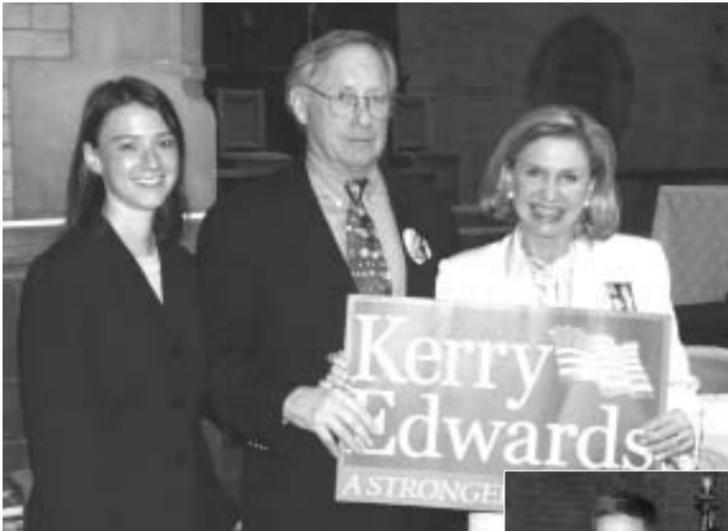


Post-election issue
in one week:
Sat., Nov. 6

The Main Street **WIRE**

25th Year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



Assemblymember Pete Grannis and Rep. Carolyn Maloney, both Democrats, spoke Tuesday evening at a pre-election rally on the Island. Both are candidates for re-election; Jessica Lappin (left) also spoke, standing in for City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, whose Council seat she's expected to seek next year. Maloney's Republican opponent, Anton Srdanovic (inset), also asked for the votes of residents. Just short of 100 attended.



Grannis: RIOC Sought Law Change For Apartments at Octagon

RIOC asked Assemblymember Pete Grannis to agree to a rewriting of the 2002 Roosevelt Island Open Spaces Law to remove any ambiguity regarding the legality of building the Octagon Apartments project, according to Grannis.

Grannis spoke with *The WIRE* briefly Tuesday night at the election rally held at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. He said RIOC's outside counsel, Steven Kass, had approached him with a draft bill. Grannis said he refused to commit himself. The RIOC Board had, by then, voted to remove "legislative permission" language from its resolutions authorizing the project to go forward.

The revelation suggests at least some doubt at RIOC that the project is certain to survive an expected challenge in court.

The language of the bill reads:
Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, or any other law

to the contrary, on or after the effective date of this section, no further development or construction for other than park purposes shall be permitted on any real property which is identified as open space areas in the General Development Plan as amended May 10, 1990 and approved by the Board of Estimate of the City of New York on August 17, 1990 and referred to in the lease defined in subdivision six of section two of this act, and on such real property shall remain open space areas for the duration of the lease unless such development or construction includes the reconstruction, restoration, rehabilitation or preservation of the historic landmarks located in such open space areas and furthers the use of the areas surrounding the historic landmarks as open space areas.

The bill goes on to specify that
See **Octagon**, page 9

Briefly...

PS/IS 217 students are looking for pennies in the tenth annual **Penny Harvest**, sponsored by Common Cents New York, in which students try to collect 25 sacks of pennies. If the kids at PS/IS 217 meet a 750-pound challenge, they get to have a decision-making group, called a Roundtable, where they identify problems within the community and contribute \$1,000 to community organizations and service projects of their choice. Collection containers for Islanders' pennies have been placed in most stores on the Island, and in buildings with doorkeepers. Collections continue until Wednesday, November 24. For more information, call Susan Cohen at the school: **212-980-0294**, ext. 2323.

There's still time to sign up for the **Learning Leaders** program at the school. But required training sessions start Monday (November 1), with two additional sessions November 3 and 8. Additional information at **212-980-0294**, ext. 2323.

Halloween Coverage

The WIRE will publish color Halloween coverage in a post-election issue next weekend. Islanders who take digital photos of the parade and other events are invited to submit a few selected pictures for possible inclusion. Photos should be submitted as soon as possible after Saturday's events, in full resolution, as uncropped JPG or TIF images. One or two photos may be submitted by e-mail to editor@MainStreetWIRE.com. Larger numbers must be provided on PC-compatible 3.5" floppy disks, CD, or USB storage key, with the name (for credit purposes) and phone number of the photographer, and left for *The WIRE* at the desk at 531 Main Street. (Questions? Call **212-826-9055**.)

For RIRA Presidency, Race Is Steve Marcus vs James Whalen Margie Smith Sole RIRA VP Candidate as Islanders Vote in Local and National Elections

Rivercross resident Steve Marcus has put his name forward as a candidate for the presidency of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA). He joins James Whalen, whose candidacy for the top job was reported in the October 16 *WIRE*.

Some 25 candidates, including Whalen, have filed for the Common Council, seeking to represent their buildings. In those races, the only contests are in Westview and Rivercross; in other buildings, the number of candidates is equal to or fewer than the number of seats available (see numbers in parens, right). There are no candidates from the new buildings in Southtown or in 4 River Road, and only two seeking seven Eastwood seats.

But for the first time, the 10-40 addresses in Manhattan Park have enough candidates running to fill 7 of the 8 seats assigned to the four-building district.

Statements by the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates appear on page 8.

Voters will also have the chance to register their views on five referendum questions – on the future of the Octagon Park area, space for the Youth Center, Southpoint Park, Public Safety, and RIOC maintenance of the Island. Those referendum questions are reproduced on page 9, along with some resident

RIRA Nominations

President	546 Main Street (2)
Steve Marcus	Dolores Green
James Whalen	Island House (3)
Vice President	Kasia Edelman
Margie Smith	Frank Farance
Common Council Delegates	John Hafner
2 River Road (1 seat)	Rivercross (3)
James Whalen	Diana Armenakis
4 River Road (1)	Joseph Cristiano
<i>no nominations</i>	Ellen Polivy
10-40 River Road (8)	Howard Polivy
Anita Bonita	Ethel Romm
Lynn Chambers	Ron Schuppert
Mark Chipman	Westview (3)
Russell DiBello	Natalia Chin
L. Mason Lesure	Erin Feely-Nahem
Lillian Shuey Picchione	Sherie Helstien
George Reither	Petra Kaizer
Eastwood (7)	Southtown (3)
James Luce	<i>no nominations</i>
Joyce Mincheff	

views on the questions.

Asked to provide its views on the five questions, the administration of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) declined without offering a reason. The referendum votes are only advisory; the power to make the decisions rests with RIOC as the State agency ad-

ministering the affairs of the Island and with the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), which supervises RIOC. RIRA leadership decided to use the election as an opportunity to seek resident input on the questions to serve as a guide in its interactions with the power structure.

Islander Wins Princess Grace Film Award

Jennings Roth Cornet, a PS/IS 217 graduate who is studying filmmaking in Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, received the Princess Grace Award Wednesday in a ceremony here in New York.

