

ABE'S JOURNEY

FROM PARK AVENUE TO THE NORTH SHORE TOWERS

1917 - 1925
ABE IS BORN, LEARNS YIDDISH & ENGLISH
STARTS SCHOOL

Abe's parents, Isadore Lurie (1888-1953) and Celia Kulakovsky (1889-1975) from Vilna, Lithuania and Minsk, Poland respectively, both entered the United States via Ellis Island and settled in New York City.

Abe was born on October 18, 1917 and his home for his first two years was on Park Avenue between 105th and 106th Street in New York City. His family then moved to a railroad flat located at 110 East 97th Street between Park and Lexington Avenues. His parents spoke only Yiddish, but, starting when he was four, his mother frequently took him to the library around the corner on 96th Street between Park and Lexington. It was there that he learned to read and also to speak English. When Abe was two, his sister Esther was born. He started school at the age of six and immediately skipped to the third grade.



1925 - 1934

THE LURIE FAMILY MOVES - AND MOVES - AND MOVES

When he was eight years old Abe's cousins George, Mike and Leo Bronstein (their mother Paula and Abe's mother Celia were sisters) moved from their apartment on 59 East 100th Street to Jersey City, and Abe's family moved into their apartment. The following year in 1926 the Luries moved again, this time to the Bronx. They lived on Garden Street between 182nd and 183rd Streets, not far from the Bronx Zoo, and on December 20, 1927 Abe's sister Shirley was born. After Garden Street the Luries moved around quite a bit and lived on Longfellow Avenue, East 174th Street and Boone, Ftley Avenue, and several other locations, finally settling in on Manor Avenue in 1934. By this time The Great Depression had begun and Isadore Lurie supported his family as a painter and wallpaper hanger, traveling all over the city by subway with his ladder, paint and other equipment. He even moved to Pittsburgh for a few months in order to find work.



1931 - 1934
ABE LEARNS TO MULTI-TASK

In 1931 at the age of fourteen, Abe entered the Rapid Advancement Program (RA) at DeWitt Clinton High School, and finished high school in three years. During his first year of high school Abe's cousin George (still in Jersey City) suffered an accident in his chemistry lab at school and was unable to work his paper route. In order to help the family out, Abe moved in with the Bronsteins in New Jersey and took over George's paper route for him. Every day Abe would wake up at about 4:00am, deliver the papers, and then go to High School via the trolley to Hoboken, the Path train to 34th Street and the subway to the High School Annex on 79th Street and Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan. After a full day of school, he would travel back to New Jersey and do his homework. This went on for about 6 months (a full school year) until cousin George recovered. Then Abe continued high school at Clinton High School on Mosholu Avenue in the Bronx and graduated at age sixteen. This pattern of working day and night while going to school would continue for the rest of his life.

In September of 1933 Abe entered City College as a history major. In 1934 while negotiating for used books, he met Al Kadushin who was also trying to obtain used books. They swapped books and that was the beginning of life long friendship. Abe worked his way through college at a series of interesting jobs while going to classes at night.



