



# EEAC

SPRING 1999

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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## EEAC's 25th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

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### CHAIR'S MESSAGE

**T**his year EEAC celebrates its 25th anniversary. Throughout the year we will rejoice in our achievements, reflect on our past, and look ahead as we prepare to meet the challenge of the 21st century. It will be an exciting year for EEAC!

We owe our legacy to a group of dedicated, and I might add, visionary environmental educators, who met in 1974 at the Mohonk Conference on Environmental Education. At that historic gathering in New Paltz, New York, EEAC was born. EEAC was originally created to support the environmental education initiatives of New York City public schools. We have since grown into an umbrella organization, serving as an advisory council to a diverse group of individuals and organizations while supporting environmental education efforts in New York City. Throughout its twenty-five years, EEAC has played an important role in the development of major environmental education initiatives. While we have achieved much, and environmental education opportunities have increased, there is still a great deal more to be done in order to bring about systemic environmental education.

Over the years, much of the work of EEAC has been accomplished by the hard work and dedication of individuals who have served on the Steering Committee. As a completely voluntary organization, we depend almost exclusively on our members for support. In fact, our members are one of our most important assets, representing a broad range of individuals including, classroom teachers, students, administrators, science coordinators, environmental educators, government officials, and concerned individuals who support environmental education. One need only come to a members' meeting to experience the power of EEAC networking!

Our programs provide members with opportunities for learning about the wide range of environmental resources available to them. Members' programs have included grant-writing workshops, behind-the-scenes tours of museums and zoos, boat rides, panel discussions, lectures and much more — brings back memories for some of you? EEAC's quarterly newsletter reaches over 1,000 individuals in the tri-state area. Later this year we will publish a special 25th anniversary issue.

Our networking capabilities have been greatly increased through our listserv. Members can participate in the lively discussions of the EEAC listserv which serves as a forum for information sharing, network-

*Continued on page 7*



## UPCOMING EEAC EVENTS.....

### Steering Committee Meetings

EEAC Steering Committee meetings are held from 4-6pm on the third Wednesday of every month. Please arrive promptly at 4pm!

All EEAC members are invited to attend and participate in the discussion. For information on the location of the meetings, contact Millard Clements at (212) 998-5495.

### Upcoming Meeting Information:

Steering Committee meetings are held at New York University, Pless Building, 32 Washington Square Park East and Washington Place. Upcoming meetings will be on March 17, April 21, and May 19.

### Newsletter Deadlines

THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINES ARE CHANGED TO THE FIRST MONDAY IN APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER AND JANUARY. If possible, please E-mail articles to joygarland@banet.net and send longer articles as an attachment in Microsoft Word or on a floppy disc in MS Word. Typed articles should be sent to the Editor's address below.

### Newsletter Committee

Kenneth Kowald  
Marcia Kaplan-Mann  
Michael Mann  
Roland Rogers  
Joy Garland, Newsletter Editor,  
440 East 20 Street, Apt. 7F, New York, NY 10009  
(212) 673-6732.

Special THANKS to Con Edison for supporting the publication of this newsletter.



## JOIN EEAC!

If you are a member of EEAC and want to be part of the information sharing and discussion on the EEAC

Listserve contact:

Carol\_Franken@fcl.nycenet.edu or  
(212) 828-3511.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

c/o Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment  
The Tennis House  
Prospect Park  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215-9992  
(718) 788-8500

This newsletter is a publication of the Environmental Education Advisory Council (EEAC), a voluntary organization of educators, classroom teachers, administrators and other professionals in active support of environmental education. It is available free upon request.

### EEAC OFFICERS

Mary J. Leou, Ed.D., Chairperson  
Kenneth Kowald, Vice-Chair for Issues  
Terry Ippolito, Vice-Chair for Programs  
Millard Clements Ph.D., Secretary  
Kim Estes-Fradis, Membership Secretary  
Joanne Dittersdorf, Treasurer

### STEERING COMMITTEE \*

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Cecil Corbin-Mark, WHE-ACT  
Joanne Dittersdorf, Citizen's Committee for New York City  
Meg Domroese, AMNH, Center for Biodiversity  
Ruth Eilenberg  
Kim Estes-Fradis, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection  
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Carol Franken, Community School District 4  
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Terry Ippolito, U.S.EPA  
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Marcia Kaplan-Mann, Environmental Quest/UFT  
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Mary Leou, UFEP, City Parks Foundation  
Jeffrey Liggins  
Barbara Miller, NYC Board of Education  
Regina McCarthy, Gateway Environmental Study Center  
John Pritchard, Grover Cleveland High School  
Roland Rogers, Wave Hill  
Barry Weinbrom, Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment  
Deborah Winiarski, Community School District 25

### HONORARY MEMBERS

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Samuel Holmes  
Bernard Kirschenbaum  
Michael Mann, Clearwater  
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Helen Ross Russell  
Talbert Spence, National Audubon Society  
Nancy A. Wolf  
Michael Zamm, Council on the Environment of NYC

\*Affiliations for identification purposes only.

