



**All for Blackwell House** Mae West (upper left) was not the only historic figure (wink, wink) who showed up last weekend for the Historical Society's fundraiser for Blackwell House. Also attending were Charles Dickens (upper right), Boss Tweed (bottom left), Nellie Bly (bottom right), and Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini (bottom of page). They were joined by Historical Society President Judy Berdy (bottom center), who emceed. Players were (clockwise from upper left) Joan Christianson (Mae West), David Kraut (Charles Dickens), Marielena Logsdon (Nellie Bly), Judy Berdy (Judy Berdy), Jim Whalen (Boss Tweed), and Sister Regina Palamara (Mother Cabrini).

Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com

## Pataki Signs Open-Spaces Law; Residents to Get RIOC Majority \$200,000 to Blackwell Restoration

Governor George Pataki has signed legislation that alters the make-up of the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), and may well mark a significant turning point for Roosevelt Island.

In addition, the State administration has announced a \$200,000 grant toward the rehabilitation of Blackwell House.

Open-space provisions of the new legislation formalize the reservation of four areas on Roosevelt

Island as parkland, including Southpoint, Octagon Park, Light-house Park, and Blackwell Park. All the areas already had some protection under the Island's General Development Plan, part of the 99-year Lease under which New York State is developing Roosevelt Island, which is City property.

The legislation provides for majority control of the RIOC Board by Island residents appointed by the Governor. In a press release issued Thursday, September 12, the Gov-

ernor is quoted as saying, "By increasing the residency requirement on the Roosevelt Island Board of Directors, we are recognizing the

Subscribers to *Website NYC10044's* bulletin service received this news hours after it happened. To sign up for Roosevelt Island news bulletins, send an e-mail request to nyc10044@rcn.com.

importance of having local residents determine the geographic and financial future of the Island."

The bill changing the composition of the RIOC Board was compromise legislation agreed to by Senator Olga Mendez and Assemblymember Pete Grannis, and representatives of the Governor's office. It falls short of a goal Grannis and Mendez agreed several years ago to work toward—a RIOC Board dominated by elected residents.

Mendez, quoted in the Governor's press release, said, "This bill gives the residents of the Island a majority voice on the Board. Knowing residents as I do, there is no doubt that they will provide the most thoughtful and insightful leadership necessary to make Roosevelt Island an even better place to live."

Grannis said this week that he's pleased the Governor signed the bill, but pointed out it's "not as extensive as what we originally proposed." Grannis said, "My open-spaces bill would have protected all the open spaces on the Island [in a way] closer to those that apply to designated parklands in the rest of the State." But he said he favored the legislation because it strengthens the protections.

"The Board members are still people of the Governor's choosing," Grannis added. He suggested that much will depend on just how independent new appointees to the Board are. "The Island has had

See **Legislation** page 4

## In a Shift, RIOC Board Takes Discussion Into the Open, and Public Sees Process

by Dick Lutz

The RIOC Board of Directors departed from past practice last week and, for the first time in recent memory, let the Roosevelt Island public watch and listen as it worked through the kind of discussion and debate it normally holds in secret.

They haggled, questioned, disagreed, and debated after the Chair, Marybeth Labate of the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), started the 5:30 meeting by announcing the Board would not go into a closed executive session, but would instead start proceedings with a session open to

the public.

The change drew a thumbs-up from residents.

A word-for-word transcript of most of the meeting—over 33,000 words—is available on *Website*

NYC10044 at www.nyc10044.com.

In past practice, the Board has usually met in executive session in the Oval Room at the lower level of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, while residents waited up-

stairs for a public portion to begin. Sometimes, residents waited well past the projected time for the start of the open part of the meeting.

Over time, it began to appear that

See **Open Meeting** page 4

## RIOC Still Wrestling With Conflicting Claims on the Blackwell Minischool

State and City funding for an enlarged and revamped Roosevelt Island Youth Center may be jeopardized unless RIOC can find new space for the Youth Program, fear some RIOC Board members, politicians, and members of the Program's Board. The Program wants to exercise a 12-year-old claim on the Blackwell minischool.

But the facility is currently occupied by the Lilies Christian School, which needs quarters certified for school occupancy—and under plans RIOC is pressing forward, the Blackwell minischool is the only remaining space so certified.

That's the dilemma the RIOC

Board discussed last week at its monthly meeting, hearing from RIOC staff, the parties in contention, and the Board members themselves.

In April, the Board gave the Lilies school an assurance of the space

until the end of the academic year, but it made no promises beyond that point—not to Lilies, and not to the Youth Program, which has funding approaching a million dollars hanging in the balance.

See **Claims** page 7

## Octagon Parking Deplored

Plans for a parking garage under tennis courts at Octagon Park came under fire at last week's RIOC Board meeting.

"It's going to destroy the area for years, no matter how you look at it," said Judy Berdy, a member of the Residents Association Common

Council and president of the Historical Society. A former Common Council member, Debra Mount Cornet, lambasted the RIOC Board for having the parking plan still under consideration after residents have repeatedly called for residents

See **Octagon** page 4

## Card Shop Sale Final

It's done: The Stationery Store is in new hands. The RIOC Board made the decision final last week, approving a lease to a chain operated by Ricky Patel, who had already presented a check for more than \$58,000, covering over a year of back rent owed by the store's current owner, Mohammed Ali Khan.

Rent on the shop space will temporarily be reduced from \$3,453 to \$2,800. Patel told the RIOC Board he has plans for improvements, and expects to spend \$25,000 or more on them. He said he will expand product lines, improve quality, and keep the store's hours the same with the possibility of expanding them.

Khan addressed the Board and members of the community attending the RIOC Board session. In an emotional speech, he described the problems that made him unable to pay rent after 14 years in the store: flooding from broken pipes, with no compensation; competition from Gristede's; RIOC moving the bus stop location away; unlicensed competition at the subway station.

Near tears, Khan said, "I was thinking when I came here, the nice people on Roosevelt Island, they gave me so much love, I can't ex-

See **Card Shop** page 6

## Islanders

### No Ordinary Nun, Sister Regina Starts a Sabbatical

by Dick Lutz

She is so often at the center of Island events, many of her fellow residents have started to wonder where the center will be while she is away. That's because, rather suddenly, Sister Regina Palamara is gone—as of this (Saturday) morning.

