



HONORS
ROBIN DROPKIN
FORMER PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



WITH
ERIK KULLESEID
NYS PARKS COMMISSIONER
SEN. JOSÉ SERRANO
NYS SENATOR—DISTRICT 29

CAROL ASH
PRESIDENT, PALISADES PARK CONSERVANCY BOARD

JUDY MOWER
FORMER PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK BOARD CHAIR

PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK

2023

GEORGE W. PERKINS AWARD RECEPTION

**HONORING
ROBIN DROPKIN**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10
5PM-7PM**

WELCOME

PAUL STEELY WHITE

PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**HONORING ROBIN'S
LIFE & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

JUDY MOWER

FORMER PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK BOARD CHAIR

CAROL ASH

PRESIDENT, PALISADES PARK CONSERVANCY BOARD

ERIK KULLESEID

NYS PARKS COMMISSIONER

SEN. JOSÉ SERRANO

NYS SENATOR—DISTRICT 29

**ROBIN DROPKIN
LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD**

JEFFREY BENDER

PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK BOARD CHAIR

HONORING ROBIN'S FAMILY

CLOSING REMARKS

HONORARY CHAIRS

DR. LUCY R.
WALETZKY
&
JEFFREY P. BENDER



HONORARY COMMITTEE

ROBERT BASCH &
BARBARA ETZEL
JEFFREY & LOUISE BENDER
HELENA & PETER BIENSTOCK
JULIE BLACKBURN
DAVID E. BRONSTON, ESQ.
ANNE PERKINS CABOT
LYNN CHEUNG
DEBORAH COHEN &
EDGAR MASTERS
THE FAMILY OF ROBIN DROPKIN

HONORARY COMMITTEE

THE DURST ORGANIZATION
OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE
JANICE FONTANELLA
FRANCES & GEORGE GOTCSIK
JEFFREY & PAULA GURAL
WILLIAM & MARY JANEWAY
ANGELA JULIEN
ROBERT & CAROL KAFIN
JOHN KEIB
JP LAQUEUR
DR. NADINE LEMMON
BARBARA LOWREY
SUE & THOMAS LYONS
CANDACE & JOHN MARSELLUS
ELIZABETH MARTYN &
MICHAEL RYZEWIC
DOUGLAS & SUSAN MCCUEN
JUDY & ERIC MOWER
FRED & ANNE OSBORN, III
STEPHEN PAGANO
TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND
GAIL S. PORT
RICHARD REMMER
SIGI SCHWINGE
HODGSON RUSS LLP
A. JOSEPH SCOTT, III &
COLLEEN M. O'CONNELL
SUSAN STASHOWER
DR. LUCY R. WALETZKY

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

JEFFREY & LOUISE BENDER
DR. NADINE LEMMON
ELIZABETH MARTYN &
MICHAEL RYZEWIC
DR. LUCY R. WALETZKY

DEFENDER

ANNE PERKINS CABOT
OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE
THE DURST ORGANIZATION
ADAM D. WHITE

PROTECTOR

MARK HARBAUGH &
NATIONAL GRID
WILLIAM & MARY JANEWAY
JP LAQUEUR
SUE & THOMAS LYONS
STEPHEN PAGANO
HODGSON RUSS LLP
A. JOSEPH SCOTT, III &
COLLEEN M. O'CONNELL



SUPPORTER

ROBERT BASCH &
BARBARA ETZEL
HELENA & PETER BIENSTOCK
GLEN & BROOKE BOLOFSKY
LYNN CHEUNG
FRANCES & GEORGE GOTCSIK
JEFFREY & PAULA GURAL
ROBERT & CAROL KAFIN
LEE & NANCY KEET
TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND
BRYCE & SAMANTHA O'BRIEN
GAIL S. PORT
ALEXANDER &
KATHERINE ROGERS
SUSAN STASHOWER
REBECCA YOUNG &
MICHAEL LESH

FRIEND

DAVID E. BRONSTON, ESQ.
DEBORAH COHEN &
EDGAR MASTERS
JANICE FONTANELLA
HUDSON VALLEY
CREDIT UNION
ANGELA JULIEN
JOHN KEIB
BARBARA LOWREY
CANDACE & JOHN MARSELLUS
DOUGLAS & SUSAN MCCUEN
GLENN PACCHIANNIA &
KATRINA SCHINDLEDECKER
RICHARD REMMER
SIGI SCHWINGE

A LETTER FROM THE FAMILY OF ROBIN DROPKIN

PTNY COMMUNITY,

WE APPRECIATE THAT SO MANY HAVE GATHERED TO
COMMEMORATE ROBIN DROPKIN. IT KEEPS HER PRESENT WITH US.