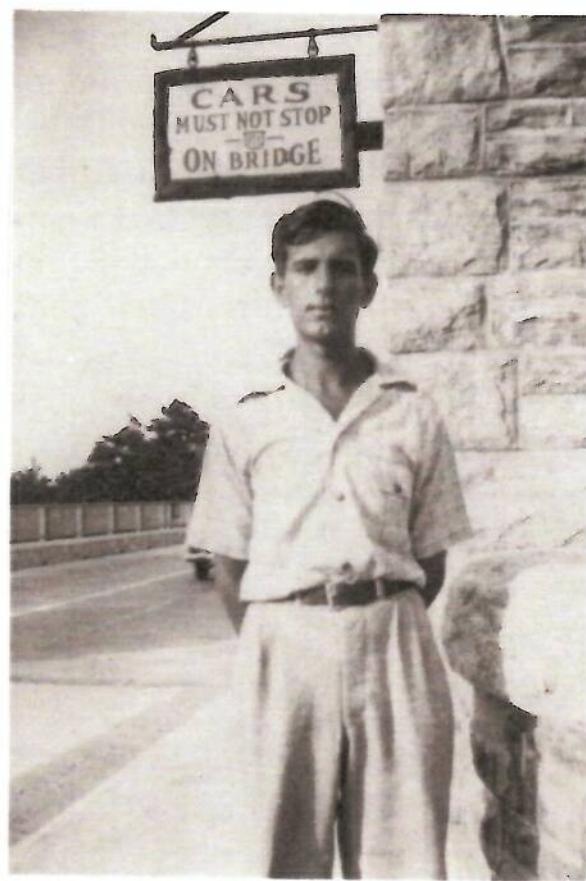
1933 - 1941
ABE'S JOB HISTORY BEGINS

One of Abe's first jobs, after taking a Civil Service Test, was working for the Sanitation Department of New York City in the department of street cleaning. He would run the switchboard, dispatch the trucks to the different areas of the Bronx and tally up all the trucks. One of his favorite tasks which increased his popularity was informing the drivers when there were SNOW DAYS! so they didn't have to come to work. He then became the complaint clerk for the Bronx and was responsible for sending the sanitation workers to pick up dead animals (mostly horses and dogs). Sometimes mistakes were made and the wrong people picked up the wrong animals.

Since Abe had taken a Junior High School course in architectural drawings, the Sanitation Department thought he would be qualified to draw blueprints. Therefore they sent him to work at their office downtown on Worth Street where his job was to draw charts of all the streets and the truck routes. Drawing blueprints turned out NOT to be one of Abe's talents.

During his college years, he also worked for the NYA (National Youth Administration) shoveling snow for the city.

In June of 1941, after eight years of working during the day and going to school at night, Abe received his Bachelor's degree from City College in History. More jobs followed, one of which was with the Volunteer Fire Department. He also took Post Graduate courses in statistics at City College and engineering classes in the Newark College of Engineering. He started working for the Department of Welfare