that the committee would have input on those issues.”

Parnes went on, in his response, “...it has surprised me that some issues have recently been raised about Southtown that did not appear to be issues in the past. One involves the supposed blocking of the view to the Queensboro Bridge from Main Street... the view that one sees as one passes Rivercross lawn and heads toward the subway will not be affected...” Parnes also commented that the present soccer field, which is part of the construction site, slopes to the west, and the playing field is not in good condition, and said he feels the community should focus its effort, “rather than [on] prohibiting development on the existing field as some have suggested,” on “requiring the developers to complete the new soccer field near the bridge before construction begins at the current one.”

Parnes commented further: “There’s been some concern that Rob Ryan is using the CPDC’s approval of the Southtown schematic site plan as the OK from residents to proceed on Southtown without further input from either the committee or residents. If the committee is so influential, let’s see what happens with the mini-school condominium proposal, which was all but unanimously opposed by the committee.”

Marc Diamond, an architect who serves on CPDC, told *The WIRE*, “There was an urgency to RIOC’s requesting our input. It was to accommodate a time-sensitive opportunity for the developer. CPDC was clearly advised that nothing in detail was being asked to be reviewed. That is, we were not asked to review, nor advise approval of the specific location of Main Street, the nature of the bends in Main Street, the specific locations, orientations, heights, setbacks, economic mix, financial structure of the buildings, nor any other detailed aspect of the project. If any of these specific items are no longer subject to change, CPDC was bypassed.”

Another resident member of CPDC, Lisa Knox, did not respond to a request for her views on the level of community input. However, she has generally supported RIOC on development matters, both in the days of Jerome Blue and now.

RIOC’s Ryan responded to the questions about community input by pointing out that there have been “eight RIOC meetings” to discuss the plan, that “the developers have

met individually with community leaders, and twelve articles and three editorials have appeared in *The Main Street WIRE...*” Ryan stopped short of claiming that the CPDC had approved the location of the soccer field or of Main Street, the massing plan, or the order of construction.

### Pacification

But it may be evidence of the pacification of Roosevelt Island that when Ryan has appeared before meetings, he has said the order of construction of the new buildings is dictated by the availability of infrastructure (electrical lines, water, sewer, AVAC) at the north end of the site, and most activists have simply accepted his assertion that the order of construction is governed by economics.

One or two residents have suggested that construction start at the Tramway. But Ryan has responded that the economics don’t permit it, and that response has usually been accepted, in meetings, without further complaint or comment. No member of the community has asked why the sole determinant must be economics, rather than, for example, what might be best for the Island if only two or three Southtown buildings are completed before a downturn in the real estate market.

### A Pacification Success?

Certainly, the removal of Jerome Blue and the creation of the Capital Planning and Development Committee with several resident members has been a successful effort toward pacification of Roosevelt Island – successful enough, along with a good real estate market, to get development moving here.

It remains to be seen if the RIOC Board may yet assert itself with the developers of Southtown, demanding that they submit details of the massing plan for Board consideration. But the Board itself effectively gave its approval to the order of construction, for example, when its resolution budgeted available funds for extension of the infrastructure. There is a question, then, as to how much a RIOC Board consisting mostly of non-residents, some of whom have had a spotty attendance record at best, will push for more information and control in their once-a-month visits to the Island.

Oddly, at no point through the process did anyone officially involved in the process pursue the concern about the order of construction, possibly tending to think of Southtown as a whole, rather than the possibility that construction of its parts may be spread over many, many years.

In all this, there is a suggestion that, for the community, pacification has been something of an end in itself – that once satisfied by the removal of Blue and the creation of the CPDC input mechanism, the community lost interest in demanding any serious contemplation of the gross specifics of Southtown. Perhaps distracted by the mini-schools proposal and by fear of luxury hotel towers at Southpoint, Island activists seem to have relaxed, almost sitting back to watch the process like a parade going by in which they have no significant role.

And, as Jeff Hochman observed in the RIRA meeting dialog with Rob Ryan, “We do not have a formal procedure on this Island for the community to be involved. There is nothing like we have in the rest of the City – a ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Process). We don’t have that. And so, you may say we had these hearings... but the public hearings under the previous administration never had one item, or one request, or one statement recorded, so we could know what’s going on.”

Hearing Hochman, Ryan responded, “With the former administration, did you have a Town Hall Meeting where you could ask questions...?” He was defending his approach to managing Roosevelt Island by comparing it with Jerome Blue’s. But he didn’t contradict Hochman’s lament that there is no formal process for community input and, as yet – without a locally-elected RIOC Board and without power beyond advice on CPDC – residents have no genuine power they can exercise over development of the Island.