The Princess Grace Awards, now in their 20th year, were created shortly after the 1982 death of Princess Grace of Monaco, with the purpose of helping aspiring artists. The Princess Grace Foundation gives grants in the form of scholarships, apprenticeships, and fellowships to aspiring young artists. Awards are given in dance, theater, and film.

Roth Cornet is in her last year at Loyola Marymount, maintaining a 4.0 average as a film major with a mi-

nor in Asian-Pacific studies, according to her mother, Debra Mount Cornet, a resident of Island House. She is working as a researcher, writer, and producer for Loyola Productions, Inc., a non-profit Jesuit production company.

Her short film, *Chloe*, was screened at the Directors Guild of America, and won the "Film Outside the Frame" award. Another film, *Muse*, was selected by Loyola Marymount for screening on public television in Los Angeles. She's working on a thesis film, *Sequence*, an exploration of a series of events leading to a death, and producing two short films, *Standing in Traffic* and *The Bold, the Bad, and the Beautiful*.



The Editorial Page

Steve Marcus for RIRA

It's a no-brainer.

Steve Marcus has paid dues upon dues over the past two years as the second banana in the RIRA administration of Matthew Katz. He's in synch with the policies that work toward a stronger voice for residents in this bastion of non-democracy where all the important decisions are made by appointees of the Governor.

His statement of candidacy is on page 8.

John Kerry for America

Another no-brainer.

In living memory, there has been no Presidency so riven with such a snarl of sad misjudgments as that we have now.

John Kerry's credentials make him an outstanding candidate to right the Ship of State. But more than anything, this nation must free itself from the rat's-nest of Cheney-Bush policy that has the current administration tangled in the blistering bind of inability to admit any error while errors multiply upon errors.



Backtracking is out of the question when you can't admit a mis-step. Cheney's policies leave George Bush with nothing to do except plunge deeper into a demonstration of national madness that has been characterized as "mad cowboy disease." To wit:

- Be so eager to do the Old Man (Bush, Sr., that is) one better that you deliberately confuse Al Qaeda with Iraq and Osama bin Laden with Saddam Hussein, drop the ball in Afghanistan, and then...
- Invade Iraq on a premature conclusion, based on deliberately warped intelligence findings, that Saddam Hussein has a stockpile of weapons of mass destruction.
- Claim, falsely, that oil revenue will pay for reconstruction. (After all, Texas oil interests will profit nicely from handling all that crude.)
- Send our troops to war as an anemic force so overextended that it has too little power to keep insurgents from looting stockpiles of high explosives. (Claim, of course, that we are safer today after creating the perfect recruitment tool for Al Qaeda, and after allowing the makings of terribly destructive weapons to fall into their hands.)
- Handle the over-eager run-up to war, and the diplomacy, so badly that allies quite justifiably decline to help. (But claim help from many countries that bring little to the table other than their presence on a list.)
- Hand the job of reconstruction to Halliburton.
- Sacrifice lives. Too many lives. For a mistake that can't be acknowledged.
- Spend hundreds of billions patching up Iraq while leaving America's borders and ports porous to terrorists.

The Cheney-Rumsfeld era must end. Their policies, inarticulately defended with preposterous claims (*Freedom is on the March?*) by a President whose own Secretary of State fades to the background to avoid association with Administration blunders – those policies, too, must go. And with them, George W. Bush (that guy, nearly incidental, who occupies the White House) must go.

It's hard to imagine anyone being undecided about this Administration and this election – and that's without touching on education, health care, economic policy, Social Security, reproductive rights, tax policies, science policy, and so much more.

John Kerry will bring to the Presidency the maturity, seasoning, and discipline that W never had and is unlikely ever to acquire. Kerry is unlikely to believe or claim he's a messenger from God, and more likely to be rationally thoughtful in considering policy and strategic alternatives brought to him.

There is a belief, of course, that New York State is in the bag for Kerry. Even so, an overwhelming popular vote can be an important reinforcement of an Electoral College victory. **So please, vote on Tuesday.** And between now and Tuesday, please pick up the phone and call friends in the swing states. In the end, just a few votes may decide this contest, and you may be able to say you insured some of the votes that made it happen.

DL

There is a fairly good chance, if you are reading these words while the Halloween parade goes by your window, that I am marching up Main Street in Dracula's black cape and fangs as well as Frankenstein's neck bolts. I am a hybrid, equal-opportunity ghoul.

The RIRA Column

Your RIRA nominations committee has completed its job and the results are in: most buildings will be represented by the requisite number of delegates to the Common Council after the RIRA elections on November 2. The candidates' names are listed in this issue of *The WIRE*. In some building complexes, there will actually be contested races! The exceptions include Eastwood, which will seat only two of its seven potential representatives. This is a shame, especially after all the anxiety about fair representation in the new constitution. Also, the two new buildings at Southtown were enfranchised and given the opportunity to fill three seats on the Council. They failed to put up a single candidate but will be able to vote for President and Vice President in the Island-wide elections. I'm neither surprised nor disappointed; remember, Manhattan Park started out the same way and now will fill seven of its Council seats. As the residents learn of the benefits of having a voice on Island issues, I'm sure they will opt to participate.

I am proud and happy to endorse the candidacies of Steve Marcus for President and Margie Smith for Vice President. As First Vice President, Steve's capacity for finding clear language to encompass complicated material and for seeking and finding consensus made the writing and passing of the new constitution and bylaws possible. Also, his efforts brought both Mike Bloomberg and Alan Hevesi to Island Town Meetings during the Mayoral elections of 2001. Government Relations Vice President Margie Smith has been the force behind many of the programs and events that RIRA has produced over the past four years. Her energy and imagina-

tion have made life on Roosevelt Island more fulfilling and more fun. In my building, Westview, I support my wife, Sherie Helstien, and Erin Feely-Nahem, both Council veterans with years of service to the community behind them. Also, Natalia Chin has been an active member of the Westview Task Force and can bring her real-estate expertise to the Council.

The RIOC Board of Directors has endorsed the Public Purpose Fund Committee's recommendation to provide RIRA with funds to hire an election machine company for our elections. The check is deposited and you will encounter a professionally run process when you enter PS/IS 217 on Election Day. Committee Chair David Kraut has made it clear that his committee won't recommend Public Purpose funds for future RIRA elections, and RIRA must factor this into its fund-raising plans for the next two years. The good news is that State Senator Olga Mendez has responded to my request for support, made last February, with a promise of \$5,000. These funds must pass through a State-agency contracting process, and so we won't see a check in time for this election or any time soon. However, should this money materialize, it will take the pressure off the next Council to raise funds for this purpose. That means RIRA fund-raising efforts can be focused on supporting events that will directly enhance the quality of Roosevelt Island life.

