

## **Judith Bronfman Has Passed Away**

Our good friend Judith Bronfman, president of the West 76<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association, passed away last Saturday, May 7. She had all the attributes of a natural community leader, particularly the ability to retain names and faces, to raise issues small or large with elected officials or city managers, to give a helping hand even if she knew it was for a losing cause. Yet what set her apart was her underlying warmth, calm, and complete fairness, which only elicited respect from everyone she came in contact with, whether a neighbor on the block or the Manhattan Borough President. Indeed on December 1, 2014, Judith and this block association were given the Community Service Award for 2014 by the West Side Federation of Block Associations. The Manhattan Borough President Gail Brewer presented the award to Judith and in doing so reminisced a bit about the many years they had worked together to resolve a constant stream of community issues.

But community concerns were not the only thing that motivated Judith. A sense of neighborliness and neighborhood characterized Judith's approach to community leadership. She looked forward to and spear-headed the annual community get-togethers organized by the block association, including the annual winter party, the fall white elephant sale, and the Spring Cleanup and Planting. In the weeks before her death, Judith had been helping to organize the upcoming Spring Planting scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. The decision by the Board of Directors to go ahead with this annual event is meant as a tribute to Judith's community spirit, which we can only hope to emulate.

Judith's family has arranged for a memorial service on Sunday, May 15 at 3:00 PM at the Riverside Memorial Chapel, 180 West 76<sup>th</sup> Street.