NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

City bids farewell to two favorite sons

LEW RUDIN — the Mr. New York who began the New York Marathon, the I Love New York campaign, the Association for a Better New York — had an Only in New York funeral.

A) It ran 2½ hours. So long that, about seven-eighths of the way through, **Rudy** had to duck out for a powder-room break.

B) Every known dignitary showed except maybe two aldermen from Utah. So crowded that **Bill** and **Hillary** had to scrooch closer to one another to make room for **Pataki**.

C) Central Synagogue actually rolled a grand piano onto the altar so **Bobby Short** could play and sing "Manhattan."

D) The religious music got bumped for such favorite Rudin tunes as "On the Sunny Side of the Street," "I'll Be Seeing You," "Pennies From Heaven."



Cindy Adams

E) The rabbi wore a gold apple lapel button — the kind Lew always stuck on everyone — on his robe. And under his robe a battery pack which he thumped when his mike went flat.

F) In front of the podium stood golf-addict Lew's clubs.

G) Every speaker got laughs. Even **Schumer**, whose last synagogue address lasted an hour and a half "but today I won't be that long." Even Lew's daughter **Beth**, who said of her Realtor dad: "One birthday he gave me a set of blocks — 50th Street, 51st Street."

H) Nearly everyone wore an American flag and a New York apple. Those with reserved seats were pinned with *red* apples.

Son **Billy** kissed his dad's flag-draped casket. Wife **Rachel**'s goodbye letter was read by granddaughter **Samantha**. And candidates **Hevesi**, **Vallone** and **Green** worked the congregation.

It was former Gov. **Cuomo**. Former

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mayors **Koch** and **Dinkins**. Former Judges **Sol Wachtler** and **Burton Roberts**. Former top cops **Bratton**, **Safir**, **Ray Kelly**. Developers from **Tisch** to **Tishman**, borough presidents from **Claire Shulman** of Queens to **Virginia Fields** of Manhattan. Baseball types like **Steinbrenner** and **Wilpon**.

Actor **Alan Alda** was wearing a yarmulke. Actor **Sidney Poitier** was yarmulke-less. **Cardinal Egan**, due back in his own shop, split early. Speaker **Sheldon Silver** pumped DA **Robert Morgenthau**'s hand. Teachers union chief **Randi Weingarten** stood on tiptoe to hug Ambassador **Charles Gargano**. Attorney General **Elliott Spitzer** I didn't see talk to anyone.

Way way way over on one side sat **Donna**, the soon-to-be-non-Mrs. Giuliani. Way way way over on the other side sat Rudy, the soon-to-be-non-Mayor Giuliani. As always, they were separated. When he rose to speak she never took her eyes off him. Must be the first she's seen him in months.

He and New York's co-emperor George Pataki brought everyone including the Clintons to their feet with applause. Lew Rudin was the man of the hour. Rudy and George were the men of the moment. Both said that rebuilding the City of New York will be even harder without the King of New York at their side.

And then Bill left with his bodyguards and Hillary left with her bodyguards and Rudy left with his bodyguards and George left with his bodyguards and hundreds of New York's richest left with their bodyguards.

Like I said, this funeral could have happened Only in New York.

WE JUST lost yet another of this town's monuments. Master fiddler Isaac Stern.

I remember an evening in 1993. Identical cast of characters. A Clinton-Cuomo-

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Dinkins affair. And same night, same time, Israel's **Shimon Peres** had a sit-down for 40, 5 tables of 8 each, somewhere else. Isaac shuttled between both.

And I remember our conversation after he did a turn in "Music of the Heart," the movie maybe a year ago for which **Meryl Streep** won an Oscar nomination. The story revolved around a violin teacher. Isaac did a scene in the film and he had told me:

"I wasn't nervous because I was playing me. How can I be nervous playing me? I was only *tired* playing me because this me I was playing they never got around to shooting. They told me my scene would be shot at 4:30. So I arrived, got ready, dressed, rehearsed, primed, set and was ready to go at 4. Came 4:30, 5, 5:30, 6.



Dave Allocca/DMI

BOBBY SHORT
Grand rendition of Lew's best-loved tunes.

"I finally got hungry and, since I was playing me, I knew what this me would do. He would go out and get something to eat. So I got a bite and then I returned. And I waited some more. We finally shot it 2:30 in the morning."

And, now, this man who lived for so long on Central Park West is gone, too. Please, God, no more of these Only in New Yorks.

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