



Op—Ed

True Holiday Spirit BY BRYAN GOLDEN

Among other things, the holidays are a time of giving and receiving gifts. The question most often asked of people is, "What did you get?" Much less frequently asked is, "What did you give?" Invariably, the inquiries concern material gifts. Purchasing a gift can certainly be thoughtful and a wonderful gesture, especially when it's backed up by our actions.

However, the most valuable presents are those that aren't sold in stores. When you give your love, your time, help someone in need, aid another in solving a problem or overcoming an obstacle, you give something priceless.

The true spirit of the holidays is giving. When you give, you receive. You can get anything in life you want by helping others enough to get what they want—but only if you give without expecting anything in return. The impact of giving isn't limited to just the holiday season, it's something that has value all year.

The power of giving is often underestimated. When you give unconditionally, you don't just impact the recipient; you start a chain reaction. By brightening the life of one person, you also affect all those who they then touch.

No gesture of giving or kindness is too small.

FedEx, Steel Equities and to all our local politicians. Our local politicians also wrote letters voicing the community's opposition to this project to the interested parties.

The Astoria Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association together with The Coalition for a Better Astoria organized a rally on Sept. 20, 2008 at the FedEx/Kinkos store on Steinway Street to oppose the project. At the rally, Councilmember Peter Vallone Jr. and Teddy Kasapis, representing [state] Senator George Onorato joined us to protest against the FedEx major distribution center. Besides our Association and the organization members that joined the Coalition for a Better Astoria, no other community civic association attended this rally or publicly voiced their opposition to this FedEx major distribution center.

In addition, no other civic association besides the Astoria Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association and the organizations making up the Coalition for a Better Astoria were as involved as we were in the opposition of this FedEx major distribution center and did all the work that we did to stop this project from going forward and now some are publicly trying to take the credit for stopping this project.

I thank all who helped us in stopping this FedEx project from going forward. In unity, we can accomplish many things.

Our vision at this Con Edison property is for it

Holding the door open at a store, helping someone carry groceries to their car, letting another car in front of you, saying please and thank you and saying hello to a stranger you pass on the sidewalk are some of the many things you can do daily.

For family and friends, your time is one of the most precious gifts you can offer. Are you there for others when they need you? Do you offer a hand without being asked? Do you help out when asked?

Too often, people get caught up in their own desires, thus losing sight of the needs of others. A person who tries to get through life by looking out for himself or herself first is invariably frustrated. Often this person views life as a competition to determine who can accumulate more.

On the other hand, those who are concerned for the well-being of others are happier, more content, and more satisfied. By giving without expecting, they in turn receive the things they need.

Giving is a simple concept that works every time it is applied. There will be people who don't appreciate what you do, but it doesn't matter. You are giving without anticipating anything in

return. Besides, there will be many more who are thankful for your efforts.

If you don't treat others well, buying a gift won't compensate for your behavior. The recipient might like what you give but it won't make up for your actions. You can't bribe someone to forgive the way you treat them with a present.

The best gift you can receive is the joy of making someone else happy. Being unselfish is a wonderful way to live. When you give with no ulterior motives, your actions are seen as genuine. Should you expect something in return, your behavior is always suspect. We all know people who do nice things only when they want something in return.

Make giving a daily routine. Don't start and end with the holiday season. Every day is a good day to do something nice. When people feel good due to your actions, you can't help but feel happy yourself. And that is priceless. The most significant action you can take is having a positive impact on the lives of others.

Bryan Golden is a self-development expert, syndicated columnist, author of "Dare to Live Without Limits", and professor.

the U.S. off of foreign energy the largest danger to our nation would be our own refusal to see the threat for what it is.

Edward Horn
Baldwin, New York

We Stopped Con Ed, FedEx

To The Editor:

When they first found out in January of 2008 at the cabinet meeting of Community Board One chaired by Mr. George Delis that Con Edison was planning on selling 21 acres of its land to Steel Equities, who would in turn lease to FedEx for use as a major distribution center, we immediately objected and organized opposition to it.

It was our organization, the Astoria Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association, that spearheaded opposition and protest to this proposed project. We then formed the Coalition for a Better Astoria, a group consisting of the Astoria Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association, Greenshores NYC, Long Island City Alliance, Democracy for NYC Astoria Linkup, the Queens Independent Living Center, the Astoria and LIC Waterfront Alliance, C.H.O.K.E Greek American Homeowners Association, Eleftheria Pancyprian Youth, Long Island City Rock and the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, all gathered together to protest this project.

After careful review of the Environmental Assessment Statement both by myself and professionally by Kyle Wiswall, from Tri-State Transportation, a member of the Coalition for a Better Astoria, we found many items that we were opposed to and did not agree with. The Association and the Coalition wrote letters voicing our opposition and enlisting all to help in our efforts to stop this FedEx major distribution center from going forward in our neighborhood. Among the many letters we wrote were to the New York City Economic Development Corp., New York State Public Service Commission, New York State Attorney General's office, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Con Edison,

to remain green and if possible develop it into a public park for all to enjoy in the future and to offset all the pollution generated from the many power stations, LaGuardia Airport, Riker's Island, the Industrial Park and other traffic from Con Edison operations.

Sincerely,
Rudy Sarchese
President

Astoria Homeowners, Tenants
& Business Civic Association

Spend Bridge \$ On Roads

To The Editor:

Concerning "Triborough Bridge Renamed For Robert F. Kennedy" (Dan Miller -- November 26), given our current financial crises, why spend over \$4 million to rename the Triborough Bridge after the late United States Senator Robert F. Kennedy? His political career and assassination in 1968 while running for President in the Democratic Primary are ancient history. Few remember in 1964 his moving to New York state as a carpetbagger going on to defeat incumbent Republican Senator Kenneth Keating. Kennedy benefited by the Democratic Party landslide which elected Texan Lyndon Johnson President against GOP Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater.

These funds would be better spent filling thousands of pot holes and improving lighting on highways which could actually save both lives and

property. There are better ways to honor the legend of Senator Robert F. Kennedy than wasting scarce taxpayer-generated dollars naming a bridge after him.

Sincerely,
Larry Penner
Great Neck, New York

Name Change Pointless

To The Editor:

With respect to your story on November 26, 2008, "Triborough Bridge Renamed For Robert F. Kennedy", I am disappointed that you didn't mention the enormous cost of this needless exercise in confusion. The former name was shorter and symbolic of the bridge's function; the new name is longer (no one will ever say anything other than "Triborough, I mean, what is it now? RFK?") and the change cost so much money that especially in these lean economic times, the politicians should be ashamed of themselves. Perhaps [Mayor Michael] Bloomberg can donate the \$400 million it reportedly cost so that other city programs do not have to suffer for this vanity.

E.C. Farmer
Long Beach, N.Y.

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