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## The GLOBE Program *by John Pritchard*

Imagine yourself as an environmental scientist who would like to quickly and easily collect worldwide data on a daily basis. Imagine yourself as a student with the capabilities of contacting world renowned scientists or students from other lands at the click of a button. And imagine if all of those students and scientists could one day make the Earth a better place to live!

This dream is becoming a reality under a federally sponsored program called GLOBE or "Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment." This program is a network of over 5,000 schools in 62 countries from kindergarten through high school, who conduct various environmental tests in their own regions. The students then make this information available to the scientific community throughout the world via the Internet.

Currently, approximately twenty New York City schools are official GLOBE schools. Unfortunately, being real science, it requires some very strict protocols to conduct the tests. The procedure and discipline required in the data collection are most important to students, but some of the requirements are restrictive in the urban environment. Most of our schools have to deal with the many problems associated with living in an urban area. To name a few: there is a lack of test areas that are not covered with concrete, schools are fearful of leaving scientific equipment in the open where it is available to be damaged by vandalism, a severe lack of internet connections in the schools themselves, no money available for the various

testing instruments; and transportation difficulties in bringing students to various sites in the city.

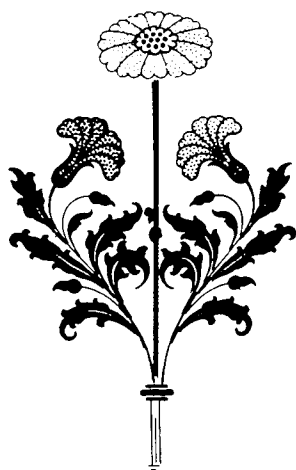
The GLOBE organization would very much like to increase their presence in urban areas. Recently the Steering Committee of the EEAC was presented with the challenge of encouraging and supporting the GLOBE program in more New York City Schools. To this end, a new EEAC committee was formed, chaired by Regina McCarthy of the Gateway Environmental Center. The Committee will try to resolve many of the problems found in urban areas and to serve as a model for schools and organizations in other urban areas around the country. Also active in bringing GLOBE to New York, is Bob Alpern of the New York City Soil and Water Conservation District. As part of his educational outreach programs, he is holding town meetings to serve as a sounding board for teachers in the GLOBE program to discuss their frustrations and to help resolve these problems. It is hoped, that with some organization on our part, a national model can be created, and that New York City schools will be in the forefront in the collection of data for a better world.

If you would like to see the details of what the GLOBE program has to offer, check out their website at [www.GLOBE.gov](http://www.GLOBE.gov)

*(John Pritchard is a Globe teacher at Grover Cleveland High School in Ridgewood, Queens)*

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## Kominski Fund Report



An exhibition of John Kominski's "found objects" sculpture was on display at January's "Winter Wonders" event at the Gateway Environmental Study Center. At its January meeting, the Steering Committee decided to look into the possibility of sponsoring environmental art fairs on an annual basis.

The Steering Committee also decided to ask the Elementary School Science Association to handle details of an annual award to an outstanding environmental educator. EEAC would support the project with a cash award and a certificate from the Kominski Fund monies.

EEAC will apply again this year to the State Department of Environmental Conservation for scholarships for students to attend Camp DeBruce this Summer.

The Steering Committee also agreed to hold an annual appeal for contributions to the Kominski Fund. To date, 23 contributions have been received, for a total of \$978, which was added to the \$1,000 contributed originally from the EEAC treasury. After expenditures, \$1,568.15 was available at the beginning of 1999. Contributions to the Fund, marked as such, are deductible to the extent allowed by law and may be sent to the EEAC Treasurer, Joanne Dittersdorf (see address on Page 8).

Ruth Eilenberg continues to Chair the Kominski Fund Committee, and suggestions and comments may be sent to her at, 401 East 86th Street, Apt. 4F, New York 10028.

## Events and Exhibits

On Wednesday, February 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m., the Van Alen Institute, located at 30 West 22 Street, is continuing its series which highlights **new developments along the East River**. **Joy Garland**, from the Waterfront Committee of Community Board 6 in Manhattan, will discuss plans to create a park, a protected wetland and an environmental center in Stuyvesant Cove. **Thomas Paino** of the Hunter's Point Community Coalition in Queens will discuss proposed restorations of natural habitats on both sides of the river. John Waldman, John St. John, and Marc Matsil will comment on the plans. For more information call the Van Alen Institute at (212) 924-7000.