"But it's only for six months," she says, persuaded for just a moment to deviate from the formal "statement" she has prepared. Even so, 180 days without her ubiquitous presence may seem, to some, like a small lifetime.

That formal statement, headed *A Note from Sister Regina*, provides the essentials: "After taking time for prayer and discernment I have decided to take a six-month sabbatical. I will be in California, close to my mother and the rest of

my family. I ask for your prayers, and promise to remember you in prayer as I take another step on my Faith Journey."

Sister Regina Palamara is, of course, Catholic—a nun in the order of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, founded by Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, patron of immigrants, the first American citizen to become a saint. The Island parish is named for the saint. And while Regina Palamara's Catholic faith and practice are at the center of her own life, her presence as a gentle force and affirmative influence in the Roosevelt Island community has been, for the 20 years she has served here, something that has reached beyond any imagined boundaries of formal religion to affect the lives of not only the

See **Sabbatical** page 6



She always wears street clothes, but Sister Regina Palamara donned a habit last weekend, for an animated portrayal of Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini. It was part of the Historical Society's fundraiser for restoration of Blackwell House.

## The RIOC Board Comes Out of Hiding

Roosevelt Island residents are already seeing the benefits of a change in the cast of characters on the RIOC Board of Directors – namely, and most recently, the appointment of Mark Ponton as a resident member.

Ponton suggested, after the August meeting of the Board, that it bring its deliberations back into public view. Last week, that happened (report on page 1).

The past practice was for the Board to convene, then immediately go into “executive session,” a secret proceeding usually justified with a claim that real-estate business was to be discussed, and public knowledge of that discussion could be harmful to the agency’s best interests in future negotiations.

Trouble was, over time those secret sessions became the place where far too much Board business was discussed. When the Board members returned to public view, they often might have been mistaken for Disney Animatronics creations controlled from Albany or the RIOC office at 591 Main Street, voting in lockstep, rarely disagreeing, and never allowing residents (or the press) access to *the process*.

It appeared that the Board was rubber-stamping decisions made by RIOC staff and/or imposed by Albany, instead of setting policy and holding the RIOC President and staff to it.

Almost as bad, some Board members would then skip out before the Town Hall Meeting portion of the evening, demonstrating disinterest in resident comments and questions.

At best, the RIOC Board was casually violating New York State law requiring its meetings to be open. Nobody could prove the secret sessions were a violation, because they were secret.

That changed last week. The Board convened at 5:30, and the Chair, Marybeth Labate, announced that the executive session would be moved to the end of the evening, and would be preceded by a session open to the public and by the Town Hall Meeting. When one Board member joined RIOC President Robert H. Ryan in objecting to the resulting free-wheeling session, the change was defended by Labate, David Kraut, and Leo Kayser. The public and press should thank them for that – and we do: **Thank you.**

All this meant there was an open view of *the process* – access to the questioning, the discussions, the reasoning, the debate, the negotiating, and the Board members’ styles in working toward decisions.

We now must hope this change will be permanent – that executive sessions will truly be limited to matters the law allows to be discussed in secret.

## Control

New law cobbled together by Assemblymember Pete Grannis, Senator Olga Mendez, and the Governor’s staff, gives appointed residents a majority on the RIOC Board, and a parkland mandate that should introduce a refined set of values into the process of developing Roosevelt Island.

It’s not an *elected* RIOC Board. But it’s a good interim step, particularly if resident Board members can work well together after the Board is reconfigured. We urge the powers that be to get on with that process posthaste.

DL

**The WIRE**

Published by **The Main Street WIRE**  
©2002 Unisource2000™ Inc.  
531 Main St. #413, NYC10044

News (212) **826-9055**  
Urgent news **1-917-617-0449**  
Advertising (212) **751-8214**  
Circulation (212) **935-7534**  
Fax (212) **755-2540**  
e-mail [Editor@MainStreetWIRE.com](mailto:Editor@MainStreetWIRE.com)  
in association with **Website NYC10044**  
[www.nyc10044.com](http://www.nyc10044.com)

Managing Editor – Dick Lutz  
Reporters – Ken Carlson, Linda Humphrey, Michael Schreiber  
Toronto Correspondent – Anusha Shrivastava  
Ombudsman – Armand Schwab – **838-3184**  
Chief Proofreader – Kay Thompson  
Proofreader – Linda Heimer  
Photographers – Vicki Feinmel, Susheel Kurien  
Advertising Manager – Ellen Levy  
Circulation Managers – Sherie Helstien, Teri Sheridan, Joyce Speziale  
Circulation Assistant – Dexter Benjamin  
Typist – Nadya Borisova  
Website NYC10044 facilities – Frank Farance  
Founding Publisher – Jack Resnick  
Editor Emeritus – Jim Bowser

Judi Arond, David Bauer, Steve Bessenof, Virginia Boykin, Melanie Castine, Lynn Chambers, Mark Chambers, Malcolm Cohen, Susan Cohen, Pearl Cooper, Shirley Cruz, Harold Davis, Joan Davis, Valerie Davis, Robin Day, Jenny Olivera DelMastro, Morty Dinerstein, Rebecca Dougherty, Juanita Elliott, Zoraida Fonseca, Teresa Hasing, Roberta Hershey, Lauren Hindman, Elaine Kane, Ken Kaplan, Peter Kaplan, Mickey Karpeles-Bauer, Matthew Katz, Seth Kaufman, Mike Kolba, Boyana Kovacevic, Dan Kovacevic, Bridget Lowy, Mercedes Lugo, Hazel Lynch, Roger Makombo, Armando Manalo, Robert Manalo, Beatrice Marcus, Clarissa McCraley, Dorene McQueen, Terry Moses, Claudia Narine, Clinton Narine, Sandra Narine, Kathie Niederhoffer, Nancy Olivera, Joan Pape, Gabrielle Parnes, Gladys Rasheed, Irene Rivera, Ron Schuppert, Bernie Schwartz, Beryl Seaforth, Marilyn Sherman, Haley Shinozaki, Michael Shinozaki, Joseph Strong, Lynn Strong-Shinozaki, Pearl Thomas, David Tsireskin, Elena Vranceanu, Rece Walford, Michael Walker, Maggie Warner, Liza Williams, Robin Williams, Nina Winteringham, Rose Woods

# September 11, 2002



Members of the Roosevelt Island Youth Center prepared this statement, and presented it at memorial ceremonies held at the plaque and tree in Good Shepherd Plaza, as they held up photographs of Roosevelt Island’s lost of September 11, 2001.