By the way, Margie and the Government Relations Committee tried to arrange a debate between Senator **See Katz**, page 10



Matthew Katz, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Assn.
e-mail: MatthewKatz@rcn.com

Letters

To the Editor:

The version of the constitution of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association that is currently in effect is that amended December, 1991. The revision to the RIRA constitution announced on October 13 by the RIRA Common Council and reported in *The WIRE* is null and void.

A letter with a detailed explanation of why this is true has been sent to RIRA. (The letter is available on *Website 10044* at nyc10044.com/wire/2504/diamond.pdf). It advises that *Robert's Rules of Order* states, "No motion is in order that conflicts with... the assembly's constitution or by-laws, and if such a motion is adopted, even by a unanimous vote, it is null and void."

At the September 8 meeting of the Council, there was a motion to vote on a revision to the RIRA constitution. The Council overlooked a requirement in the RIRA constitution that amendments must be proposed in writing at a meeting of the Council and then voted on at a subsequent meeting. The minutes of the meeting show this was not done; the motion to vote is null and void.

The purpose of the requirement is to allow Council members time to review a proposal. The text that was voted on contained errors and in fact did not represent the wishes of the Council.

Subsequent ratification of the voided proposal at the October 13 meeting is similarly null and void.

In contrast, two amendments to the constitution were properly introduced in writing by Karen Stewart at the August meeting and voted on in September.

The letter also debunks RIRA President Matthew Katz's excuse for trying to rush through a document that knowingly included errors.

The Council must now propose an amendment to the constitution should it wish to provide for representation of Southtown residents.

Robert's advises, "Great care should be exercised in amending constitutions, etc., to comply with every rule in regard to their amendment."

Marc Diamond

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the ad placed in *The Main Street WIRE* on October 16, 2004, regarding the announcement that Riverwalk is accepting applications for their condos currently under construction. My numerous failed attempts to get a response from Riverwalk Marketing and Sales Agent's Sales Center, via e-mail, phone, and even in person, leads me to question whether the ad was merely a formality. It may be that those who are able to apply were screened long before and that the placing of the ad was merely to give the appearance of a transparent and fair process.

Gaurav Narula

Editor's note: David Kramer of the Hudson Companies tells *The WIRE*, in response to a question about Narula's letter, "We've gotten a tremendous response and have a lot of unanswered calls and e-mails to return."

To My Neighbors:

Gristede's has recently been fined by New York City for price fraud. In lay terms, the price says one thing on item or sign, then another thing, usually higher, on the computer. Then you have to stand in line at the manager's counter for a refund, then – I'm not done yet – you have to go back in line at the cashier's for your money. I asked the manager if he knew his was the worst grocery chain in New York. He replied with a question: "Have you ever been to Macy's?" "Yes," I said, "but I usually never pay more, in fact it's usually less. If it isn't, you at least have a choice before ringing it up. Beware, my fellow Islanders – know the price before checking out. You could be rich by year's end!"

Carol Elbaz

Letters deadline for Nov. 6 issue:

Wed., Nov. 3, 4:00 p.m.

After deadline, letters still considered if space is available.

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; *letters submitted anonymously are not considered for publication.*

Preferred form of submission: E-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com (plaintext e-mail format preferred, or attach a file created using any common wordprocessing software, but no MSWord files containing macros), or on a PC-standard 3.5" disk left at the desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. **Alternatives:** Typed copy left at 531 Main Street. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered if brief, but we are not able to take telephone dictation of letters. **Letters are subject to acceptance and to possible editing for length and clarity.** Recommended maximum length, 300 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

Ilusha Turcihin



My father, Ilusha Turcihin, died October 16. It was sudden and completely unexpected. I am sure you know my father. He rode his bicycle every day, back and forth the length of the Island. In the summer, he would be seen riding his bike, wearing his favorite sweater, even if it was unbearably hot. Every day he would enjoy this beautiful Island that we all share. He loved to stop, admire the trees and talk to so many people in this community. In fact, the day before he went to the hospital, he took his customary ride and, that Tuesday, I was told by so many Islanders that they saw him, talked to him, waved hello to him. He took the Tram, picked up his favorite fish for dinner, and returned home, seeing so many Islanders on his way. On that same day, he completed his paintings that he worked so hard to finish with the right strokes and colors. He told my mother, "I'm done. The paintings are good." It was almost like he was saying his farewells to us.

He was born October 9, 1927, of Russian parents in Turkey. He had a
See **Turcihin**, page 10

The weather has certainly changed since my last column. The much colder weather is beginning to have an effect on the trees and plants around the Island. It is my hope that, when the time comes to do the planting for next Spring and Summer, the new planters will be

The RIOC Column

in place on Main Street and around the Island. During the coming Fall and Winter months the current planters, which have been damaged by people sitting on them and backing into them, will be removed.

There are additional improvements coming. As previously mentioned, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) needs to fix the water-main breaks before road work can start by Gristede's and Manhattan Park. I am happy to report that the repairs have begun. It is too early to tell exactly how long the repairs are going to take, because the preliminary evaluation of the situation is not yet completed.

The DEP repair work has already caused some minor disruptions of bus service, traffic, and pedestrian access. Please be assured that as soon as we have information we will make it available to the public. In many instances, however, we do not know that they are com-

ing. When time and materials are available they come to the Island. I hope that the repairs are done in time for the road work to be completed before the onset of Winter. We will continue to stay on top of this and push for the work to be done quickly.

There will also be transformer work performed on the Island over the next few weeks. Two transformers will be replaced by Con Ed. We have been assured that all work will take place during the night when the loads are lower, and that there will be no interruption in service. We do not have exact dates yet, but again, we have been assured that there will be no negative impact for Island residents.

The Island also has a new tree by the picnic benches by Octagon. The tree, planted by the Roosevelt Island Tree Board, was donated in memory of Hallie Geier. She was such a vital part of the Roosevelt Island community and this really is a beautiful celebration of her young life. I invite everyone to go down and see it and enjoy the shade in the coming years.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is also focused on the greenery of the Island, but their focus is at the Southpoint of the Island. The group made a presentation to the advisory committee on October 25. They have narrowed the plans down to one preferred choice. The comments of the committee will be addressed and then this choice will be presented to the community in a public meeting at the end of November. The plan will be posted a week prior to the meeting.

TPL took all of the comments raised at the public meetings into

account before narrowing the plans down to one preferred plan. I am looking forward to seeing the preferred plan once the new comments are incorporated. I hope that everybody will attend the next meeting.

Finally, I am happy to report that the State and City Offices of Emergency Management meeting with RIOC, Matt Katz from RIRA, and Keyspan did take place on October 19. It was explained to all present that there are many safety layers in place. They range from



Herbert E. Berman, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corp.
e-mail: HBerman@rioc.com

how close vessels can come to the plant, to the thickness and location of equipment, to the requirements for entering the site. This was of particular importance to all who attended the meeting due to the proximity of the plants to Roosevelt Island.