But development, on an Island this small, is everything. Other things – dissatisfaction with Public Safety or worries about restoration of Blackwell House – can be left to time and good effort to repair. Development – the digging of foundations and the pouring of concrete – is irreversible.

And on Roosevelt Island, development is everything.

## Southpoint from page 1

• If the hotel-conference center is built, the Marriott chain will manage it.

• The first of the two 26-story towers is comprised of a 350-room hotel on 15 floors, topped by 11 floors of luxury condominiums.

• Waterborne access – ferry service – would be available. Brumleve said, “Our intent is not to provide surface transportation as the only means of getting to and from this location,” and, “This isn’t to say that we won’t put one more vehicle trip on the surface streets, but our intent here is to extremely limit the amount of impact we have on Main Street traffic.” Brumleve said the closed heliport at 61st Street might be a “land base,” or welcoming center, for the hotel, with additional ferry stops at Wall Street, 34th Street, and La Guardia Airport Marine Air Terminal. “We see the traffic coming to and from this site as being predominantly in that mode,” he said, but the team later responded to a question from resident Alex Marshall by saying no traffic studies have yet been done.

• Just under three acres of the ten-acre site would be given over to a public park. (Critics say the entire site is designated parkland.)

• The former small-pox hospital, known as the Renwick Ruin after its designer, who also designed St. Patrick’s Cathedral, would be rehabilitated as a conference center. It would hold conference “break-out rooms,” a dining room, and support areas for what the developers described as “intensive learning conferences” rather than larger trade shows.

• The hotel would include a full-service spa, a ballroom, and other amenities of a first-class hotel.

• The second tower would be built in response to market demand.

• The site would include a “five-star, first-class luxury restaurant.”

Brumleve told residents attending the meeting, “We feel as though the project is an appropriate, commercially vital extension of the fabric of Roosevelt Island.”

Representatives of Marriott Corporation made a lengthy presentation in the meeting, talking about the chain’s involvement with the areas where it operates hotels, and its efforts to integrate with those communities. There were no specifics about possible involvement with the Roosevelt Island community.

Developer Steven Jamal made a brief presentation, telling residents, “I might be biased at this point because Southpoint has literally become part of my body. It’s been two years and change since I discovered the site, and I’m very, very emotional about it. I feel very strongly about it. I feel that the team we put together very eloquently represents exactly what this project is about... It’s about win-win... It’s about the community of Roosevelt Island winning, as well as everybody involved in the project, winning.”

“The positives clearly, in my mind, and I think eventually, when you come to understand this project fully, totally outweigh any negatives that could be endured either through the construction phase, or vis-a-vis the traffic that might be increased. Those are things we need to work through, and the only way to work through these things is for us to together, collectively, to work through them. Nobody here, certainly not myself, not Marriott, not anybody, is going to force-feed anything down your throats.” It was at that point Jamal made his promise that if the project is not welcome, his team will “pack up... and leave you,” and received applause for the idea.

Responding to that thought in the Q&A session, Rivercross resident Steve Marcus asked Jamal, “Are you willing to put that to some sort of referendum after you’ve clearly [made your] case?” Jamal responded, “If there isn’t community support, and if the nays outweigh the yeas, and that’s how it goes, obviously this project is not a project.” When Marcus asked how that would be determined, Jamal said he would leave that to Ryan and Stewart, and said he understands that “there are voices here that are, in terms of quantity, they may not be that many, but the voices of disagreement or of negativity is certainly a lot louder than that of the optimists.” Marcus pressed the point: “Would you accept a fair and free vote?” Ryan responded, “To have a true vote you would need to get the New York City Board of Elections involved. It is a very complicated process.”

### Parkland

A major point of controversy in the proposed development is its placement on the designated parkland of Southpoint. Jamal responded to a question from Historical Society officer Judith Berdy by saying that the hotel was placed on the footprint of the ruins of City Hospital, which was razed in the 80’s. Pointing at a site drawing, he said, “We drew [a] line... This, I considered this to be holy land, so I drew a line in my mind right down here to the tip that nothing would be developed over there other than a promenade... so that everybody on the Island can go all the way to Southpoint. The hotel itself sits on what was once the footprint of the City Hospital.” Jamal continued by pointing out that the public now has access to Southpoint only on the Fourth of July, at a price, to view the East River fireworks.

Berdy criticized the plan as “the Milwaukee Airport Hotel,” telling the development team that “it has no architectural significance to Roosevelt Island... It is a glass monolith ‘thing.’ This is something you would build at an airport, in a faraway place, hopefully.” Brumleve responded that he expected Berdy would be more approving of future versions of the design.

