

Joan Meyler --  
valued leader in the battle for affordable housing;  
irreplaceable friend and guide.

I am sorry to be here today, and I'm still shocked that Joan Meyler is no longer with us at cu4ml. Joan was a prominent member of this organization since before it got organized, a member who became known to most of our members, even to many M-L cooperators who are not members, and to many elected officials and housing agency officers in New York.

What made Joan valuable to so many people? Certainly, more than one thing. I'd have to say at least:

1. She was **SMART AND REASONABLE, AND PATIENT** with those of us who so easily got lost when reading laws and regulations and proposed bills.
2. She made herself **AVAILABLE** to testify at public hearings and to programs within cu4ml, and often to Mitchell-Lama coops whose members needed educating about their own coop's affairs. She could make housing finance understandable!
3. Joan **AUTHORED** many of cu4ml's documents, most importantly
  - bills to be proposed for passage,
  - cu4ml positions on controversial issues in our coops,
  - proposals of changes in regulations so important to the current and future welfare of the entire M-L Program,
  - and a multitude of very polite -- but forceful -- letters to officials.

I first met Joan some time before 2007; by late 2008, she had become my personal tutor in finding and understanding laws and regulations. I'm a natural scientist by trade, and when I found it necessary to make sense of legal-style writing, Joan was generous with her help.

Two years ago, Joan declined reelection to chair of the cu4ml Legislative Committee and seemed to become scarce at the cu4ml board meetings. She also made more frequent trips to California. I thought, fine; wonderful, happy things were sprouting up in her life – two granddaughters – and I sort of thought she was indulging in grandparenthood. I suspect now that she was seriously ill, although she didn't mention it to most of us at cu4ml, and she still made an effort to assist in our activities. She did, in fact, author the original text of the bills that we have been urging on legislators over the past year and a half. These are the bills to prevent privatization of any M-L coop as long as it is enjoying the generous NYC subsidy, the real estate tax abatement.

As my last word of tribute to Joan, I'd like to suggest that we think of the proposed change in the Private Housing Finance Law contained in those bills as the MEYLER AMENDMENT. I'll think of it as such, and I urge you to join me in continuing to let her lead us in our advocacy for perpetually affordable Mitchell-Lama cooperatives.

I'd prefer that she could do so in person. I miss her.

May she rest in peace in a fine new home.

Jeanne S. Poindexter, 28 June 2015