The staff of Keyspan suggested that people on Roosevelt Island might be more comfortable if they had emergency numbers that they could call if they suspected that there was a problem with stacks or plants. OEM agreed and expanded on the idea. As a result, OEM staff will work together with RIOC staff to put together a list of emergency contact numbers. The list will include the numbers of City and State agencies to contact in various types of emergencies. The list will be released to all of the buildings, posted on the web site and kiosks, and sent via the RIOC advisories e-mail as soon as it is completed.

I see that the candidates for positions within RIRA have been announced. I wish all of the candidates the best of luck and I look forward to working with the next president on issues that concern Roosevelt Island. I also want to take this opportunity to once again thank Matt Katz for all of the work that he put into the organization and the Island.

By the time that you receive this issue, the Halloween parade will be either hours away or just over. I want to say again that I wish everybody a happy and safe time this Halloween and hope that everyone joins us at the parade and playground naming.

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

Historical Society Tour – Goldwater Hospital, Sat., Oct. 30, 11:00 a.m., including orientation, therapy, recreation, specialty-care units. Reservations: **212-688-4836**, or e-mail RooseveltIslandHistory@USA.com. Free.

Halloween Parade and Extravaganza, Sat., Oct. 30. Parade forms at Blackwell House, and starts at noon. Festivities start at 12:30 at PS/IS 217 Beacon Yard: Game booths, moonwalk, and much more. Sponsored by RIHMC and RIYP.

Performance Art at the Lighthouse, Fri. & Sat., Oct. 29-30, all day, by William Pope L., who will handwrite *Moby Dick* from memory (among other activities). Free.

Photographs of Islander Maria Casotti on display 8:00-6:00 today (Sat., Oct. 30; last day) at the meeting room of the Bank of America, Empire State Building branch. Free and open to the public. Artist present 10:00-2:00.

— The Coming Week —

General Election and Residents Association (RIRA) Election, Tue., Nov. 2, 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., PS/IS 217. All residents age 18 and over, regardless of national citizenship, are entitled to vote in the RIRA election on both referendum questions and candidates.

Residents Association Common Council Meeting, Wed., Nov. 3, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Open. First meeting of the newly elected Council. An opportunity for residents to speak briefly on matters of their choice is generally made available early in the meeting.

Historical Society Tour – the Tram, Sun., Nov. 7, 11:00 a.m., guided by Judith Berdy. Reservations: **212-688-4836**, or e-mail RooseveltIslandHistory@USA.com. Free.

The Main Street WIRE – post-election issue in one week: **Sat., Nov. 6**. (To receive e-mail bulletins between issues, send an "Add Me" message to Bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.)

Deadlines: Advertising in the paper, today, Sat., Oct. 30; decision on inserts for *The Bag*, Mon., Nov. 1; inserts due Thur., Nov. 4. **Future issues:** Nov. 20 (Thanksgiving issue); Dec. 4, 18 (two December holiday issues). **In 2005:** Jan. 8, 22; Feb. 5, 19; Mar. 5, 19; Apr. 2, 16, 30; May 14; June 4, 18; July 2, 30; Aug. 27; Sept. 10, 24; Oct. 8, 22; Nov. 5, 19; Dec. 3, 17. **Phone/fax for news, 212-826-9055/755-2540; urgent matters 917-617-0449. Phone/fax for display and classified advertising placement and information, 212-751-8214/755-2540. To list your organization's Island-related event in this column, please e-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com, or leave it, addressed to *The WIRE*, at the desk at 531 Main Street; provide a telephone number for follow-up questions; there is no charge for such listings.**

There is no charge to list Island events here. E-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com or leave copy at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. Please provide telephone numbers for possible follow-up.

— Future Events —

An Introduction to the Talmud, presented by the Roosevelt Island Jewish Congregation, **Mon., Nov. 8**, 7:45, Cultural Center. (Second and last session, Nov. 15). Information: JorelJr@msn.com.

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, Mon., Nov. 8, 8:00 p.m. Visitors welcome. For location call Doris at **212-751-9577**.

La Leche League meeting for pregnant and breastfeeding women, **Tue., Nov. 9**, 1:00 p.m., 20 River Road #5P. Free. Information: **212-832-1188**.

Historical Society Tour – Water Tunnel, Sat., Nov. 13, 11:00 a.m., guided by Nancy Cruikshank, former geologist on the project. Reservations: **212-688-4836**, or e-mail RooseveltIslandHistory@USA.com. Free.

Orphans International Third Annual Benefit, Mon., Nov. 15, 6-9 p.m., Yale Club, Manhattan. Tickets \$100 and up; child sponsorship \$600/year. Reservations/information: **212-755-7285**.

An Introduction to the Talmud, presented by the Roosevelt Island Jewish Congregation (second of two sessions), **Mon., Nov. 15**, 7:45, Cultural Center. Information: JorelJr@msn.com.

At press time, the **Public Safety Blotter** for the last half of October was not yet available. When it is ready, it will be posted on *Website NYC10044* at nyc10044.com/wire/2504/blot2504.html.

The WIRE

Published by **The Main Street WIRE**,
©2004 Unisource2000™ Inc.
531 Main St. #413, NYC10044

News **212-826-9055**
Urgent news **917-617-0449**
Advertising **212-751-8214**
Circulation **212-935-7534**
Fax (call first) 212-755-2540
e-mail editor@MainStreetWIRE.com
in association with
Website NYC10044 – nyc10044.com

Managing Editor – Dick Lutz
Reporters – Mary Camper-Titsingh, Anna Doumnova
Albany Correspondent – Erik Kriss
Chief Proofreader – Kay Thompson
Proofreader – Linda Heimer
Photographers – Maria Casotti, Vicki Feinmel, Susheel Kurien
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Senior Center

Monday	12:30, Movie
10-11, Latchhook Class	1:00, Drawing with Pastels
10-11:30, English as 2nd Language	7:00, Dance
10:30, Blood Pressure Screening	Friday
12:30, "Oldies" Movies	9:30, Yoga
1:00, Tai Chi	10:30, Computers
7:00, Dance Class (Beginners)	1:00, Bridge
Tuesday	6:00, Dance & Relax
10:00, Computers	7:00, Games (RISA)
10-11, Dance & Relax	Saturday
1:00, Bingo	7:30, Bingo (RISA)
6:00, Yoga Class	
7:30, Games (RISA)	
Wednesday	
9:15, Stay Well	
10:00, Spanish Class	
10:30, Shoppers' Bus	
12:30, Sculpting (RISA)	
7:00, Pokeno (RISA)	
Thursday	
10:00, Tai Chi	
10:30, Creative Arts	

Special Events

Sun., Oct. 31, 7:00, Halloween Party
Tue., Nov. 2, center closed (Election Day)
Mon., Nov. 8, 11:00, MetroCard Bus
Mon., Nov. 8, RISA Cotton Club trip
Wed., Nov. 17, Atlantic City trip
Tue., Nov. 30, RISA Las Vegas trip

