



Dr. Harvey Mark Rosenwasser

MAY 10, 1933 - JUL 8, 2015



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Dr. Harvey Mark Rosenwasser

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Dr. Harvey Mark Rosenwasser

(May 10, 1933 – July 8, 2015)

Harvey Rosenwasser passed away on July 8, 2015, at his home at the Ocean Club in Key Biscayne, Florida. He was not ill and his death was sudden and unexpected.

Harvey was born to Samuel and Helen (nee Engelhart) Rosenwasser and raised in North Bergen New Jersey. He attended the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and commissioned to the US Army and provided active service in Korea from 1956-1958 as a First Lieutenant. Harvey collapsed suddenly at his computer, where so many of us received a daily dose of outrage and analyses of injustice in the world, a ready ear and pragmatic solutions to family and community needs, and always a pun to leave us laughing. On his screen was his recently completed book, about his years of military service, soon to be published.

Harvey met his wife Ruth 60 years ago on a Memorial Day weekend in Atlantic City and they just celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary in June. He was a loving, caring, supportive husband who shared many interests in common with Ruth: music, art, travel, politics, and passion for Israel. His pride was his three daughters on whom he doted and spoiled. They regularly turned to their father for wise council and he became their greatest role model. His adored and mentored his four grandchildren, always ready to show people his latest photos of them.

As a Doctor of Optometry, he had a successful 40-year career in Philadelphia as a specialist in contact lenses and subnormal vision. A meticulous doctor, he was most loved for his sincere caring and treating the whole patient, not only their eyes. His patients valued him and continued to keep in touch with him long after retirement. He published numerous professional articles and lectured at seminars on patient practice and contact lenses. While in Philadelphia, he was a clinical examiner for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and wrote some of the



Obituary

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content for the examination. He was the Vice President of the European Optometric Society for 18 years, bringing together doctors throughout Europe to share best practices and the latest research. He is the author of 2 books on clinical care, one co-authored with his daughter, Beth Rosenwasser.

As a Key Biscayne, Florida, resident, Harvey was an active communitarian, holding many roles involved with the village and his residence at Ocean Club: Vice President the OCCA Board, Club Towers Board Member for more than 10 years, Club Tower Three Voting Representative, and Executive Director and co-founder of the Key Biscayne Condominium Presidents' Council. He created the Festival of Seven Arts at the Ocean Club. He was a tireless and dedicated advocate for all of his causes. Letters to the editor were regularly published in papers including the Key Biscayne Islander, the Miami Herald, and the New York Times. He was the dynamic force behind many of the positive changes in his community.

Most people know Harvey as an avid lover of jazz and the arts. He played piano and flute but his favorite was the tenor saxophone that he had studied weekly for 20 years, even playing at local jazz club improv nights. He was also creative in the visual arts and many of us are lucky to have a Neville-wasser, Cornell-wasser or Stella-wasser in their homes. He called them his 'homages to....' Later he produced truly creative Harvey-wassers.

Through all of these many achievements in family, career, and community, Harvey will be most remembered for his curiosity in people of all kinds and his ability to truly connect whether in person or over the internet. His much anticipated steady stream of emails, blog posts, texts, and letters were insightful and created passionate exchanges worldwide. The void left from his lack of regular correspondences will make his passing more poignant.

As a strong supporter of the State of Israel and his Jewish identity, his family would appreciate donations made in his memory to the Jewish National Fund <http://www.jnf.org>.

Harvey is survived by his wife Ruth, his daughters, Beth Rosenwasser, Rachel Ryder and Jennifer Highman, son-in law, Howard Highman and 2 granddaughters, Lily and Ginger Highman and two grandsons, Ben and Samuel Weissman. He was predeceased by his sister, Marian Ginsberg.




Events

Dr. Harvey Mark Rosenwasser

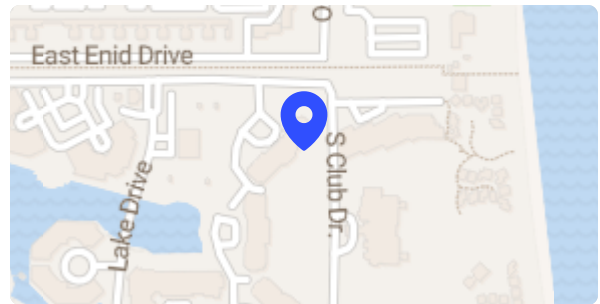
MAY 10, 1933 - JUL 8, 2015

Memorial Service


 **Sunday**, July 12, 2015

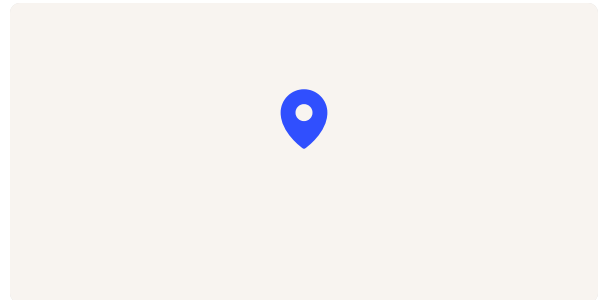
 10:00 AM ET

 **Palm Court Restaurant**
781 Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne FL 33149



Cemetery Details

 **Private**
AK





Tribute Wall

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JD

John Darrah posted:

I was a patient of Dr. Rosenwasser in Philadelphia, from 1965 to 2005, when he first introduced contact lenses. I have very fond memories of him, and was sad when he moved and sold his practice. Thank you Dr. Rosenwasser, and all you have done for me, and all you have done for mankind. I know you will be in heaven. God Bless. John Darrah

October 11 at 9:06 AM

NL

Naneen Levine posted:

Dear Beth and family, I met the Rosenwassers when I was in high school at the Cerromar Hotel in Puerto Rico. Beth was a lot of fun and invited me to visit her in Philly and I went. I have many memories from that trip but I have one of your dad. Beth, your dad made us Chicken Veronique for dinner and it was delicious. Since then, that dish has always reminded me of your dad. I hope your memories comfort you at this difficult time. Sending condolences to the entire family. I am so sorry for your loss. Naneen Becker Levine

July 22 at 1:40 PM

RM

Renee Margulies posted:

Dear Ruth and Girls, We are so sorry for your loss. We have fond memories of Harvey, musical and otherwise, and regret seeing so little of him over the last few years. Renee and Milt Margulies.

July 16 at 10:01 AM

MI

Michelle posted:

Dear Beth and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. He sounds like a really fantastic man whom all would have benefitted from knowing. May his memory be for a blessing. - Michelle Harmon

July 15 at 4:52 AM

AL

Arline Jolles Lotman posted:

Dear Ruth, So sorry. My love to you. Harvey was the nicest person and a caring Dr. to me. Arline Jolles Lotman

July 14 at 6:50 PM



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George & Maria Petersen sent a Fruits and Blooms Basket to the Rosenwasser family.



July 14 at 1:15 PM



Philly George posted:

Harvey! I can't believe it! I'm gonna miss you and your sax playing, not to mention your encouragement and kind words. You're the closest thing I ever had to a real dad and probably the only person who really understood me!!m sad for all your family members for the loss they have sustained!Philly George

July 12 at 9:54 AM



EE

Earl Epstein posted:

Memories of Harvey...When one thinks of Harvey Rosenwasser the first things that come to mind are those that I don't remember at all. For example, I don't remember actually meeting Harvey, although it must have been in 1964 when we moved into a home across the street. Our daughter, Lori and Beth Rosenwasser were probably around three so I assume our meeting somehow related to the girls. I don't recall Harvey ever saying a bad word about anyone or denigrating anyone, with the obvious exception of opponents of Israel and ignorant politicians. And I can't seem to recall a day after his retirement and move to Florida that I didn't receive at least four or five e-mails from him, some political observations and references to writings of others (some of which took me days to get to read through), and some good jokes that I forwarded to others and some bad jokes that caused me to respond "get a job."Of course there are the memories of our trip to Greece with a 24 hour excursion to Istanbul (Leave it to Harvey to remember the name of the Istanbul taxi driver for years thereafter), and the visits to Nantucket and later to Florida. And I remember the days before he turned to the saxophone, and relied upon the piano (which he could only play in the key of C) to accompany my feeble attempts at the trumpet.I certainly vividly recall a Fourth of July drive to see the fireworks in the small local town of Narberth, not far from our homes, with me driving a Volkswagen because of limited available parking, but with four adults and five kids all packed in and Jen and my son Jimmy, both about five years of age, sitting together in the shelf behind the rear seats.And there was the trip on Harvey's small sailboat in Nantucket harbor when Harvey came back to the dock and asked me to grab onto the pier pole, which I did, But apparently Harvey had failed to install a brake on his sailboat and sailed off with me hanging precariously over the water from the pier and Harvey sitting in the sailboat laughing.Or driving back to his Nantucket home from the dock in his Jeep wagon when we noticed a tire rolling by itself on the street in front of us as we wondered where it came from, only to find out that it came from the right front wheel of Harvey's Jeep.And who could forget Harvey wearing fleece lined trousers whenever the temperature fell below eighty degrees.Memories for sure, going back over fifty years, about my best friend.Earl Epstein

July 11 at 3:22 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Harvey by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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