



And Yet She Did

Nothing could have prepared Anita for what would follow when she accepted my invitation to work with me – for zero pay – to achieve what no one had achieved before.

But she was ready and willing.

One glance at her resume made it clear Anita did not have the necessary experience. She had not worked for a moving company or a cleaning company. She had not served as a receptionist or a file clerk.

But at the same time, I realized she was determined to break out of the world into which she had been born.

Well she certainly did that.

Nothing in her experience had prepared her to work in a basement with no heat during the winter.

Nothing had prepared her to conduct tours of a ruin trying to convince prospective supporters to imagine a museum.

Nothing had prepared her to trudge upstairs to a freezing tenement toilet when nature called.

Nothing had prepared her to drag heavy furniture from one temporary space to another.

Nothing had prepared her to shovel human waste left by the homeless on our doorstep.

Nothing had prepared her to travel daily from her comfortable home to a neighborhood where others feared to tread.

Nothing had prepared her to work tirelessly on a project most everyone believed was doomed from the start.

Nothing had prepared her to put up with me.

And yet she did. She did. She did.

I am ever so grateful.

The Tenement Museum family should be ever so grateful.

The public – from far and wide – should know about Anita's extraordinary devotion which has continued to this day.

My husband Herb, and I are honored to have this opportunity to recognize Anita.

Congratulations Dear Anita!
Love, Ruth and Herb