### The GDP

As she has before in meetings about development, long-time resident Shirley Margolin raised the question of the Island’s General Development Plan, asking, “Why is it that there has not been any discussion about a revision of the GDP? We believe that all of that area is designated parkland.” Ryan interrupted Margolin by telling her that her question was a concern for a RIOC meeting, not the meeting with developers. “I think I have been very kind so far,” he said. “I’m going to reiterate, this is a forum to ask questions, Shirley, and not make statements. OK? So, can we please keep it to questions, OK?”

### Other Matters

Other matters raised by questioners included:

• The “yes/no” nature of the choice presented by the current state of the proposal, meaning the RIOC Board must choose between this project and no project at all, before the way can be opened to considering other possibilities for the site. Ryan said this project has to be “tweaked” first to see if it can be made acceptable.

• The source of funding for the infrastructure – electric, water, and sewer lines – needed to support the complex. There were no hard answers.

• The handling of refuse from and supplies for the complex. Brumleve said such traffic would occur in the middle of the night, but was quickly reminded that garbage trucks traversing Main Street would create a disturbance in the “Main Street canyon.” Brumleve said, “The volume of deliveries is broken down into such small pieces that we feel that we can handle a majority of that in ways that you won’t even see – by public transit that we’re going to provide by ferry, on and off the mainland.”

• The size of parking lots in the plan raised a question in Joyce Mincheff’s mind about likely vehicle traffic. In response, there was a suggestion they might be decreased in size.

• The scale of the project and its relationship to the rest of a residential Island was raised by artist Jose Baca, who pointed at a rendering of the two hotel towers, reminded listeners of the “Where’s the beef?” commercial of several years back, and asked “Where’s the Island?”

Support  
**WIRE**  
Advertisers

# SPORTSWIRE

Sarah Johnson

**SOCCER** In the Senior Soccer Division (ages 11-14), the Green Team, led by Michael Kirkman and Seth Kaufman at midfield and Zachary Russem in goal, won the championship by capturing its two playoff games by identical 1-0 scores. The championship game between Green and Blue was closely contested throughout, with the only goal coming midway through the second half. The Blue Team was anchored by the play of Chris Sipe.

**FOOTBALL** The Youth Program's Flag Football League is off to a fast start, featuring closely-contested, high-scoring games. In the 11-13 Division, the Packers, led by Sika Franco and Anthony Simmons, are tied for first place with the Lions, led by Deshawn Pearson and Owen Price. The Vikings, led by Brandon Steuber and Michael Chambers, are tied for third place with the Bears, led by Keith Summers and Fode Bah.  
The season will conclude with playoffs scheduled for December 11 and 18.

Standings  
11-13 Division

Place	Team	Led By	
1	Packers	Sika Franco	Anthony Simmons
1	Lions	Deshawn Pearson	Owen Price
3	Vikings	Brandon Steuber	Michael Chambers
3	Bears	Keith Summers	Fode Bah

**BASKETBALL** The Roosevelt Island Youth Program will run a winter basketball league for boys 14-16 on Friday evenings and a co-ed program for ages 11-13 on Saturday afternoons. Anyone interested in playing should register at the Youth Center (506 Main Street, 935-3645) prior to December 10.

## Classified

only 50 cents a word **751-8214** only 50 cents a word

**MONTAUK CREDIT UNION - PART-TIME TELLER** wanted, Monday-Friday, approximately 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Duties include processing member transactions, administrative work, customer service. Experience welcome. Advancement possibilities. Please fax resume to Mike Turano at (212) 643-9877.

**LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST / CERTIFIED REFLEXOLOGIST** - Island resident Diana Brill. Holiday gift certificate available. (212) 759-9042

**EXPERT PIANO REPAIRS & TUNING** - Prompt service. (212) 935-7510. Beeper 1-917-483-1020

**YOUR FRIENDLY AVON REPRESENTATIVE** - Dolores Green 223-4077.

**CAT SITTER AVAILABLE** on RI - My home or yours. (212) 223-0157

**SENIORS NEED VOLUNTEER TAX COUNSELOR** - 1/1/2000 through 3/15/2000; last volunteer, who served over 100 Island residents a year, is retiring. Training will be provided through RSVP. Call Selena Ng at 980-1888.

**EXPERIENCED TUTOR** for primary, secondary school students; adults returning to or finishing school. (212) 223-0157

**MAIN STREET THEATRE & DANCE ALLIANCE** - Ongoing registration for dance and theater classes. 371-4449. Unique or period clothing & furniture gladly accepted.

**FREE NOTARY for SENIORS** - See Dolores Green at Senior Center. 223-4077.

**EXPERT PAINTER** - Island references, 751-8214

**WANTED - LOW-TECH UPRIGHT EXERCISE BIKE**, 980-1349

Make *WIRE* Classified work  
for you... Call 751-8214

## Jack Resnick, M.D.

Board-Certified  
Specialist in Adult Medicine  
(Internal Medicine)

### Health Plans Accepted

Aetna/USHealthcare  
Empire Blue Cross  
CIGNA  
HIP  
Oxford

**832-2310**

### 32B-J Members

Dr. Resnick is on the panel of the Building Services Health Fund. Call the Fund at (212) 388-3900 to schedule your first appointment

501 Main Street  
Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044

## 1999 Annual Benefit Show

Ten performances!

