

Spotlight On...Fredí Nuñez

From the beginning in 1927, Amalgamated has been more than buildings and apartments, it has been a community, and it is people who make a community. "Spotlight On" provides a focus on a sampling of the people who make our cooperative our community.

1. When did you move into the co-op?

I moved into the co-op in 1990.

2. Why did you move? How did you find us?

I moved here because there was a friend of mine whom I helped move in and whom I used to visit. He got an application for me.



3. Who lives here with you?

My mother lives with me and two of my sisters also live in the cooperative along with my niece and my two nephews.

4. What do you enjoy about living here?

What I enjoy about living here is the sense of a united community which represents the strongest front against unfair rent. I think that this is the best system of living for people who live in a big city.

5. Tell us a bit about your family's history.

My family comes from the Dominican Republic. My mother came to New York City in 1968. My father had been here in 1967, but he never got used to the cold or the big city, so he went back. Because of political unrest in the 70's and my father's involvement against the Balaguer Regime, I was sent here in 1974. Later on my parents got divorced and my sisters came here in 1976. I went to Louis D. Brandeis H.S. which is located on Columbus Avenue and 84th Street. I then went on to The City College of New York, where I got a Master's in Romance Languages.

6. Tell us a bit about your job, hobbies, interests, etc.

I have been teaching for over 25 years. I spent 5 years at C.C.N.Y. and I have been teaching high school for over 20 years. I come from a family of musicians. My father used to play

the guitar, and my mother was a singer. My uncle went to the Conservatory of Classical Music in Rome to study Opera and he sang many times in Carnegie Hall under the name of Arturo Di Rocca. I'm a songwriter, pianist, and singer; I have recorded five albums. My most recent one is at www.cdbaby.com. It is an anthology of my music. My dream was to be a professional baseball player, but God decided otherwise (I was an amazing third baseman). I won a voice contest in 1977 at the Symphony Space, which gave me the opportunity to go to Spain and record my first album. I also participated in the Univision-New York OTI Music Festival, and I won 7th place in 1986. My voice is open to most styles, but I prefer to sing Ballads, Boleros, Latin Jazz, and Tango. I won't talk about my love life because my girls will get jealous. God has been great to me.

7. What activities/services do you use here at the co-op?

I have been pretty active in our co-op. I'm the music coordinator for our International Food & Music Festival since it began along with Rudeane Murray and Doris Spencer. I'm always open to any needs of our co-op.

8. What would you like to see happen in the future at the co-op?

I would like to see more cooperators get involved in our community. I want to see more participation on their part. I think that we are blessed by having such an environment here at the Amalgamated.

<http://www.amalgamated-bronx.coop/spotlighton>