Home-delivered meals: **212-744-5022, ext. 1203**

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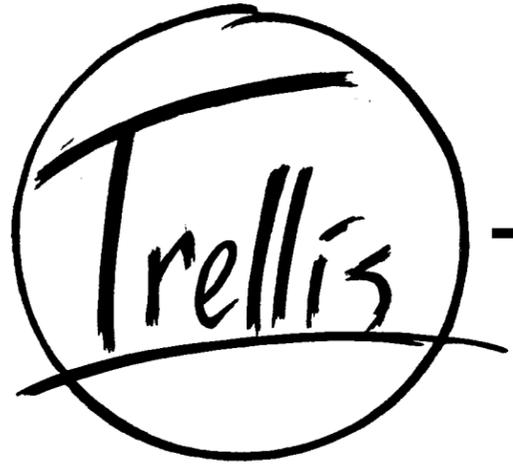


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- Sponsored Bill S5626, which insures preservation loans on Mitchell-Lama projects, which facilitate conversion of such projects to HOME OWNERSHIP for existing tenants.
- Sponsored legislation which requires requires companies aided by loans under Mitchell-Lama to notify tenants to buy out from mortgage options and a report by the commissioner or supervising agency.
- Sponsored bill to increase Minimum Wage and raise Standard of Living for millions of New Yorkers. In November the Senator will return to Albany to fight the governor's veto.
- Secured funding for the Roosevelt Island Youth Program, Senior programs, and Roosevelt Island Residents Association.
- Secured 26 million dollars for Coler Memorial Hospital.
- \$200,000 for the restoration and preservation of Blackwell House.
- Sponsored legislation which gives Island residents a majority voice on the RIO Board (Senate Bill 5136-c).
- Worked with the MTA for the use of MetroCard on the Tram.

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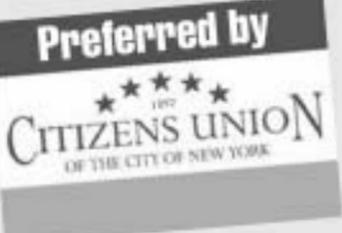
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Platform Statements from Candidates for the RIRA Presidency

James Whalen

It's time for a change. A drastic change. We have had four years of doing nothing. Well, that's not quite true. They did do something. They managed to obtain \$10,000 of public money to show a movie two summers ago. Imagine \$10,000 to sit in an empty lot and sip wine while watching a fifty-year-old movie that has been shown free on TV 107 times. Think what the PTA could have done with that money. Or the Senior center. Or Meals on Wheels. And then they were able to obtain \$100,000 of public money for the art gallery. You know the one – in the Rivercross building. The one that's always empty. Imagine \$100,000 so they could learn body painting and stare at nude models and show art that no one is interested in. Did you ever see anyone in the art gallery? Have they accounted for the \$100,000? Think what the PTA could do with \$100,000? The Senior center? The Boy Scouts? The Girl Scouts?

Of course, they gave us expensive and needless cookbooks. They gave us bagels on Roosevelt Island Day. They gave us blood drives which were totally unnecessary. They gave us a \$2,000 donation which represented a "gift" from the movie company, which had already spent \$100,000 plus in fees and extras while making a movie on the Island. They did nothing during the blackout except terrorize the RIOC staff. They did nothing while our only bridge to the world was taken over so pleasure boats could sail by (thank God we did not have a fire while the bridge was up). They spent six months arguing over a Constitution and Bylaws which no one has read, will read, or cares about.

The list is endless but, more important, who are "they?" They are the people who live in the only resident-owned building on the Island: Rivercross. The rich people. The people who think nothing of spending \$10,000 for a movie or \$100,000 for an art studio. It is not an accident that the \$100,000 studio is in Rivercross. It is not an accident that they want to control the future of this Island.

Rivercross is also the home of the evil empire also know as the Maple Tree Group. A notorious sinister group who just a short time ago were planning the People's Republic of Roosevelt Island. Imagine, this Island would be run as an independent country. And they almost succeeded until I was able to expose them.

But enough about the enemy of this wonderful Island. What are my plans? My primary plan is to return this Island to the City of New York who, in a moment of misguided but well intended generosity (the road to Hell is paved with good intentions – St. Patrick) loaned us to the State of New York. It is time we returned home. But that will take time. A year or two at best. But it can and should be done. I hope to be remembered as the man who returned Roosevelt Island to New York City. A name change? Well?

But what meanwhile? Well, for openers:

- I will see to it that our hospitals who will not accept us as emergency patients will do so.
- I will permanently close our bridge to river traffic.
- I will end the duplication of Red Buses and white buses.
- I will increase the number of bus stops.
- I will end the needless and insulting RIOC bashing which "they" love.
- I will stop the \$90 million park.
- I will encourage housing and office space, especially the Octagon project.
- I will ease the transition of Roosevelt Island housing to the inevitable – all housing will be condo or coop.
- I will privatize open land for development as is done in Manhattan.
- I will encourage our citizens to stop whining.
- I will tear down the wall around Rivercross and its residents.
- I will never be accused of presiding over another boring RIRA meeting.
- I will double the size of the St. Patrick's Day parade.

In the Residents Association (RIRA) election, all Island residents 18 and over, regardless of their national citizenship, are eligible to vote. Standard election machines will be used for this election, which is held Tuesday, November 2, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., at PS/IS 217.

New to the Island?

A Bit of Background:

The Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) is the State-recognized representative of the Island's residents. It has no actual governing power, but in the past has applied the pressure of public opinion to prevent Tram cutbacks, demand MetroCard for the Tramway, and secure passage of a law providing that a majority of the members of the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) be residents.

RIRA has also mounted several community-oriented projects – Movies at Southpoint, participation in Roosevelt Island Day, fund-raising dances, free dances on the pier, blood drives, and other events.

The RIRA Common Council, consisting of its President, Vice President, and delegates from Island "districts" (buildings or groups of buildings), is its policy-making body. In the past, it has typically met monthly, on the first Wednesday of the month (with some variations for holidays). Its officers and council members serve two-year terms and may run for re-election with no term limits.

The real governing power for the Island resides with RIOC, whose President and Board members are appointed by the Governor. In 2002, the Roosevelt Island Open Spaces law went into effect, providing that a majority of the members of the RIOC Board be residents. As yet, however, the Governor has not made all the appointments necessary to reconfigure the Board to comply with that law.

Steve Marcus

While RIRA has no legal control over the administration of Roosevelt Island, it is the only organization where every adult resident can democratically select people to represent their views to our politicians, to the folks on the RIOC Board, and at the RIOC management offices. I wish that we could replace all of the members who are appointed by the Governor to serve on the RIOC board with members who are elected from the community. If we did, we wouldn't have development projects like Southtown in which the developers make millions and Roosevelt Island makes peanuts. I doubt we'd be paving over Octagon Park with massive 13-story wings that will kill our open space. We'd give the Youth Program the long-term lease it needs to get the \$1.6 million dollars that Gifford Miller has offered. We wouldn't put up with years of potholes and street rollercoasters like the ones near Gristede's, where seniors and the disabled have so much trouble negotiating the uneven terrain. We'd actually see that all the snow from the sidewalks was shoveled on a timely basis, even in front of the subway, even though the current RIOC considers this to be "MTA property." We might also have a coherent emergency plan, so that if we get another blackout, at least the very young and old have places on the Island to stay warm in the winter or cool in the summer.