The Metro Forest Council will hold a conference "**Conserving Forests In A Changing Landscape: A Steward's Guide to Urban and Suburban Forest Fragments**" on Wednesday, March 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. in the Davis Auditorium of the Shapiro Center for Engineering at Columbia University. Call (212) 220-1349 for more information or e-mail [confmfc@aol.com](mailto:confmfc@aol.com)....

The Long Island Sound Watershed Alliance invites the public to "**Open Space, Smart Growth and Water Quality: Making the Sound Connection**" on Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Connecticut's Stamford campus. Developing open space inventories and plans, Smart Growth, the economics of open space, greenway development, and funding options, are all topics that will be covered by over a dozen experts. Call 1-888-728-3547 for information.

The **International Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration** will be held in San Francisco from September 23 through 25. The Society is located at 1207 Seminole Highway, Suite B, Madison, Wisconsin 53711, or call (608) 262-9547.

**Youth CaN** (Youth Communicating and Networking) '99 will take place on Friday, April 23, in the American Museum of Natural History. This is a student produced and directed conference of interactive workshops that focus on ecology and the environment. Learn about it from the Education Department of AMNH, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York 10024-5192, or call (212) 769-5906.

The **Science Council of New York City** will hold its Annual Conference on Saturday, April 17, in Stuyvesant High School. Announcements from SCONYC and its member organizations should be in the mail about the time you read this.

Aspects of New York City life in past times are on exhibit in two venues this winter and spring: "**New York's Floating Bathhouses**," an exhibition of 30 images, is on view through April 15 in the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. For information, call (212) 431-0233....At the Museum of the City of New York, "**New York Horizontal: Cirkut Camera Views by William Hassler**," will remain through May 2 and "**New York Vertical by Horst Hamann**," may be seen through April 18.

## Materials, Sources, People

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection is offering **free Home Water-Saving Kits** to single-family home owners. To obtain one, call (718) 326-9426, Monday-Friday, 9-5....DEP, in cooperation with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, offers free water saving seminars to teach building operators how to reduce water and energy costs. For information, call HPD's Training Unit, Monday-Friday, at (212) 863-8830.

Speaking of water, New York City Cornell Cooperative Extension has "**Water Wonders**," in English and Spanish, and "**Web of Watersheds**," adapted from the Web of Life to help students see the connection between New York City and the Catskill and Delaware Watersheds, which supply the City with its drinking water. For more information, call Barbara Smits at (212) 340-2900.

**Wetlands in the Watershed of New York City Water Supply System** is a booklet produced by the US Fish & Wildlife Service for New York City's Department of Environmental Protection. It summarizes the National Wetlands Inventory and provides information about the different types of wetland communities found in the Catskill/Delaware and Croton watersheds. To find out more, call DEP's Stream Management Program at (914) 657-6172.

The Queens Botanical Garden has published **Harvesting Our History: A Botanical and Cultural Guide to Queens' Chinese, Korean and Latin American Communities**. It covers the history of each group's experience in Queens, as well as information on plants, holidays and customs integral to each group's culture. To find out how to order copies, call (718) 886-3800.

Four guides on biodiversity, called **Guides for Green Consumers**, are available from the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation of the American Museum of Natural History. They cover food, water supply, energy use and what you buy. They are available by writing to the Center (see address above), or calling (212) 769-5742.

**The View from Region 2** is a quarterly newsletter of the New York City office of the State Department of Environmental Conservation, "designed to provide Region 2 constituents with updates on DEC's activities in NYC, new agency initiatives, and ways to access further information." To get on the mailing list, write to 1 Hunter's Point Plaza, 47-40 21st Street, Long Island City 11101, or call (718) 482-4949, the Public Affairs and Education office.

The **City of New York Parks & Recreation** has five Borough Outreach Coordinators. Here are their names and telephone numbers: Bronx, Vanessa Irizarry, (718) 430-1861; Brooklyn, Ras Kirmani, (718) 965-8992; Manhattan, Jessica Dodson, (212) 408-0282; Queens, Andrea Malloy (718) 520-5913; Staten Island, Loretta Quinn, (718) 815-7194.