ROBIN WAS COMMITTED TO NEW YORK'S PARKS. AS HER FAMILY,
WE SAW THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES ENERGY, DEDICATION, AND
CARE THAT WENT INTO EVERY ASPECT OF HER WORK. WE ALWAYS
UNDERSTOOD THAT WE HAD TO SHARE HER WITH HER FIRST LOVE:
PUBLIC LANDS. WHILE SHE WASN'T INTERESTED IN HIGHLIGHTING
HER OWN ACCOMPLISHMENTS, SHE WAS INTERESTED IN BEING ON
THE FRONT LINES TO FIGHT FOR OUR PARKS AND TRAILS.

FROM PTNY'S BIKE TOUR (NOW TOURS) TO THE EMPIRE STATE
TRAIL, ONE OF HER BIGGEST POINTS OF PRIDE WAS THE CREATION
OF MORE SAFE CYCLING ACCESS FOR ALL NEW YORKERS. ANYONE
PARTICIPATING IN CYCLE THE ERIE CANAL IN YEARS PAST KNOWS
JUST HOW MUCH SHE LOVED THE TOUR—AND THE COMMUNITY
THAT WAS CREATED FROM IT.

SO THANK YOU TO EVERYONE IN ATTENDANCE FOR HONORING HER
LIFE'S WORK. IT IS A COMFORT TO KNOW THAT HER MEMORY IS A
BLESSING FOR ALL OF THOSE WHO LOVE AND VALUE OUR PARKS,
TRAILS, AND PUBLIC LANDS.

SINCERELY,
THE DROPKIN-FRANK FAMILY



A LETTER FROM THE PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK COMMUNITY

TO OUR SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS,

THANK YOU FOR GATHERING IN COMMUNITY WITH US TO HONOR THE LIFE AND WORK OF ONE OF THE STATE'S MOST DEDICATED ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES, ROBIN DROPKIN.

WHILE ROBIN'S TIME WITH PTNY MIGHT BE LONG, HER LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR NEW YORK'S PUBLIC LANDS AND THE COMMUNITIES WHO USE, LOVE, AND RELY ON THEM IS EVEN LONGER.

ANYONE WORKING IN GREEN SPACE ADVOCACY IN NYS SURELY KNOWS OR HAS HEARD OF ROBIN. HER LEGACY IS TRULY ETCHED ACROSS THE FACE OF OUR PUBLIC LANDS, FROM BUFFALO TO ALBANY AND NIAGARA FALLS TO JONES BEACH. LISTING ALL HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS WOULD TAKE MORE INK AND PAPER THAN THIS SHORT PROGRAM HAS.

A PRIVATE AND QUIET PERSON, ROBIN WAS INDOMITABLE WHEN SHE NEEDED TO BE, PUSHING FOR CRITICAL FUNDING FOR OUR STATE PARKS AND CREATION OF THE EMPIRE STATE TRAIL.

SHE ALSO HAD A CUTTING WIT, FREQUENTLY PRESENTED DEADPAN AND NEVER CEASING TO AMUSE AND ENGAGE.

ROBIN WAS AN INCREDIBLE COLLABORATOR: NEVER THE GLAD-HANDER IN THE PHOTO OP, BUT WORKING IN HER OWN WAY TO DRAW TOGETHER IMPACTFUL NETWORKS LIKE THOSE WHO FOUGHT THE "SAVE OUR STATE PARKS" CAMPAIGN, SUPPORTING AND CREATING MORE FRIENDS GROUPS ACROSS THE STATE, AND BRINGING TOGETHER CYCLING ADVOCATES AT THE FIRST EVER CYCLE THE ERIE CANAL.



A LETTER FROM THE PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK COMMUNITY CONTINUED...

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THERE AREN'T ENOUGH WORDS TO SAY HOW MUCH WE MISS—AND WILL CONTINUE TO MISS—HER STOIC KINDNESS. WE ARE, HOWEVER, CLOSER TO HER WHENEVER WE RIDE A TRAIL, WATCH A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET AT A STATE PARK, OR JUST SIT QUIETLY ENJOYING THE FLOWERS AND THE BIRD SONG.

SO THANK YOU AGAIN FOR JOINING WITH US TO HONOR HER WORK AND TO HOLD HER MEMORY—MAY IT ALWAYS BE A BLESSING.

SINCERELY,
THE PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK FAMILY



REMEMBRANCES OF ROBIN

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ROBIN AND PTNY IN THEIR SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR THE EMPIRE STATE TRAIL, A TRULY UNIQUE AND VISIONARY TRAIL SYSTEM FOR NEW YORK STATE.

ROB BASCH & BARBARA ETZEL

ROBIN AT PTNY DID AS MUCH FOR IMPROVING THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND USE OF NYS PARKS AS CALVERT AND VAUX DID FOR CENTRAL PARK AND LE VOTRE DID FOR VERSAILLES (AND WITH A LOT LESS RESOURCES AT HER DISPOSAL!).