I can't promise you that I or anyone in RIRA can fix these problems or others, both large and small, on the whole list of items I have on my "wish list." As Vice-President of RIRA for the last two years, getting resolution on these items was my priority and, if I am elected as RIRA President, it will continue to be. Successes are slow in coming, but I think our pressure has helped.

My only opponent for this office is Jim Whalen. There are significant differences between Jim and me that may help you decide who best represents your viewpoint. I'll try to fairly represent what I understand Jim's viewpoints to be, since you may not hear it from him. Jim has repeatedly said that he wants as much development as the Island will bear. He believes that more people will bring better-maintained stores and facilities. I don't disagree with him on the latter point, but I wonder how these extra folks will get to and from work when the F train and Tram are already running at close to 100% capacity. I am also a heavy consumer of the open spaces of the Island – the ball fields, courts, parks and picnic areas, and the prospect of any more of them being permanently paved over causes me great sadness.

Jim is also a vocal opponent of the Maple Tree Group, of which I am a member. This is a volunteer group of residents dedicated to the achievement of self-government. I'd love to see our affairs managed by a group of elected representatives who, in turn, hire and oversee a management company to perform Island services. Jim prefers that New York City take us over now rather than in 2066, when its agreement with the State ends. This alternative is highly unlikely, and I can't see how it would be an improvement over the status quo. I'd much rather focus on what is possible – a democratically elected RIOC board.

In the next few years, there will be major upheavals on the Island. "Affordable" housing, as we know it, will be phased out. Island House and Westview residents will either see their rents rise significantly or may be offered the opportunity to purchase their apartments. As residents leave Eastwood, their units will be converted to "market rate." It seems unlikely that in ten years, or even five, this community will have the diverse mix of income groups that we have today. I think RIRA should be ready to offer all the assistance and cooperation that it can to keep this place affordable for ourselves and our friends and neighbors.

I've been privileged to serve on RIRA while Matt Katz has been president. He has been a great advocate for Island residents, and has done a good job of keeping RIRA meetings congenial and well run, and deserves our thanks for the efforts he has made on our behalf and the successes that he's had. Also, whether you vote for me or not, picking Margie Smith for Vice-President should be a no-brainer – she has a special mix of competence, dedication, and likeability that make a great asset in any organization.

Finally, please vote on the referenda. I'm voting "Yes" to keep Octagon Park a park and not a housing project, "Yes" to keep Southpoint Park all green without retail space or other large buildings, and "Yes" to ask RIOC to give the Youth Program the long-term home it deserves.

Remember, every Island resident over the age of 18 can vote in RIRA elections, even if you are not permitted to vote in the national elections. And, like those elections, RIRA's voting machines are also in PS/IS 217. See you at the polls!

platform. Steve is intelligent, caring and, unlike many others, willing to take an active part in the work that needs to be done. I've worked with Steve in the past. He's a good guy who loves this Island and really wants to save it from piecemeal development and the disastrous financial deals of the past. But, in addition, he wants to build a stronger community spirit and exert more pressure on RIOC to be more responsive to resident issues. But he can't do it alone; the more resident involvement, the better the results for the Island will be.

Realistically, RIRA has no unilateral power to make any changes on this Island. Our only strength comes from whatever pressure we exert over our government officials. No matter how hard this new Council tries, it will only be as effective as the people of Roosevelt Island enable it to be.

This is your home. Pataki's biggest ace in the hole is our apathy. No matter who wins the Presidency and the Council seats, please work with your new representatives to make New York State sit up and listen to the citizens of Roosevelt Island.



Unopposed for RIRA Vice Presidency

Margie Smith

When I decide which candidates to vote for in any election, I base my decision on a combination of



things. I consider their intelligence level, character, past performance, current platform, and my perception of whether or not they'll be able to fulfill their campaign promises.

Even though I'm running unopposed, I think it's important that you know at least some basic information about me.

I've been a resident of Roosevelt Island for the past 26 years and I believe it's one of the best places in the country to live.

I've been a Common Council member, representing Rivercross, for the past two years, and an Alternate for the prior two years. During my tenure, I've worked on several RIRA committees, such as Housing, Social/Cultural/Education, and Government Relations, which I chaired. Among other

things, these committees organized an Insurance Fair, coordinated the annual blood drives, arranged for a busload of residents to go to Albany to lobby for an extension of rent control legislation, showed movies at Southpoint Park, worked with the legislature to pass our Open Spaces law and, under a Government Relations sub-committee, we continue to work toward getting a resident-elected RIOC Board of Directors.

I was fortunate that during my tenure Matt Katz was President of RIRA. Matt has donated countless hours to community service and it was a pleasure serving under his leadership.

This year Steve Marcus is running for Council President. That's the main reason I threw my hat into the ring. I completely endorse his

Statements on Advisory Referendum Questions on RIRA Ballot

The Five Questions

Note: Decisions on these matters are made by administrative and/or legislative authority. Your Residents Association seeks your views on these matters as guidance for its work with public officials.

The "Roosevelt Island Open Spaces Law" (Chapter 493 of the NYS Laws of 2002) provides that open spaces surrounding the Island's landmarked structures are to be kept open and available for public recreational use. This includes all land surrounding the landmarked Octagon ruin. RIOC has approved a proposal to build a 13-story apartment building in Octagon Park in a project that would include restoration of the landmark but would cover much of the open space on the site.

Question: *Should the NY State Legislature refuse to amend this law so that Octagon Park will remain open space?*

The Roosevelt Island Youth Program (RIYP) is eligible for a \$1.65 million City grant to expand and improve its facilities. Availability of the funds depends on the Youth Program's having a long-term lease on the space to be renovated. More than ten years ago, RIOC promised to give the Youth Program new space at 504 Main Street (the former Lilies School) if they would vacate their premises to permit the creation of the Cultural Center. As of this date, RIOC has refused to provide the lease for the promised location, although no other renters have been found for that vacant space.

Question: *Should RIOC grant the Roosevelt Island Youth Program a long-term lease to expand its facilities into 504 Main Street (the former Lilies School)?*

Recently, three possible plans were presented for development of a new park at Southpoint Park. One plan envisions a semi-circle of "commercial space" at the park entrance.

Question: *Should Southpoint Park be protected from commercial development, except for park-related food and recreational facilities?*

Roosevelt Island is patrolled by officers in the Public Safety Department (PSD) paid for by levies on our buildings.