Today as we stand before you, remembering this day, one year ago when we shared a collective sadness caused by people without any moral dignity, to our friends, neighbors, and fellow Americans, **we want you to know that even if we weren’t affected directly, we were changed forever.**

We have grown emotionally and spiritually. As we face our future with all its uncertainty, we want you to know that we believe in our country, we believe in the principles that allow the diversity which makes us, yes, us, **The Greatest Country in the History of the World**, and we believe in you.

We know in our hearts that you have **protected us**, defended our freedom, and worried about our lives. We know that one of the things that saddens you is the possible risk to our future.

As we stand before you now, we offer you this guarantee. When it is our turn, **when we assume our roles in society as adults**, we will work just as tirelessly and unselfishly as you have to protect the freedoms that so many have sacrificed to safeguard our Nation, **defend our Constitution**, and preserve our rights.

**Be patient.  
Believe.  
And Thank you.**



Selwyn Fund

## Letters

### Letters Policy

*The WIRE* welcomes letters to the Editor, to the community, and to/from officials. Publication on a *Name Withheld* basis will be considered, but the writer’s name, address, and phone number **must** be provided for verification and for our records. **Preferred methods of submission:** By e-mail to [Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com](mailto:Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com) (ASCII text preferred or use any wordprocessing software, but no MSWord files with macros), or PC-standard 3.5-inch floppy disk left at 531 Main Street for *The WIRE*. **Alternatives:** Typed, double-spaced copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to (212) 755-2540. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered if brief, but we cannot take telephone dictation of letters. **All letters are subject to acceptance, and to editing for length and clarity.** We recommend observing a maximum length of 300 words, but will consider longer letters if their content merits the required space.

Letters deadline for October 5 issue: **September 30**

### To the Editor:

As a parishioner of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini church, I would like to express my deep sadness at the departure (albeit temporary) of Sister Regina Palamara. After Mass today Sister Regina informed me and several other parishioners that she is taking a six-month sabbatical.

Personally, I will miss my friend and confidant. And to say that she will be sorely missed by the parish and community as a whole is quite an understatement. The warmth from her kind heart and loving nature can never be replaced. As pastoral minister she guided both the young and not so young within the parish and created a welcoming atmosphere for everyone on Roosevelt Island. Although unrecognized, her hard work and dedication over the years made the Thrift Shop a great success. Hers is a truly Christian devotion to the community.

Goodbye, Sister! Don’t be gone too long – we need you here!

Marguerite Camaio

I approached the September 11 observances with dread. Did you? The overwhelming coverage in the newspapers, on radio and TV has opened wounds hardly healed from a year ago. Certainly, I had no need to look at those images again; they are burned in my retinas forever. However, an annual observance pays the proper respect to an event that, like Pearl Harbor, has changed our lives and altered how America thinks about itself and its place in the world. Like those who experienced the Japanese attack, we will remember where we were and what we were doing and will re-experience the rush of emotions for decades to come during these yearly remembrances.

I thought the Roosevelt Island remembrance concert, conceived and produced by Housing Management and RIRA, was simply perfect. My hat's off to Doryne Isley and Carol da Silva for setting the right tone and to our religious leaders whose comments reflected the sentiments of loss and reconstruction rather than retribution. The day wasn't about closure; it's too soon for that. It was about catharsis, the cleansing or purging of our damaged emotions. And spending an evening with our families and friends and so many of our neighbors accomplished just that.

It's a shame that there will be no great words to accompany the visual record of 9/11. Our Mayor requested that the Governors of New York and New Jersey read only the Gettysburg Address and the Declaration of Independence in lieu of more specific oratory. It seems that our public officials (and their speech writers) no longer feel that great political rhetoric is part of the job description. And so, immortal lines like "Four score and seven years ago," and "A day that will live in infamy," and "Ask not what your country can do for you," are not likely to have their equal any time soon. What a pity. From Daniel Webster to William Jennings Bryan to Everett Dirksen, we've been blessed with leaders who made their points with language. This transformative event will be commemorated only through pictures.

The RIOC Board of Directors invited the Roosevelt Island community to interact with them at the conclusion of their September 12 meeting, and once again the turnout was sparse. This is unfortunate because it reinforces the mistaken assumption that residents don't care how the Island is run. There were several items of note that surely will be covered in the news pages of this periodical. I'll comment on just a few items of note:

Governor Pataki has signed the "Open Spaces" bill, passed by the State Legislature last June, into law. This bill is the unintended result of five years of labor by the Maple Tree Group (MTG). As you may know, this group has been working tirelessly to draft and pass legislation that would empower this community to elect a majority of RIOC Directors who would then hire a professional city manager to be RIOC president. This would take politics out of the process, provide some continuity in the RIOC office from administration to administration, and require the direct accountability of RIOC and its Board of Directors to this community rather than to a Governor who appointed them. As a result of dogged labor and the support of our State Legislators, the MTG was able to arrange an audience with Governor Pataki last January in which the case for representative local government was made. This new law is not the law we had hoped for, but it recognizes the right of any community to determine its own future and is certainly a step in the right direction. After these many years of non-stop activity, I'm sure the MTG will not rest until Roosevelt Islanders have the same rights as any other Americans. I'm proud to be a part of this group and this monumental effort. As Margaret Mead has said, "Sometimes small groups of committed people can change the world."

There was considerable analysis of this bill in the

June 29 *Main Street WIRE* and I won't rehash that discussion other than to remind you that one provision of the bill requires that the RIOC Board be composed of a majority of Roosevelt Island residents. Already, Islander Mark Ponton has made his presence on the Board felt with questions and suggestions that are a breath of fresh air. At his behest, Southpoint Park may soon be available for recreational use more than one day a year. Also, the RIOC Board will launch into their agenda without their usual hours-long hiatus for an *in camera* executive session. These closed meetings will occur after the public agenda (and after the bi-monthly town meetings) have been completed.