At a recent EEAC Steering Committee meeting (remember, they are open to members and their guests—see Page 2 for details), **Haley Ferraro**, Education Specialist for the Gateway National Recreation Area, discussed the Education Concept for Gateway and indicated that the new Center at Fort Wadsworth would open in the Spring of 2000. To learn more, you can write to her at 210 New York Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10305, or call her at (718) 354-4565....At Gateway, **Billy G. Garrett** is the new superintendent of the Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit and deputy superintendent of the park. He was most recently chief of the Architecture Group for the National Park Service Denver Service Center.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is seeking "friendly people" to lead adult tours and school groups on weekdays and weekends. Training sessions are held. To learn more, call Lou Cesario, Director of Visitor Services and Volunteers, Wednesday through Sunday, at (718) 622-4433, ext. 203....***Invasive Plants: Weeds of the Global Garden*** is written by Dr. John M. Randall, an invasive plant specialist with the Nature Conservancy and the University of California at Davis, and Janet Marinelli, Director of Publishing of the BBG. It is on sale at the Garden. For information, call (718) 622-4433, ext. 274.

Again this year, **NASA** and **NSTA** are offering full scholarships for teachers to spend two weeks at a NASA site in the summer. Call NSTA Fax on demand at 1-888-400-6782, or write to NSTA-NASA Educational Workshops, 1840 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22201-3000.

Sometime this year, the Staten Island Botanical Garden will open the first **Chinese Scholar's Garden** in the country. It will include covered walkways and courtyards, tea houses, a Moon Viewing Pavilion and several ponds. An educational program is being developed for children in grades K through 12 that will use elements of traditional Chinese culture to teach science, art, literature, math and social studies. The Garden currently provides educational programs for more than 14,000 children each year.

The New York City Department of Sanitation has added a mobile unit to its **war against graffiti**. It is, truly, a paint store on wheels. To learn more, call (212) 788-7418.

**New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan** may be obtained from any office of the State DEC (see Region 2's address above) or any unit of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Albany addresses are, for DEC, Division of Lands and Forests, Room 410C, 50 Wolf Road, 12233-4250, and for OPRHP, Resource Management, 17th floor, Empire State Plaza, 12238.



## **Biodiversity and Climate Change: Conservation in the Face of Uncertainty.**

**Friday, April 30, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 1, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

*hosted by The Center for Biodiversity and  
Conservation at the American Museum of  
Natural History.*

Scientists, natural resource managers, conservationists, and policymakers will explore the consequences of global warming on the planet's biodiversity and address conservation planning in an age of uncertain climatic trends. In a series of panel discussions and lectures, experts will address how climate change might transform the biosphere by looking at its impact on a variety of ecosystems and species. A special session will examine the past, present, and future effects of a changing climate on New York City and will address conservation planning at the regional and community level.

### **FEE:**

#### **NON-MEMBERS**

\$55 for both days, \$35 for one

#### **AMNH MEMBERS**

\$50 for both days; \$30 for one

#### **STUDENTS**

\$25 for both days; \$20 for one

Please call 212-769-5200 to RSVP no later than April 15. A complete program description will be available in early March.

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# The Business Community and Environmental Education

*by Millard Clements, Ph.D.*

**W**hat should the business community do to support the development of environmental education? One answer to this question is to provide money for worthy projects, and to offer guidance regarding corporate philanthropy. To the extent that environmental education is concerned with the study of nature (birds, animals, plants and the ecology of streams and ponds) environmental education is a well established activity.

But if we ask, "What is our environmental situation today in the United States and on the planet?" and "What are essential concerns of environmental education today?", answers to these questions are difficult, intellectually demanding, and morally challenging.

What should students, teachers, and the business community seek to understand about the changing ecology of our planet? We all know that climate change, declining clean water resources, the forest fires in Sumatra, and toxic hazards are serious threats to all the life systems of the planet. Environmental degradation is not just polluted lakes and rivers; it is change in the ecology of living things. Ecological change is not limited by state lines nor national boundaries. Acid rain, toxic rivers, ocean pollution, and nuclear waste are global issues, not merely national concerns.

Since the United Nations Conference in Rio, the admonition to the nations of the world has been to work for "Sustainable Development". We should be concerned about future generations of our own species and other species. How may people, in their many different communities, meet their needs today without sacrificing the material wealth of future generations?

A number of United Nations agencies and private organizations are devoting attention to sustainable issues. I think that a New York City Task Force on Sustainable Development could make a significant contribution to environmental education in New York City. The basic question for this Task Force would be, "How may New Yorkers meet their needs today without sacrificing the material wealth of future generations in New York and in other regions of the world?"

If countries like Brazil, Indonesia, India, the United States or the African nations are to move toward sustainable living, some of our economic ideas must be reassessed. There are historical reasons for this. The Keynesian macro-economic model focused attention on consumption, savings and investment. Scarcity, or the depletion of natural resources, was of little concern in the 19th Century when economic notions were developing.