Question: *Are you satisfied with the current level of service provided by Public Safety?*

The responsibilities of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) include maintenance of our sidewalks, plazas, streets, green areas, Motorgate, etc. (RIOC is not responsible for maintenance of residential buildings).

Question: *Are you satisfied with the current level of maintenance of the Island provided by RIOC?*

One Resident's View Space for the Youth Program

I ask the community to support the Roosevelt Island Youth Program by voting Yes on Referendum Question 2. Through many types of academic and athletic programs, the Youth Program serves 1,500 Island kids, over 500 more in the extended community, and large numbers of adult residents, as well. Director Charles DeFino has been particularly resourceful in locating funding for these programs, but the program needs more space and deserves a permanent home.

For years, RIOC granted occupancy of 504 Main Street to the Lilies school, a private school with 20 to 36 students. This is a good-sized two-story structure adjacent to the Youth Center that would be ideal for expansion. Among other ideas, Mr. DeFino would like to put a small convertible theater/auditorium (open to Island organizations) on the second floor, audio and video studio workshops, and a youth-run food service. The secluded outside area behind the building can also be used for handball, picnics, or other uses.

Thanks to the efforts of our local politicians, this plan can be a reality. The Youth Program has been offered grants of \$1,650,000 from City Council Speaker Gifford Miller and another \$165,000 from Assemblymember Pete Grannis. The only strings attached to the use of the City funds are that the Youth Program must have a long-term lease for the property that they want to renovate. Such a lease needs to be granted by RIOC, and therein lies the problem.

The Youth Program has requested from RIOC the use of 504 Main Street for many years. In fact, in the early 90's, RIOC offered this space to the Youth Center, in writing, if it would move out of its old premises to make room for the Cultural Center, which it did. Lately, RIOC's reasons for welching on the deal seem to be two-fold. First, they want to make money. They claim to be "actively marketing" this space, but in fact, no viable renter has ever been found for it. Then they raised concerns about the viability of the Youth Program and its ability to pay the utilities bills. This concern seems particularly irrelevant. If the Youth Program ceases to exist, it will still have spent two million dollars to renovate this crumbling building and insulate it so it is energy-efficient. The City, as title holder, would either find the funds to permit the Youth Program to continue operating or, in consultation with the community and our local City and State representatives, would come up with a plan to provide a viable program for our kids.

Recently, RIOC granted a lease to the Child School for all the remaining space in Northtown at rental rates that are a fraction of market rates. We have an expanding population, and diminishing space. Can't we offer the children who live right here in our own community the same opportunities? With all the income from Southtown and Octagon, surely we can afford to give our own children a decent spot to learn and recreate. If RIOC won't grant a lease for the Lilies building, then where? If not now, when?

To my knowledge, consideration of the Youth Program's request has not even made it to RIOC's agenda. Perhaps an overwhelming "Yes" vote on this question will prompt RIOC to consider this matter and finally put the old Lilies School building to a good use.

Incidentally, any resident of Roosevelt Island over the age of 18 may vote in these referenda. Make your wishes known!

Steve Marcus

The RIOC View?

Editor's Note: *The WIRE* asked the RIOC administration to provide its views on these questions, for publication. RIOC declined. *The WIRE* also asked two Board members to express their views or the RIOC viewpoint on one or more of the matters; each declined. *The WIRE* also asked Becker and Becker, the architects of the Octagon Apartments project, to comment on that issue. Becker and Becker also declined.

One Resident's View Octagon Apartments Question

The sacrifice of public parkland to private development is always forever, a loss that is irretrievable.

In the instance of the Octagon Development, the loss follows other sacrifices of parkland this community has already suffered. Octagon Park was 25 full acres when Roosevelt Island's first residents moved in.

In December of 1977, ten acres were slashed from Octagon Park to create the Manhattan Park development. The acres around the Octagon itself have been fenced off for years due to RIOC's failure to develop the park. Another major chunk of Octagon Park the size of

the soccer field and gardens combined is blocked off by the Water Tower grounds, a situation that is not likely to change in our post 9/11 world for security reasons... never mind the fact that RIOC has already spent the funds that were allocated for park development of that land on Southtown infrastructure costs.

We've lost enough. And we have Pete Grannis to thank that we don't have to lose any more.

In 2002, Grannis introduced the RI Open Spaces Bill in Albany, and, before the end of that year, Governor Pataki signed it into law. That law protects our RI parklands from further encroachment, especially from one branch of government doing deals with another. In order to build this development, the RI Open Spaces Law will have to undergo formal amendment in the NY State Legislature. It is for us, the residents of RI, to speak out strongly through this referendum to protest any change to this law.

It is important to remember that the history of the Octagon Project began before Octagon Park was so firmly protected by law. The original plan was particularly tempting. The developers themselves are exemplary. The building as it was originally conceived was lovely, with its mansard roof that left the restored Octagon its primary visual focus. The Octagon itself would be restored to its earlier splendor. Land that is now blocked off to us would be developed as parkland. There was the promise of that lottery.

All of that is history now. Taller wings and an extension dwarfing the Octagon, on site parking, no affordable housing, no lottery.

RIOC certainly needs the income, and that income would, theoretically, benefit the residents. Theoretically.

And, of course, without the apartments, the land that is fenced off from us now will remain fenced off for at least a while, the Octagon will remain a ruin. For now at least. But times change, as we've seen. Money markets change. If we let the parkland go, it's gone forever.

RIOC needs the income because Gov. Pataki has defaulted on New York State's responsibility to Roosevelt Island's capital expense. Bad governance will be rewarded by an income source from assets taken from the governed.

If we speak with one voice it doesn't have to happen.

Vote Yes in the RIRA referendum to ask our State Legislature to refuse to amend the RI Open Spaces Law.

Karen Stewart

question on Tuesday's RIRA ballot, giving residents over 18 an opportunity to express themselves on the subject. The question (see article, this page) is phrased so that a "yes" vote is effectively a vote against the Octagon Apartments project, urging the Legislature not to amend the 2002 law. A "no" vote effectively favors amendment of the law and construction of the project.

One Resident's View Island Maintenance by RIOC

Question: *Are you satisfied with the current level of maintenance of the Island provided by RIOC?*

No! The current level of maintenance of the physical plant on Roosevelt Island ranges from poor to awful.

There is no ready two-way communication between the citizens of the Island and RIOC to inform/remind them of maintenance problems. The management of RIOC does not live on the Island.

Main Street north of the bridge ramp has become a rutted country lane over a five-year period. The bridge ramp has been repaired in the same temporary way for each of the last four years. The announced repairs to the Blackwell House have been announced for five years. The infestation of Japanese knotweed that began three years ago with the replanting north of the F Train ventilation building has been steadily moving north without any attention. The area west of the Water Tunnel fence has never been smoothed out and planted properly. The escalators at Motorgate stopped running in March. The night lights along public walks and streets remain out for months at a time. Traffic signs fade and fall without replacement. Dead trees remain in the triangle north of Meditation Steps since last Spring. The equipment in the playgrounds deteriorate without the day-to-day upkeep necessary. Trash barrels disappear and are not replaced along the Promenade. Tripping hazards in the Church Plaza were marked for correction a year ago and remain uncorrected. The original esthetic design of the Island has been compromised over and over again.