DAVID BRONSTON

WITH GRATITUDE TO ROBIN DROPKIN. HER LEGACY WILL ENDURE.

DEB COHEN & EDGAR MASTERS

NATIONAL GRID IS HONORED TO CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT OF PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK IN ROBIN'S MEMORY.

NATIONAL GRID NY

WE REMEMBER ROBIN THROUGH HER FOREVER ENDURING CONTRIBUTIONS TO PARKS AND OTHER PUBLIC SPACES.

BOB & CAROL KAFIN

ROBIN - A CREATIVE, BOLD, VISIONARY LEADER WHOSE UNMATCHED WORK ETHIC BROUGHT MAJOR CHANGE FOR OUR PARKS AND TRAILS FOR YEARS TO COME, BUT BEST OF ALL, A MENTOR AND TREASURED FRIEND.

FRAN GOTCSIK

THE LAQUEUR FAMILY THANKS PTNY AND ALL ITS STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR BEING SUCH AN IMPORTANT FORCE FOR DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE PARKS AND TRAILS THAT SERVE AS A REFUGE FOR ALL NEW YORKERS.

JP LAQUEUR & FAMILY

MANY THANKS TO ROBIN FOR MAKING PTNY THE WONDERFUL ORGANIZATION IT IS.

STEPHEN PAGANO



REMEMBRANCES OF ROBIN

IN MY WORK WITH NOT-FOR-PROFITS OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE MET SOME EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE. THOSE WHO IMPACTED ME THE MOST SEEMED TO HAVE A DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN A QUIET, POLITE OUTSIDE, AND A FIERCE, DETERMINED INSIDE.

ROBIN DROPKIN WAS ONE OF THOSE. WITH A MILD BUT STRONG LEADERSHIP STYLE, SHE KNEW HOW TO TOGGLE BETWEEN WHAT WAS IMPORTANT FROM WHAT WAS MERELY URGENT. PEOPLE GRAVITATED TO HER AND STOOD BY HER BECAUSE SHE STOOD BY THEM; SHE STOOD UP FOR THEM; AND SHE STOOD UP FOR WHAT WAS RIGHT.

ROBIN'S LIFE AND WORK MADE AN AMAZING IMPROVEMENT TO THE LIFE OF NEW YORK'S OUTDOORS. HER LEADERSHIP OF PTNY PUT HER IN A PLACE THAT ENABLED HER TO HAVE CLOUT FOR CHANGE. AND WHAT A DIFFERENCE SHE MADE!

FRED OSBORN III

WE ARE ALL HERE TO CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF ROBIN DROPKIN. SHE WAS THE HEART AND SOUL OF PTNY. THANK YOU ROBIN!

ALEX ROGERS

HODGSON RUSS LLP HONORS THE INCREDIBLE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THIS YEAR'S GEORGE W. PERKINS AWARD WINNER, ROBIN DROPKIN, WHOSE WORK WILL LIVE ON THROUGH PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK. WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT PTNY AND ITS MEMBERS IN THEIR DEDICATION TO IMPROVING OUR HEALTH, ECONOMY, AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

HODGSON RUSS LLP

PROUD AND HONORED TO HAVE WORKED WITH ROBIN. THE WORLD IS CERTAINLY A BETTER PLACE THANKS TO HER.

RICHARD REMMER

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND CREATES PARKS AND PROTECTS PUBLIC LANDS WHERE THEY'RE NEEDED MOST SO THAT EVERYONE WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE BENEFITS AND JOYS OF THE OUTDOORS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. OUR WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF INCREDIBLE ADVOCATES LIKE ROBIN DROPKIN, WHOSE IMPACT CAN BE FELT IN PARKS, TRAILS, AND PUBLIC LANDS ACROSS NEW YORK STATE.

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND



Photography.
Exhibitions.
Workshops.
Artist talks.
Community.
cpw.org

The Durst Organization
is pleased to join
Parks & Trails New York
in honoring
Robin Dropkin



We Remember Robin For Her Transformational Leadership

And her love of the outdoors.

Judy and Eric Mower



THE GEORGE W. PERKINS AWARD WAS ESTABLISHED BY PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK TO HONOR OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP. THE AWARD IS NAMED FOR GEORGE W. PERKINS, WHO, IN HIS LONG-TIME COMMITMENT TO NEW YORK’S MAGNIFICENT STATE PARK SYSTEM, WAS A MODEL OF THE BEST IN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC SERVICE.

PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK IS NEW YORK’S LEADING STATEWIDE ADVOCATE FOR PARKS AND TRAILS, DEDICATED SINCE 1985 TO IMPROVING OUR HEALTH, ECONOMY, AND QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH THE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF GREEN SPACE.

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