



**Alan Brockman**  
**1931 - 2014**

December 21, 2014

Re: Alan Brockman

Dear Jay,

Just a brief note to tell you how sorry I am to learn of Alan's passing, and what a thoughtful, loving and informative notice you wrote of him in tribute.

I first met Alan when I joined the FIA board in 2001 and enjoyed working with him on several issues, in particular our struggle with the former school superintendent over residents' voting rights in school board elections. Alan, I quickly observed, was not one to suffer fools happily, and patience was seldom a virtue for him...which to me made him someone worth listening to, respecting and following.

Organizations need someone who is fearless in pursuing critical issues, even if it means stepping on toes, but such an attitude is useful only when matched by knowledge, intellect and a desire to accomplish something constructive. Alan's passions never involved venting for its own sake, or undirected anger. He was always striving for the betterment of the island and to have its residents heard and taken seriously. He pushed hard, sometimes intemperately, but always with a selfless purpose in mind. And in the end he was nearly always proven right, his point won, his goal realized.

Thank you for reminding us of Alan's gifts, his devotion to his community and all Fire Island, and of the remarkable life he led. If an outsider may venture an opinion, this is a time to be thankful for Alan's life, not sad at its inevitable end. I suspect that would have been Alan's attitude as well...though he might have balked at the hint of sentimentality!

Hugh O'Brien