and was promoted to Relief Insurance Supervisor for District Office #33 at Park Avenue at 139th Street. The office was right above a broom factory and what he mostly remembers from this job is the smell of glue rising up from that factory.



ABE'S FIRST LABOR UNION EXPERIENCE

Another job Abe had while going to City College at night was working at a sewing machine factory which refurbished old, used Singer sewing machines discarded from factories in the garment district. He was a mechanic apprentice and his job was to repaint the sewing machines black so they looked new and could be resold. Many immigrants worked in the factory, and Abe became friendly with a Russian mechanic. On June 16, 1933 the NRA (National Recovery Act) was instituted, and the factory was becoming organized by the union. Abe became a member of the International Association of Machinists Union at a salary of about \$12-\$15 a week. Approximately three weeks after the workers signed a union contract, the union organizer took Abe and his Russian mechanic friend into his office, sat them down and opened his top desk drawer to reveal a gun. He advised them that if there were to be a strike, they should not march on the picket line. Coincidentally there was a strike and this "union organizer" sided with the bosses and all the workers on the picket line got beaten up. Abe and his co-worker were fired. It was the beginning of his education in politics in the workplace and it was at this time that Abe started leaning towards the left.

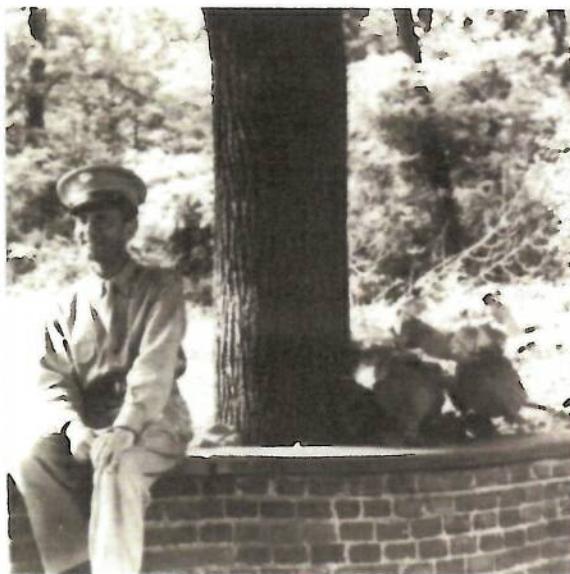
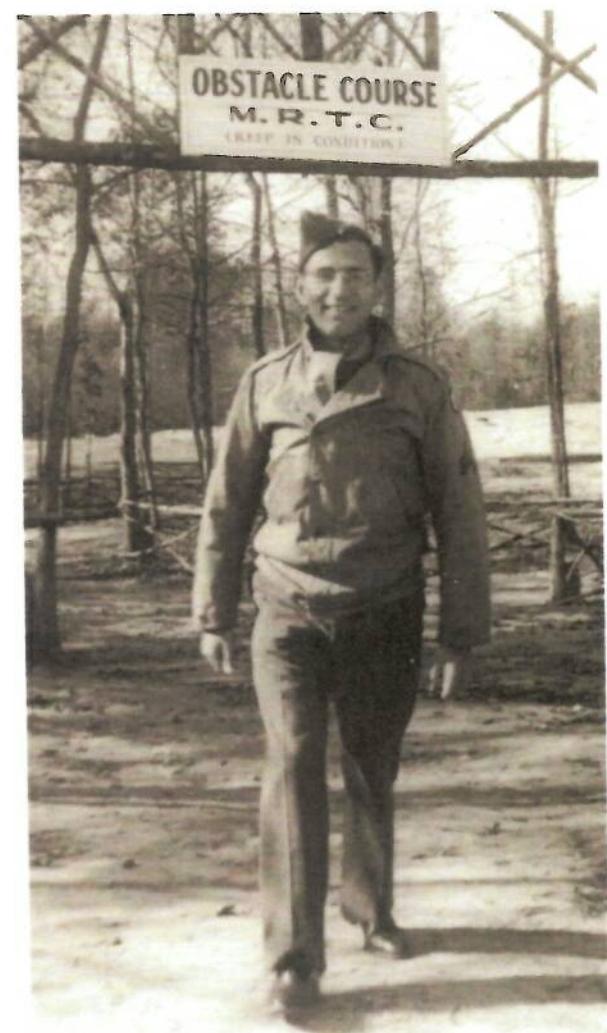