There has been much talk as to whether the Open Spaces bill really protects our open spaces or whether the language provides loopholes you could drive a steam shovel through. Sure enough, the question arose at the RIOC Board meeting. RIOC Director and lawyer, Leo Kayser, found the language unambiguous and receptive to any and all development of open space containing a landmark. Other Directors expressed the hope that this was not the intention of the legislation and that restraint would be used in determining the future of our remaining parkland. Only time will tell how the RIOC Board intends to comply with the new law.

My hope is that the Governor's appointments of Island residents will be speedy so that our neighbors are the ones interpreting the law and determining how to implement its stated obligation to preserve open space.

The open discussion at this RIOC Board meeting was lively and informative. There were many ideas as to what immediate use should be made of Southpoint Park, including the building of rest rooms and refreshment stands. Mr. Ponton, whose request to open the area quickly sparked the debate, suggested that, once the area is stabilized and made safe, it should just be opened without improvements. He said, "Don't overlook the value of nothing." Until a decision is reached to build and finance a State or Federal park, this is a compelling idea. Sometimes, perhaps, less is truly more.

I've received reports that several dead birds, pigeons and crows, have been found in the vicinity of Motorgate. In light of the West Nile Virus scare, people are concerned that birds are a vector for the disease's transfer to mosquitoes and to humans. I asked Public Safety Director, Jim Fry, what the procedure is when dead birds are reported. He said that the City Health Department is alerted and that they (or sometimes Public Safety) collect the carcasses for examination. Chief Fry noted that his department has received no reports of positive findings from the City, but also noted that they are not obliged to report back to him. I expect that there would have been repercussions, including spraying for mosquitoes, had something dangerous been found. In any event, be sure to report any dead birds to Public Safety at least until the first frost.

There has been little to report on the MetroCard/Tram front for several weeks. A negotiating session was canceled at the end of August to make way for a meeting at the highest levels of Transit Authority, State, and City leadership. This meeting, between NYC Transit Authority President Lawrence Reuter, Speaker Miller, and Assemblymember Grannis, was announced at the September 12 Board meeting. I was not a party to the meeting, nor were any RIOC representatives, and the participants' senior staff was excluded as well. What does this mean? Well, other than that busy people in major positions of authority are trying to make this thing happen, I really don't know. I can tell you that holding my breath and crossing my fingers are becoming painful and deleterious to my health. I hope this meeting augurs well and that I'll have great news to report sometime soon. Stay tuned.

## The RIRA Column



Matthew Katz  
RIRA President  
e-mail: matthewkatz@rcn.com



## Engagement: Panczyk-Nichols

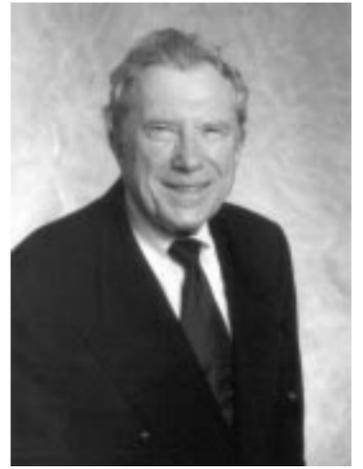
Ms. Audrey Maurer of Roosevelt Island announces the engagement of her daughter, Justine Marise Panczyk of Silver Spring, Maryland, to William Junior Nichols, son of Margaret Thurston of Westminster, Maryland, and Edward Nichols of Reisterstown, Maryland. The bride-to-be graduated from Loyola High School in New York City, Georgetown University, and the Joint Military Intelligence College. She is a language analyst with the Defense Department in Washington.

The prospective groom graduated from Gateway Senior High School in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He served as a U.S. Navy submarine officer. He works as an engineer for the Boeing Company in Crystal City, Virginia. An October wedding is planned in Laurel, Maryland.

## Alvin Goodman to Receive Distinguished Service Award

Island resident Alvin I. Goodman, M.D., will receive the Distinguished Service Award of New York Medical College on October 3 at its annual Founder's Dinner. He is to be honored along with two other long-time supporters of the university.

Goodman is Professor of Medicine and recently retired as Chief of the Division of Nephrology at the College and at Westchester Medical Center. He holds the endowed Westchester Artificial Kidney Foundation (WAKF) chair of nephrology and continues to serve as director. WAKF donated \$1.5 million earlier this year to establish the New York Medical College/Westchester Artificial Kidney Foundation Institute for Renal Research.



## COMING UP

Compiled by WIRE staff – Fax information to 755-2540  
e-mail ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com  
or click on the e-mail link at www.nyc10044.com

**Continuing through Sept. 30, daily, Solo Exhibition, *Seeing Through Nature*, paintings of Jirapat Pitpreecha, Coler Campus of Goldwater-Coler Hospital.**

**Sat., Sept. 21, 11:00 a.m., Queensboro Bridge Walking Tour**, sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society, with New York City's unofficial bridge historian, David Longshore. \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members; reservations required. Call 688-4836.

**Mon., Sept. 23, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters public speaking group.** Visitors welcome. Information: 751-9577, 759-0396 eve.

**Sat., Sept. 28, 6:00 p.m., Opening, *Let's Face It*, exhibition at Gallery RIVAA, a simulacrum of photographs, oils, pastels, digitals, and sculptures. Exhibition runs through November 23.**

**Sat., Oct. 5, next scheduled issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Sept. 27; decision on staffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Sept. 30; materials due Thur., Oct. 3. **Future issues** generally every two weeks through the end of 2002, with an extra post-election issue: Oct. 19, Nov. 2 (pre-election issue), 9 (post-election), and 23 (Thanksgiving issue), Dec. 14 (holiday issue), then every two weeks starting in January, 2003.

**Phone/fax for news, 826-9055/755-2540; phone/fax for display and classified advertising placement and information, 751-8214/755-2540; to list your organization's Island events here (no charge), fax information to 755-2540, or send it by e-mail to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com.**

**Sat., Oct. 5, 9:00-3:00, Voter Registration forms** available at the Farmer's Market, under the ramp at Motorgate.

**Sat., Oct. 5, 10:00 a.m., Fall Tree Walk** sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Tree Board, starting at Blackwell House. Free.