In the 19th Century economic model, buildings and equipment were valued as income producing capital, and their depreciation was a charge against the value of production. It was understood that consumption could not be maintained indefinitely by using capital stock without replenishing it. In the modern economic model, natural resource assets of water, air, and forest are not depreciated as charges against value production. If their depreciation is ignored, the mirage of development obscures illusory gains in income and the permanent loss of wealth for future generations.

Another question a Task Force might address is, "What are the costs and benefits of a free-market approach to environmental conservation?" Free markets may nurture efficiency, but may provide little guidance regarding the wisdom or folly of individual self interest.

If children and youth were educated to understand sustainable development and the preservation of diversity, they might respond. "Any product should be non-toxic, energy efficient, durable, repairable, produced in a manner that does not harm the community from which it was taken, and be minimally packaged with reusable or recyclable materials. There should be preservation of egrets, manatees, swallows and salmon as well as the native people who inhabit forests, deserts and other remote regions of the world." Children would not expect their food and comfort to be dependent on clear-cut forests, polluted rivers, child labor or the dislocation of native peoples.

What should the business community do to support the development of this kind of environmental education beyond contributing financially? Task Forces on these issues might clarify options we face and challenges we should address in the effort to preserve global wealth for our own species and other species in the new millennium.

The environmental devastation being wrought on the planet, is an intellectual and moral challenge that will be a part of our lives for generations to come.

The organization of intellectual resources to assess our changing world can be one of the most important contributions the business community can make to support the development of environmental education in New York and elsewhere in the world. Perhaps we can obtain some inspiration from the example of New Yorkers who had the vision to create our life enhancing water system, Central Park, Prospect Park, and the American Museum of Natural History.



*Continued from page 1*

ing, and discussion. The EEAC website offers links to other environmental websites in the New York area, information on EEAC committees, members' programs, and a calendar of upcoming events in New York City. Mark it as one of your "favorite places" and check it regularly for upcoming events and programs. This year, the EEAC Steering Committee and the members of the Program Committee are working on a spectacular 25th anniversary celebration which will take place in the fall. It will be an event you won't want to miss.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Zamm for his six years of extraordinary leadership as Chair (Mike is a tough act to follow!), and Ruth Eilenberg for her many years of dedication and service as EEAC Treasurer. I thank all of you for your vote of support, and I look forward to serving you as your new Chair.

Mary J. Leou, Ed.D

## **NYC Waste Le\$\$: A Seminar for Schools**

This is a "how to" seminar for public and independent school educators on recycling and waste reduction in NYC schools.

It will feature success stories from the Brearley School, Stuyvesant High School, Public School 48, the U.N. International School, energy experts, and others.

**Thursday, April 15,  
1p.m. - 5 p.m.  
The Brearley School,  
610 East 83rd Street, NYC**

Cosponsored by the City of New York, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region2, and the NYC Board of Education. For more information and free reservations, contact Jennifer Pezzullo at 1(800) 729-4210.

## **SAVE THE DATE EEAC MEMBERS MEETING**

at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden  
Thursday, April 15, 4-6 p.m.

### **CITY KIDS GET GREEN**

This workshop at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) will provide teachers, parents, community gardeners and adult leaders with the tools, including the GreenBridge *City Kids Get Green* training manual, to learn the basics of gardening with urban youth. Participants will do some of the program's hands-on activities designed for urban children and youths ages 5 - 18.

Space is limited for this workshop. Please reserve your place by April 13 by calling Judy or Julie at BBG: (718) 622-4433 x 201. Please be prepared to provide a \$5 materials fee at the door. A more detailed announcement will be sent to members in March.

**EEAC News...  
Environmental Links...  
Upcoming events...**



**Visit our website**

**<http://members.aol.com/wleou/eeac.html>**



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If sustaining Organization, Name of Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (for categories other than Sustaining Organization): \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (for categories other than Sustaining Organization): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate calendar year membership category:

☐ \$ 20 Regular

☐ \$ 50 Sustaining Organization

☐ \$200 Life Membership

Please make checks payable to EEAC. Thank you! EEAC is a 501-C-3 organization.

I would like to become involved in a committee.

Please provide me with information about the following committees:

☐ Exhibits ☐ Issues ☐ Membership ☐ Newsletter ☐ Programs ☐ Youth ☐ Technology ☐ Kominski Fund

Please complete the application and mail it, with your payment, to:

Joanne Dittersdorf, EEAC Treasurer, P.O. Box 408, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276



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Remember Earth Day, April 22nd