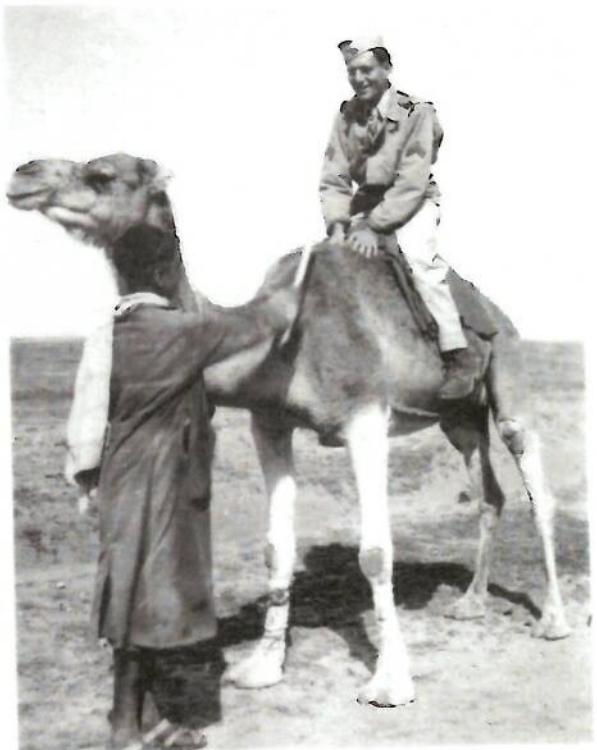
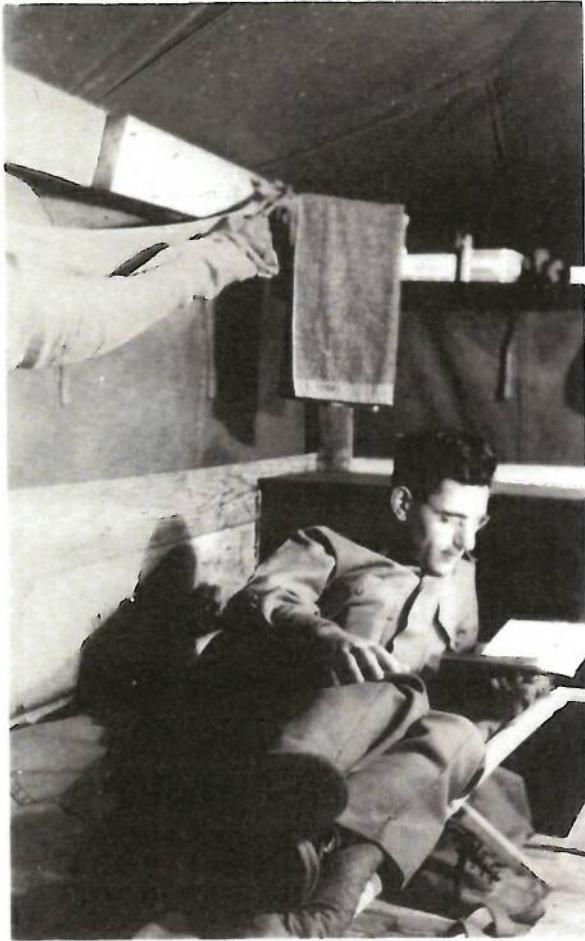
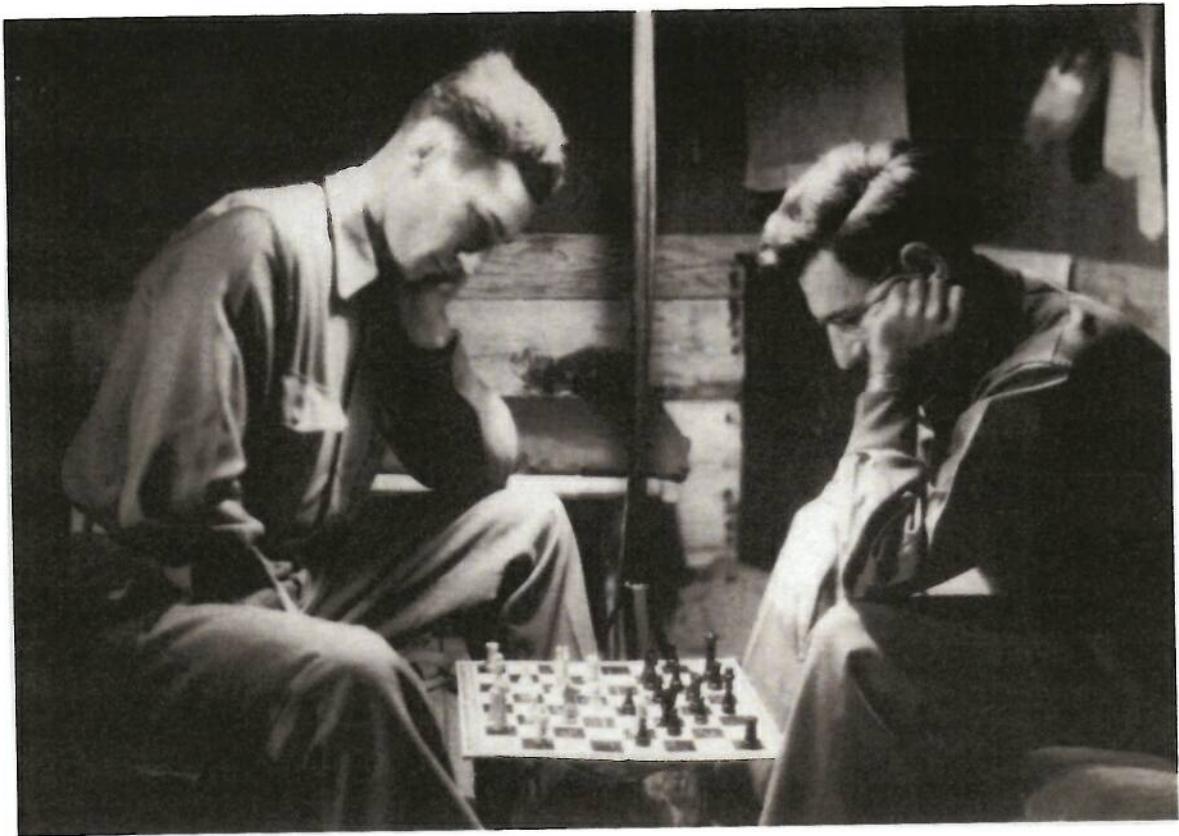
1942 - 1945
ABE AND WORLD WAR II
PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHEDELICS, & THE POPE

