



New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers

P.O. Box 271, Raritan, New Jersey 08869-0271

<http://www.nj-arp.org/>

September 24, 2015

NJ-ARP's annual Advocate for Rail Transit (ART) Award for outstanding dedication to improved rail transportation awarded to *Save the Dinky's* Anita Garoniak.

The Board of Directors of the New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers (**NJ-ARP**), was extremely pleased to this year honor Anita Garoniak, the founder of *Save the Dinky* as our annual Arthur L. Reuben (ART) Advocate for Rail Transit Award winner at our annual meeting, held this year on September 19 in Short Hills, New Jersey.

If our 35 years of rail advocacy has taught us anything, it's that advocacy is not for the faint of heart, nor for those who lack patience and determination. There are always hard-fought battles to be won, and multitudes of reasons why *not* to build something, or in Princeton's case, preserve something both of historic value and of necessity to the community. We also learn that sometimes, despite the best of efforts, what we seek to attain is not realized.

Anita Garoniak is a true advocate in every sense of the word. She saw an injustice and tried with all her heart and soul to right that wrong by founding *Save the Dinky* and organizing like-minded citizens of Princeton into a strong group to fight the entrenched bureaucracies of Princeton University and New Jersey Transit.

Trying to preserve the beautiful Princeton Rail station, a landmarked piece of history, was a daunting task, as was trying to prevent the moving of the station facilities to an inconvenient location. **NJ-ARP** was proud to have been part of that effort even though we realized going in that the deck was totally stacked against the good citizens of Princeton by both the University, and by the Governor whom we felt had a conflict of interest, being simultaneously on the University Board and, as Governor, the titular head of New Jersey Transit

Most of the legal appeals have failed and the dirty deed of removing the station to be possibly *re-purposed* at some later date as a restaurant has been done. Those that have committed this ultimate crime have stripped away the historic significance of the station, and have done so to their everlasting shame. The legacy they leave behind is that *nothing is sacred*.

NJ-ARP wishes Anita well in her continued efforts and she can rest assured to have **NJ-ARP's** support. Congratulations on her well-deserved award.

—Leonard Resto., **NJ-ARP** President

Contact information:

Len Resto
Les Wolff

(973) 635-5373
(201) 573-0146

lenresto@optonline.net
lwjm@optonline.net