DECEMBER 3-6  
DECEMBER 10-13

ALL TICKETS

**\$15**



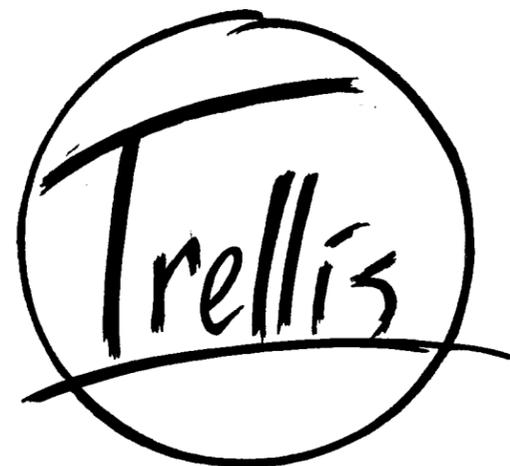
*Bye Bye*

**BIRDIE**

FOR INFORMATION CALL

**371-4449**

MAIN  
STREET  
THEATRE  
& DANCE  
ALLIANCE



**Hot Coffee...**

...and a warm place to drink it.  
It's the season for it, and for the rest  
of the warmth Trellis has to offer:  
Good friends, good coffee, good food,  
and a few moments of peaceful  
respite from the rush  
of the season around us.

Come on by.  
Good food, good friends, good coffee.

**See you at Trellis**

**752-1517**

*Better and better every day.  
At the heart of the community,  
next to the historic Chapel of the Good Shepherd*

# **TWIN CAR SERVICE**

## **936-6666**

**We have been providing quality service to  
Roosevelt Island residents for over 20 years**

TWIN is licensed by the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission (Base#865)  
All drivers are Taxi & Limousine Commission approved  
24-hour service, 365 days a year  
Service to and from anywhere - Manhattan & Queens our specialty

### **SERVICE INFORMATION**

Hourly rate available  
Airport Service  
Flat rates from \$12  
Accounts Welcome  
Comfortable A/C sedans

**Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express**

Roosevelt Island Seniors Association  
546 Main Street

# **Annual Holiday Flea Market**

**Saturday, December 4  
& Sunday, December 5**

## **Holiday Gifts at Discounted Prices**

**JOIN US!**

**Great Menu • Reasonable Prices  
Food by Glen's Kitchen**

**Don't forget to use up  
your dental insurance  
benefit this year. Call for  
an appointment: 752-8722**

*Quality Dentistry for Children and Adults*

**Lawrence M Itskowitch, DDS, PC**

501 Main Street, Roosevelt Island

**752-8722**

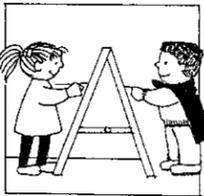
Mon & Fri 9-6, Tue & Wed 12-9, Thur 3-7

**\*\*Dental Insurance Accepted Toward Payment\*\***

Still a few openings for 3-4-year-olds

## **Roosevelt Island Day Nursery**

Part-time and full-time programs  
for children ages 2.6 through 5 years



**4 RIVER ROAD 593-0750**  
FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE

## **BRACES AREN'T FOREVER, SMILES ARE!**

We offer free orthodontic consultations to children and adults who are residents of Roosevelt Island.

Please call for an appointment.

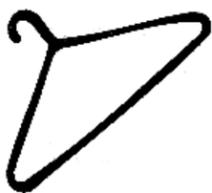
**Dr. Gerald Sweder and staff**  
20 years in Island practice

200 W. 57th Street  
212 757-2285

501 Main Street  
212 752-8722

**FAST,  
EFFICIENT  
RELIABLE,  
COURTEOUS**

## **Roosevelt Island Cleaners**



*New State of the Art  
Dry Cleaning Machine  
To Serve You Better*  
**Your Neighborhood Cleaners**

**We Deliver**

Free deliveries on orders \$15-up

758-1778

571 Main Street

## **Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.**

*Board Certified Pediatrician and Allergist*

501 Main Street • Roosevelt Island • 753-5505

### **Office Hours**

Monday & Thursday • 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Tuesday • 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday • 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Coverage provided at all times, when office is closed,  
by Dr. Grimm or by her group, Uptown Pediatrics.

We provide comprehensive health care to children and adolescents.  
Dr. Grimm is also qualified to evaluate and treat allergy and asthma in adults.