**Wed., Oct. 9, 8:00 p.m., RIRA Common Council Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

**Thur., Oct. 10, 9:30 a.m., RIOC Board of Directors Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

**Mon., Oct. 14, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters public speaking group.** Visitors welcome. Information: 751-9577, 759-0396 eve.

**Mon., Oct. 28, 8:00 p.m., Toastmasters public speaking group.** Visitors welcome. Information: 751-9577, 759-0396 eve.

**Tue., Nov. 5, 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Election Day** (both general and Residents Association elections); balloting at PS/IS 217.

## Senior Center

Computer Classes for Seniors  
Call 980-1888 for more information

**Monday**  
10:30, Blood Pressure Screen  
12:30, "Oldies" Movies  
1:00, Tai Chi  
7:00, Dance (Beginners)

**Tuesday**  
10:30, Jazzercise  
1:30, Games (RISA)

**Wednesday**  
9:00, Stay Well  
10:00, English as Second Language  
7:00, Pokeno (RISA)

**Thursday**  
10:00, Tai Chi  
10:30, Creative Arts  
12:30, Movie  
7:00, Dance Class (Advanced)

**Friday**  
9:00, Citizenship

10:00, English as Second Language  
10:15, Yoga Stretch  
7:30, Lotto

**Saturday**  
7:30, Bingo (RISA)

### Special Events

**Tue., Sept. 24, 12:30, Lecture:** Wills, Living Wills, Health Care Proxy  
**Fri., Sept. 27, 1:30, Birthday Party**  
**Mon., Oct. 7, 10:30, Health Lecture**  
**Wed., Oct. 9, 12:30, Traffic Safety Lecture**  
**Mon., Oct 14, 11-12:30, MetroCard Bus**

Home-delivered meals available: 744-5022, ext. 1203

**Open Meeting** from page 1

all process – information-gathering, disagreements, negotiations – took place in secret. That was alluded to by resident Board member David Kraut during last week's meeting, in a statement defending the change: "This Board gives the impression that we take private decisions and rubber-stamp them, and that we're some kind of monolithic organization marching forward in step."

Kraut was responding to another resident Board member, Patrick Stewart, who had objected to a wide-ranging series of questions about the status of Island real estate. Making a point of order, Stewart told Labate, "I don't see any of this on an agenda. I think that this is an inappropriate discussion to be having at this time... I think that these discussions can be held outside of the Board meeting, to give Mr. [Mark] Ponton [recently appointed to the RIOC Board by the Governor] his answers... Much of this stuff has been gone over before... I think we are out of order."

In his statement on the matter, Kraut continued, "In fact, we know that our executive sessions are extremely heated, representing a huge diversity of opinion, and Mr. Ponton raised the point after his first executive session, why aren't we having these discussions in public? Why can't our disagreements be made clear in public?" Kraut added, "I personally was pleased to see Mr. Ponton bringing these issues forward... The fact that we disagree on things can also appear before the public... We should always seek opportunities to discuss things in public whenever we can, so they can see that we often become very passionate about things that the public would [otherwise] assume we are just bland about."

In addition to Stewart, RIOC President Robert H. Ryan also objected to Ponton's series of questions. "Much of [this] can be covered by coming in and seeing Rob Ryan in his office and asking the questions there," he said.

Ponton countered, "I think it is in order for the people who live on this Island to know what's going on."

Ryan replied, "Mark, you can ask a number of people, and when I started in this place, Patrick was not a fan, there is no person on this Island who, if they call me or come to the office, and if I'm not in the middle of a meeting, I won't sit down and talk to and tell them what's going on. Anytime anybody calls, I talk to them."

When Ponton tried to interrupt, Ryan continued, "I just find it a little disingenuous and I get my back up that, you know, you sat in the office two days ago, and we briefed you... All of these questions could have been raised then, and I would have been more than happy to answer you, and I have no problem answering them here, OK? Because, you know, I'm a standup guy and I do the straight thing and the right thing. OK? I think Patrick's comment was, and Patrick knows, Patrick has come in many a time with gripes and beefs and questions and I always answer every question that is ever posed to me. I will answer any question that anybody has here. You know, it's... we're doing a little dance here."

"I don't know where we got this," Ponton responded. "You create the impression in my mind that if I ask you what time it is, I'm accusing you of making a lousy watch. This doesn't have anything to do with you."

Leo Kayser, another Board member, backed Ponton. "I think these are appropriate questions. I think it's a good time to do it. It gives us all a chance to hear the subject... I haven't heard anything inappropriate asked of anybody yet."

In the public comments and questions session that followed the formal meeting, residents saw merit in the more open format of the meeting.

Debra Mount Cornet, a former member of the Residents Association Common Council, criticized the Board's conduct of its relationship with the community in talking about a plan to build a parking garage at the Octagon Park tennis courts. "You talk about conferring with the community and getting our feedback and our interest in what you do, but once again we come up here talking about this parking garage... Meeting after meeting people have come in here from this community and said, we do not want that parking garage... Two meetings back you came in and said you would look at alterna-

tives to that, possibly [adding to Motorgate]. We feel like, as members of this community... that what we say is meaningless... that we come in and we give you our input and what do you do? You go into executive session... and you do whatever the hell you want to do. I mean do you really want our input on this or do you just want the attitudes of one or two people?"

The co-convenor of the Maple Tree Group (MTG), Margie Smith, told the Board, "I want to start by thanking you guys so much for tonight's session. It's the first RIOC meeting I've ever been at where I've actually felt an interaction with the community, and I actually felt it was a working session rather than sitting looking at a picture of a Board who just kind of had to be there. So thank you very much for that." Another MTG member, Linda Heimer, said, "I have to echo Margie's statement that this is the best meeting I've attended and I've attended many, because there's been true interaction [and] good questions."

At the beginning of the meeting, when Labate announced the change in format, she seemed to be indicating that it would hold for future sessions.

**Legislation** from page 1

resident members in the past who felt they were functionaries of the Governor rather than responsible to residents. The Board is meant to be the guiding entity to which the executive answers, not the other way around."

The announcement from the Governor's office contains no indications of the speed with which the Governor might replace existing non-resident members of the RIOC Board, nor is it known whether those non-resident members will serve out their appointed terms. Ultimately, five of the nine Board members will be residents.