Why? RIOC has offered a variety of reasons for these failures. These reasons all point toward inadequate management in the use of available resources, toward an avoidance of responsibility. Some slapdash work is done in the name of expediency or through lack of caring, or simple incompetence.

In the last analysis, RIOC is unable to manage its finances, can't plan for the mandated operation of the Island, and is incapable of doing the work necessary to carry on the idea that created what was, and could be again, a showcase community in the Capital of the World.

David Bauer

Octagon from page 1

it applies to Octagon Park. The lease under which the State of New York is developing and managing Roosevelt Island runs out in 2068.

Grannis maintains that the language of the law prohibits construction of the apartment wings planned for the Octagon project. The language was put into the bill by the administration of Governor George Pataki, in amending a Grannis bill that provided for a RIOC Board elected by residents. (Pataki changes also removed the provision for Board election, leaving the Board an all-Governor-appointed body, though specifying that a Board majority must be residents. However, over two years later, Pataki has not yet put residents into the seats of expired appointees on the Board.)

RIOC has taken the position that the law's language does not prohibit construction of the apartment wings outside the boundaries of the landmarked Octagon tower itself.

Presumably, the question would remain open were there no legal challenge to the planned residential construction.

As reported in *The WIRE* October 16, RIOC Board member Leo Kayser has urged residents to refrain from taking the matter to court, citing RIOC's need for the \$11 million income expected from the project and the cost of litigation. During the last RIOC Board session, Board chair Mary Beth Labate went so far as to say, "Every dollar we spend on litigation is a dollar taken out of the pockets of Roosevelt Island residents." Actually, residents would not be required to pay litigation costs; RIOC would. Labate apparently meant to suggest that funds spent in court actions would reduce amounts RIOC might spend on other items to which residents would give a higher priority.

The Octagon Apartments are the subject of an advisory referendum

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Katz from page 2

Mendez, who is running as a Republican, and her Democratic challenger, José Serrano. This was not to be, however, as the Mendez camp hasn't responded to the dates we offered, or suggested others. Too bad.

I'll bring you up to speed on some of the meetings I mentioned in my last column: I attended the second in a series of contingency planning meetings under the auspices of SEMO (State Emergency Management Office) and held in the RIOC offices with Operations Vice President Sari Halpern Dickson presiding. You will recall that the first of these meetings took place in July prior to the Roosevelt Island Bridge failures in August. Representatives from Keyspan were the keynote guests, including April Dubison, Community Development Director, and Dom DiGiorgio, who is onsite at the Ravenswood control room.

Several things were made clear: the peak units near our bridge that are used during summer heat waves will continue to supplement the new Keyspan II plant. They can burn either natural gas or the kerosene with whose fragrant and visible emissions we are all too familiar. Mr. DiGiorgio said that Keyspan would prefer to use the less polluting natural gas but that they would use the cheaper fuel. He said that photographing the plant was a no-no for security reasons and just last weekend I saw a Public Safety officer questioning a camera-toting visitor on the Roosevelt Island Bridge. So be on your guard.

SEMO representative Ted Fisch noted that standard operating procedure for New York

City is to "shelter in place" in time of emergency. However, should some or all of our population need to be moved, the Metropolitan Transit Authority will provide extra buses, with our Red Bus fleet as a distinct second choice, according to Ms. Dickson. She noted that our bridge might be made permanently static should the Coast Guard determine that our West Channel is safe for marine traffic under all circumstances. The good news is that the next meeting has been scheduled for December 1 and will include the MTA. Also, and most important, we've been assured that this course of meetings will result in a document, a Standard Operating Guide for Roosevelt Island, that will provide several pages of instructions for Roosevelt Islanders in a time of crisis. Since the Blackout of August 2003, I've felt that such a written contingency plan was needed and that these meetings should result in such a record of our discussions.

Briefly, the Trust for Public Land met earlier this week with its advisory group to consider the preferred conceptual plan, presented to the community as "Wild Garden/Green Rooms." Based on the questionnaire responses requested at last month's Town Meetings, we Islanders are in favor of more greenery and opposed to a massive FDR Memorial or a commercial crescent. However, the advisory committee members felt that some appropriate homage to Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt should be included. You will have a chance to respond to our work at another Town Meeting to be scheduled toward the end of November. Please

Turcihin from page 3

wonderful childhood, being spoiled by his parents and sister. He met my mother on a blind date and their marriage of 45 years was truly extraordinary. My father's career in the travel industry, which spanned over 45 years, as a sales manager for El Al Israel Airlines and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, allowed him the opportunity for extensive travel. My father's knowledge of the airline business also provided him with an Adjunct Professorship at New York University, which he loved.

As so many of you know, my father was a great conversationalist. He would ask, "Where are you from?" and the conversation would spiral into customs, beauty, and language of that particular country. My father was a true humanist. He loved the diversity of people, language, and customs. He spoke many languages – Russian, Turkish, French, Italian, Greek, and English. He spent many hours collecting stamps and taking care of the roses he grew on his terrace. After his retirement and the loss of my sister, my father struggled with depression. He eventually picked up his paintbrush and canvas again, after 30 years, and found joy in his life once more. He became a member of the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association (RIVAA) and painted beautifully with love and creativity. I am so proud of him. And now he leaves us with his brushstrokes that I so longingly look at with amazement. He was a special man, sweet and kind, full of vitality, and a loving grandfather to my two children. He spent many days with my children, taking care of them as only a grandfather can. With love and patience, he taught them all the good things the world can offer. My mother, my children, my husband, and I miss him so very much.

Yesterday morning, I heard birds chirping so loudly on my apartment ledge. These birds were trying to get my attention. So I slowly moved to the window to see what all the commotion was about. The two small blackbirds were staring right at me, chirping with musical ease. I imagine that these two birds came to give me a message that my father and sister are together and quite fine. My father would receive this kind of visit on his terrace from a bird that he believed was bringing messages from my sister.

My family and I want to thank the tremendous Roosevelt Island community for their love and support through this time. Rivercross and Roosevelt Island have been our home since 1977. My father was right in choosing this beautiful Island as our home.

Olya Turcihin-Stern

Two great Roosevelt Island color postcards
See Classifieds, page 11



attend if you can.

And finally, I haven't received an answer from the MTA regarding the disruption to our F-train service when Phase I of the Second Avenue subway reaches the 63rd Street connection. I was unable to attend the Com-

munity Board 8 Transportation Committee meeting on Thursday as it conflicted with our Candidates' Night, and I hope someone from the CB8 Roosevelt Island Committee was able to attend and will bring all of us up to speed.

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