

The Puffin Foundation Ltd.

"...continuing the dialogue between art and the lives of ordinary people."

Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition

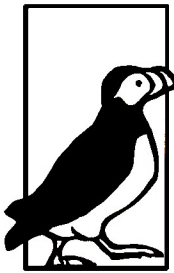
October 19, 2025

Neal Rosenstein: Gladys Welcoming the Stranger Awardee Speech

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'd like to start with a thank you and acknowledgement of all the vital and affirming work done by the Coalition and all of you. And I'd also like to acknowledge the Puffin staff & family who are so instrumental to everything we are able to achieve.

I have had the privilege to introduce and present awards to a wide list of impressive individuals on behalf of Puffin over the years. Noted academics, talented organizers, educators, and a celebrity or two. But I sincerely have never, never, never had the privilege to do so for someone as special and as classy as Gladys Miller Rosenstein

We had a great introduction by Laura highlighting Gladys's contributions to the Coalition. But her commitments to immigrant and refugee rights and the welfare of those abroad has always been a moral imperative for her. It's reflected in her unwavering commitment and support of maternal health in Uganda; supporting refugees crossing the Mediterranean; recognizing the work of the volunteers who leave water and food in the desert for those taking the dangerous routes over the Mexican border; and supporting the rabbi who has brought fresh-water portable showers and clean clothes to refugees in Texas.... I really could go on and on.



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But I also wanted to share some additional thoughts about Gladys. For 25 years I have watched her interact with a wide and diverse set of folks. And all of them, each and every one - including one or two we weren't necessarily overjoyed to see – were treated with the same respect, poise, and patience as the others. But as I mentioned earlier... Gladys is also the classiest person I know. You aren't only respected, your time is valued and you are heard. And there's a good chance our conference table is filled with lunch from Bagel Twist and the table is set like you were in a classy restaurant... with linen napkins that she then takes home and washes for the next guests.

And just to be clear here that Gladys isn't resting on her laurels... or her tuches. Every day she's more likely to be in the office than not, perhaps answering emails, in a meeting, or reading some of the hundreds of proposals that pass through her hands for review every year.

She has been the heart and soul of Puffin for many years, especially since the passing of Perry. But for all I've said so far, I've left her commitment to her Teaneck and the places she loves last... but not least. Gladys's contributions to: the creation and revitalization of The Teaneck Creek Conservancy, the cultural life of Teaneck, the students and youth of the community has always been a priority for her, just as her commitment to the lives of the immigrants and refugees supported by the Coalition.

We are so fortunate and grateful for all her work.