Two members are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Mayor. One must be a resident, but the other may be, as well, making it conceivable that there might be six resident members.

In the RIOC Board meeting last week, there was disagreement over how to interpret open-space provisions of the new law. While opinions were offered by Tony Morenzi, representing Assemblymember Pete Grannis, and by Board member Leo Kayser (transcript on *Website NYC10044* at [www.nyc10044.com](http://www.nyc10044.com)), the bill had just become law, and no clear consensus was reached. Under one interpretation, the law would allow development of the sites as long as historic structures are rehabilitated; under another,

The \$200,000 grant from the State Environmental Protection Fund for Blackwell House "will help fund the restoration and preservation" of the building, according to the Governor's press release. The grant must be matched locally.

The RIOC Board recently gave site control of Blackwell House to the Roosevelt Island Historical Society (RIHS). How the RIOC administration and RIHS will share the handling of the State funds was not announced, but RIHS and RIOC have been working together on the project.

In 1998, 92% of Roosevelt Island residents casting ballots in the local election of Residents Association delegates voted to support legislation originated by the Maple Tree Group and proposed in the State Assembly by Island representative Pete Grannis. That bill provided for an elected RIOC Board. In 2000, a similar measure received 80% backing. Grannis and Mendez have each indicated they still support such a plan as a longer-term goal, but settled for an appointed resident majority on the RIOC Board as a compromise with the Governor's office.

**Octagon** from page 1

of the planned Octagon apartments to park in Motorgate.

Becker and Becker, the company planning restoration of the landmark Octagon as part of the apartments project, has a design in the works that will raise the existing Octagon tennis courts "one or two feet" above grade, according to Bruce Becker, who heads the firm. He says the parking garage entrance

**NATIONAL FULL SERVICE  
BEAUTY SALON INC.**

**HAIR, NAIL & SKIN CARE**

*Ladies, Gentlemen & Children*

**SENIOR SPECIAL - Tuesday & Wednesday**

**Wash, Cut & Blow Dry - Complimentary Eyebrows**

**Manicure & Pedicure - Complimentary Eyebrows**

**PERM - HIGHLIGHTS - RELAXER 10% DISCOUNT**

**523 MAIN STREET, ROOSEVELT ISLAND**

**(212) 688-0055**

Hours:

Tuesday thru	Saturday: 9-7
Friday: 10-7	Sunday: 10-5

*Expert Tailor  
on Premises*

571 Main St.  
**758-1778**



**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

Give your apartment a lift

## HOME SHOPPING SERVICE

**Consultations Available – Use What You Have**

*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  
**751-8214**



**No job too small**

will be on the north side of the east-west wing of the apartment structure. "We are spending a lot of money to make the parking essentially invisible," Becker said this week. "It will provide an option for residents who need to have parking near their apartments."

Residents have called for the expansion of Motorgate into its fourth, undeveloped quadrant, to provide parking for the Octagon project, but Becker says his firm's studies of the long-term need for spaces for a fully-developed Southtown mean there will be a "deficit" in parking spaces in the fu-

ture.

The Becker firm has redesigned the Octagon Apartments project to qualify for federal tax credits, doubling the length of connecting passageways between the Octagon structure and the residential wings. The changes also increase the height of the wings to 13 stories.

At the RIOC Board meeting, residents speaking in the public comment portion called for a new presentation by Becker and Becker to bring residents up to date on the latest design plans.

# The Farmers Market

the highest quality every Saturday at Motorgate

Since 1989



## WENGERD FARM

Watson, Pa.

**Stop by and see our new selection of fresh baked goods, meats, and cheese. Full selection of farm-fresh fruits and vegetables**

As always, *Thank you* for shopping with us every Saturday.



## *The Busy Season...*

...is here for all of us. With the arrival of September, the start of school, and the pressing pace of after-summer business, time becomes more and more precious. Let Trellis help with the daily-bread part of your busy schedule. When it's all just too much, stop in for dinner and let us do the preparing while you depressurize.

**752-1517**

*At the heart of the community, next to the historic Chapel of the Good Shepherd*

**Trellis: 6:00 a.m. to midnight, 7 days every week. We also deliver.**

ignite the white!  
**Zoom!**

DISCUS DENTAL

whiter  
brighter  
faster

### take your first step

to feeling good, looking great and making a memorable impression every time you smile. You owe it to yourself! Find out more about Zoom! in-office tooth whitening.

**Call today for a free consultation!**

whiten your teeth in about an hour!

Mastercard, Visa, Discover, American Express gladly accepted  
Daytime Hours: Mon., Fri. 9-6; Tue., Wed. 12-5; Thur. 3-7

Evening Hours: Tue., Wed. 6-9

Lawrence Itskowitch, DDS, PC

Treating residents 24 years

501 Main Street • (212) 752-8722

## OLYMPIC CAR SERVICE

All discounts included in airport fares:  
JFK \$27 • LGA \$12 • Newark \$55

On all other fares:

\$1 off any fare under \$20

\$2 off any fare over \$20

**Clip & Save this Coupon**

**Ask for your special  
RI resident's discount card**

**(718) 626-8000**

## **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

**CHARGED WITH A CRIME? CALL THE  
CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYER  
WHO WILL FIGHT FOR YOU!**

**NOAH TEITELBAUM**

ATTORNEY AT LAW

**(212) 684-2519**

(Free Consultation)

*Because You're Entitled to the BEST Defense.*

404 PARK AVENUE SOUTH  
New York, NY 10016



# SPORTSWIRE

by Seth Kaufman

**Soccer** The Roosevelt Island Youth Program soccer season begins this weekend in all four age groups. The KinderKickers (ages 5-6) meet at 10:00 a.m. today (Saturday) at the Capobianco baseball field; the Minors (ages 7-8) meet at 10:00 at the Octagon baseball field; the Juniors (ages 9-10) begin league play with two games at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. at the Octagon soccer field; and the Seniors (ages 11-14) began league play Friday night at 7:30 and conclude today at noon at the Octagon soccer field.

**Tennis** The Roosevelt Island Tennis Association (RITA) Club Championships will be played today and tomorrow. There are five brackets: Men's Singles A, Men's Singles B, Women's Singles, Mixed Doubles, and Beginners. Play begins at 10:00 a.m. and the championship matches in all brackets are scheduled for tomorrow (Sunday) at 2:00 p.m. After the matches, there will be an awards ceremony. The RITA ladder playoffs start on Monday and run through Saturday, October 19, when the championships will be played.

## Sabbatical from page 1

Catholic faithful, but those of other faiths and the faithless, as well. As one parishioner, Joan Christianson, puts it, "She ministers to the whole Island."

"I don't have to say the word 'diversity,' it just *is*," says Sister Regina. "For a Catholic who's just black and white, this might be looked upon as a negative, but for a person who interprets the Gospel without fences around it, without walls, we are one – a humanity, in this together."

Reaching through the walls, she was, for example, a presence last Saturday night in Gallery RIVAA at a Historical Society event

There's no match for the engraving in the United States stamps of the 1940s – stamps so detailed that you see things with a magnifying glass that you can't see with only your eye." The stamps have been a window on the world for her – "geography, historical people, events" – a connection reaching beyond the boundaries of her assignment. With surplus stamps, she makes collages. Looking ahead to free weekends in California, she says, "There's an artwork in my head that I want to do with stamps."

Regina Palamara came to Roosevelt Island in 1982 on a six-month reassignment, from



Wednesday evening Sister Regina Palamara (\*) was surrounded by friends and well-wishers at a going-away party in her honor.

aged to raise funds for restoration of Blackwell House, playing the role of Mother Cabrini as one of several historical figures with a Roosevelt Island connection. "To be a success at teaching, you have to be a bit of an actor," she says. "You take a life experience and gently push it into someone else's brain." On the other hand, "I don't want to be an actor – I just want to make things come alive."

She does that for children, says Christianson. "For a small parish, we have a large number of children involved, because of Sister. She's a wonderfully creative teacher who can whip things out of her head." The kids will miss her tremendously, Christianson feels.

During her sabbatical near her family on the edges of Hollywood, she has thoughts of taking a course or two, perhaps strengthening the connection between her ability to entertain with her desire to reach others. "I want the value of the human spirit to soar. We have to be aware of it." In a moment of reflection on day-to-day life, she adds, "We have so much crustiness to chip off before we see the beauty of our souls."

"I look forward to the new horizons that are opening in front of me... This is a very exciting time in my life, to have these options to pick from." Chronologically, that time in her life, quite surprisingly to those who experience her energy, is her 70th year.

"I have loved this job because there have never been two days alike," she says. "I'm allergic to monotony."

She says she will take time, during this sabbatical, to reorganize and mount her stamp collection, now some ten volumes. "I've always been intrigued by the artwork. Instead of bringing a lot of frames and volumes, you see everything in that little inch.

Brooklyn, to replace another nun who later decided she would remain in New Jersey. She came at the call of Sister Barbara Leonardo, who was the Major Superior of her order. "I saw the gifts that Sister has and I felt they would be a perfect fit for the Roosevelt Island situation," says Sister Barbara. "To my delight, I saw these gifts more highly developed in the larger community of the Island." Today, they are roommates in Island House – she's "fun to live with" – and those six months have turned into twenty years. "Everybody should have a Regina in their lives," she says.

Reflecting on those twenty years, she quickly cites a relatively recent event when asked what her happiest moment has been. "Working to get ready for the 25th Anniversary," she says, speaking of the preparations for the marking of her parish's first quarter-century on Roosevelt Island. The day itself brought Father John McCarthy and Father Joseph Gorman here to join Father Luke McCann in a joint service before a standing-room-only crowd in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

But the preparation is what Sister Regina cites – "working with Mary Fitzgerald, Marie Babcock, Margaret Brewer, Joan Christianson, Julie Bennington. We worked so well together, a positive influence on each other with all the details of the banners, the invitations, the parade, the teenagers, the artwork, the logistics, all the planning. It was such an affirming experience for me."

Regina Palamara will turn 70 on April 13, shortly after her return from sabbatical, and her many friends are already planning her birthday party. Casting her eyes upward and across a six-month gap, she says, "That's someone else turning 70, not me."

## Here We Grow Again!



SINCE 1951  
WHEELCHAIR & SCOOTER SERVICE

**Gem's Expanded Showroom & Service Department has a new home**  
176-39 Union Turnpike, Flushing 11366

(Northwest corner of Utopia Pkwy - across from St. John's University)

**New telephone: 718-969-8600 • www.wheelchairsusa.com**

FREE PARKING NEXT TO THE FAME DINER

**CALL US FOR PERSONALIZED MOBILITY SALES & SERVICE**

- MANUAL & MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIRS •
- 3- & 4-WHEEL POWER SCOOTERS •
- CUSHIONS • WALKERS • CANES • HOSPITAL BEDS • CAR TRUCK LIFTS •
- LIFT-OUT RECLINER CHAIRS • STAIRWAY LIFTS • PORTABLE RAMPS •
- Medicare Medicaid • Workers Compensation •
- Fast & Polite Pick-Up & Delivery Service •
- While-U-Wait In-Shop Repairs •

## Card Shop from page 1

press in my words. I wish I can die here serving these people, but now the situation is so bad I have to go. These guys, they want to pay my arrears and everything. But on this Island everybody from little child to 85-year-old grandpa, they gave me so much. I don't want to go from here. And after September 11, this devilish act of terrorism, I was so afraid. And Judy Berdy, she came to me, she hugged me and she said, 'Ali, don't worry, you are my brother, and nothing is going to happen to you.' And so this kind of love I get from here, and it is hurting me to go out of this Island. I had so many problems – this afternoon the store was full of water and damages. I was asking the last two years [that] RIOC cut down my rent. They said, 'No, we can't cut down the rent. You can give half the store back to us and we will cut down the rent.' They didn't cut down my rent. This problem happened and now I don't pay my rent."

Khan, who on Muslim holidays had sometimes left newspapers out for residents to take, paying on the honor system, concluded, "So now I am going, and I hope all the Roosevelt Island people, they give the new owner the same respect and love what they gave me the last 15 years. Thank you very much, God bless, thank you."

Khan was applauded loudly. Later, during the "Town Hall Meeting" portion of the RIOC Board meeting, a few residents appealed to the Board to find some way to accommodate Khan, but by then Patel had left, the transfer decided. Khan is expected to remain at the store for the first six months of the new owner's tenure.



Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com  
Mohammed Ali Khan, as he spoke to the RIOC Board Thursday, September 12, discussing his decision to withdraw from operation of the stationery store.

## Classified

50¢/word • 751-8214

Deadline for October 5 issue: September 30

**HELP WANTED** – Babysitter for six-month-old twins, 4 days per week, in own home OK. Perfect for stay-at-home mom. Please call **1-917-301-7136**.

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

**GREAT CARS**, Great Prices, Great Financing! All makes & models. Call Lyle at **1-646-523-9033**.

**YOUR FRIENDLY AVON REPRESENTATIVE** – Dolores Green. (212) **223-4077**.

**ELDER LAW** – Wills & Trusts, Medicaid Planning, Nursing Home Matters, Estate Planning, and Living Wills. Free Home Consultation. Steven M. Ratner, Esq., 420 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY. (212) **754-9117**.

**AMERICAN APPLIANCE SERVICE** – Installations and Repairs on refrigeration, central air, A/Cs, washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves. Insured, licensed, both commercial and residential. \$16.00 off on repairs. **1-718-352-4600, 1-516-352-4600**.

**LOOK 40 WHEN 50** – 100% natural anti-aging cream. Vitamins A, E, F. Affordable price. Sold at Roosevelt Island under bridge every Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**CAT-SITTER – VACATION IN PEACE** – Will feed and play with your cat, water your plants, pick up your mail, etc. (212) **751-8214**.

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

**NOTARY PUBLIC** – (212) **935-7534**.

**MAIN STREET THEATRE & DANCE ALLIANCE** – Ongoing registration for dance and theater classes. (212) **371-4449**. Unique or period clothing & furniture gladly accepted.

**EXPERIENCED PAINTER/CONTRACTOR** – Excellent Island references. Free estimate. (212) **751-8214**.

Announcing...

# Saturday Hours

That's right. **We've been listening** to what the Roosevelt Island community has to say about its needs in financial services, so we're adding Saturday morning hours while keeping the rest of our schedule intact. Now, the **Better Way to Bank** isn't a bank at all. It's your neighborhood Credit Union.

## Montauk Hours

**Monday-Wednesday & Friday**  
Full services 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Doors open until 4:00 for drop-offs

**Thursday**  
Full services 12:00 noon-7:00 p.m.  
Doors open until 7:30

**Saturday**  
Full services 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon  
ATM 24/7 • NYCE affiliate

Free checking • Competitive interest on savings accounts  
Daily interest on checking with balances over \$500

## Montauk Credit Union

MCU – Your Financial Neighbor

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

## Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.

Board Certified Pediatrician and Pediatric Allergist  
501 Main Street • Roosevelt Island • 753-5505

**Have a happy and healthy school year**

### Office Hours

Monday & Thursday • 9 a.m. -12 noon  
Tuesday • 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday & Friday • 1:30 - 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.

## Claims from page 1

New resident Board member Mark Ponton emerged as the latest advocate for taking some definitive action on the space, telling other Board members and RIOC President Robert H. Ryan, "My understanding is that a couple of guys have secured government funds to the tune of \$765,000, and they have their eye on space. The space is currently occupied by a special school. Now, I understand we have asked this guy to come back to us three times with three different proposals. I'd like to suggest, if we think this guy is a loser why don't we tell him to get lost, and if we don't think he's a loser why don't we give him the space and move the school out of there no later than July 1st?"



Mark Ponton

Ryan told Ponton and the Board, "We're trying to accommodate everybody, and do it in a thought-out fashion."

Ponton added, "My observation is [that if this private school has 30 students, we have a square-foot ratio per student of 333 square feet. If, as rumored, the school has only 20 students, we have a ratio per student of 500 square feet, which is beginning to approach the size of a studio apartment. It seems to me that common sense alone suggests that there has to be a better use for the space. And since we have a month-to-month lease of nothing, it doesn't seem to me to be too difficult to say to this person, six months from now we'd like you to go somewhere else."



Robert H. Ryan

Speaking of Charlie De Fino of the Youth Program, Ponton said, "The guy has these two funds committed, and he is afraid that over time these funds are going to evaporate, and he believes that if he had a lease now in his hand, starting July 1st, that the likelihood of those funds' evaporating would be significantly less. I [also] think that... I would like to see us give this guy a lease next week or tell him no next week."

Later, during the Board's "Town Hall Meeting," Jessica Lappin, representing City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, told the Board that \$610,000 in City funding had been cut from the City budget by the Mayor, but Miller was able to restore it. But, she observed, "We're going into probably the worst budget in the City's history, and we're going to have a \$5 billion deficit, so I do encourage the Board and the Youth Center to work together to try and access that money as quickly as possible. [The sooner] you can get the money and spend it, the better."



Elsie Obed

Tony Morenzi, representing State Assemblymember Pete Grannis, told the Board that State funds committed to the Youth Center project could be "recaptured" by the State if not spent. Asked how long the funds would be safe, he said, "It's not really safe until it's in contract."



Charlie De Fino

Ponton responded, "So the bottom line is we have five minutes to get this thing done."

Elsie Obed, principal of the Lilies School, later explained to the RIOC Board that the Board of Education sets certain requirements for school space which are met by the Blackwell minischool, but would be difficult or impossible to satisfy in other available space on the Island.

RIOC Vice President Robert Antonek described the RIOC staff efforts to find suitable space for the Lilies School, or workable alternative space for an expanded Youth Center, indicating that no solution has been found which would satisfy the needs of both contenders for the space.

The issue remains unresolved, with the next RIOC Board meeting currently scheduled for Thursday morning, October 10.

## VACATION in PEACE

We will feed and lovingly care for your cat while you are away. We will make sure your pet is safe and happy in his or her own home. Will also help with mail, plants, etc. Excellent references. Call us at 751-8214.

## Jack Resnick, M.D.

Board-Certified  
Specialist in Adult Medicine  
(Internal Medicine)

**Health Plans Accepted**  
32-BJ  
Aetna/USHealthcare  
Empire Blue Cross  
CIGNA  
HIP  
Oxford

**832-2310**

**Medicare**  
Now accepting  
Oxford Medicare

501 Main Street  
Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044

# Gristede's full page camera-ready is due