In 1942 World War II was in full swing and in May Abe was drafted into the army. After basic training in Virginia at Camp Picket, he spent some time at Fort Dix as a typist (typing was another high school course that had come in handy). It was there that he was given an Officer Candidate Test which placed him in a special program. Sent to Washington D.C. for training, he almost missed the transportation truck. Bob Epstein saw him running after the truck, grabbed him and pulled him onto the truck; this was the start of another life long friendship.

The army sent this elite group of about 120 men to Ohio State University, where from January 1943 to December of 1943 Abe studied psychology in a program headed by the eminent psychologist Carl Rogers. It was here that Abe received his master's degree in psychology and where he became close friends with Timothy Leary who was also in the program.

After Ohio State Abe, Bob and Tim were sent to Miami Beach for about two months, and in March of 1944 Abe was sent to North Africa with the Army Air Corps to do psychological testing and counseling. He spent some time in Casablanca, became quite friendly with the Army Chaplain, and it was at this time that Abe and the Chaplain had an audience with Pope Pious XII.

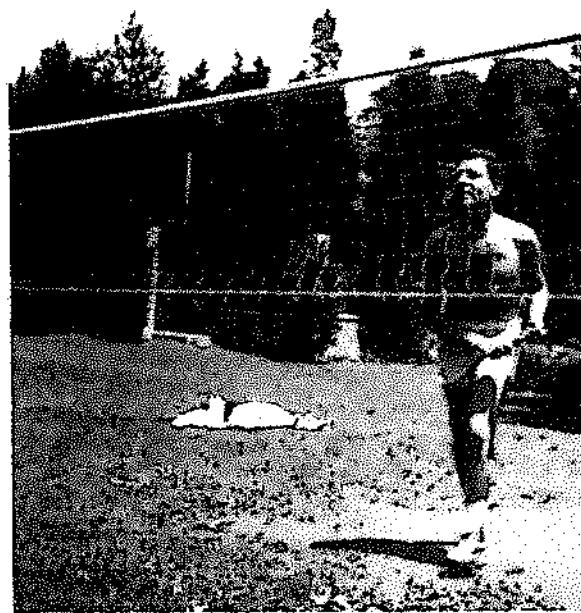




1945 - 1947
LIFE AFTER THE ARMY

Upon release from the army in 1945, Abe went back to Manor Avenue and again lived with his father Isadore, his mother Celia, and his sister Shirley. His sister Esther had eloped with Frank Weiner and they also lived there briefly until they found their own apartment. During this time, when Shirley brought her suitors home to meet the family, it was Abe's job to sit in the chair with broken springs and holes so the suitor would not get a poor impression of their living conditions.

During his first year back from the army, Abe worked for the Welfare Department and enrolled at Columbia University School of Social Work under the GI Bill. He took a job with the city of New York teaching English and Citizenship to new immigrants which fit nicely into his schedule between classes. Once again he worked day and night while going to school.



1947 - 1950
ROMANCE REALIZED

In June of 1947 Abe and a few friends (Al Kadushin, who by now had also become a social worker, was one of them) went to Woodbourne, NY in the Catskills to a left wing singles resort to relax, but mostly to meet women. It was there that he met Nettie Manheim. Nettie lived in Brooklyn and Abe in the Bronx, but in spite of the "long distance relationship" they continued to see each other and they married in June of 1948. Their first apartment was at 530 Riverside Drive at 124th Street in Manhattan. Abe received his MSW (Master of Social Work) in August of that summer.

At that time Abe was working as a social worker at Bellevue Hospital through a reformed synagogue organization. In December of 1949 Susan was born and in January of 1950 through his connections at Bellevue he was offered a job at Hillside Hospital in Queens as their first full time Social Work Director. He began hiring other young social workers and building up the department. In 1951 he hired Judith Bloch who went on to become prominent in the field and also a lifelong friend of the Lurie family with her husband Milton.

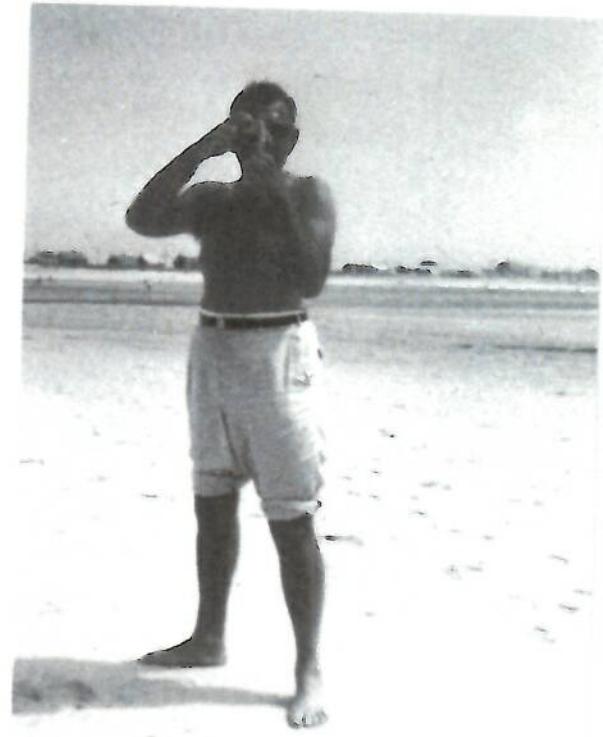
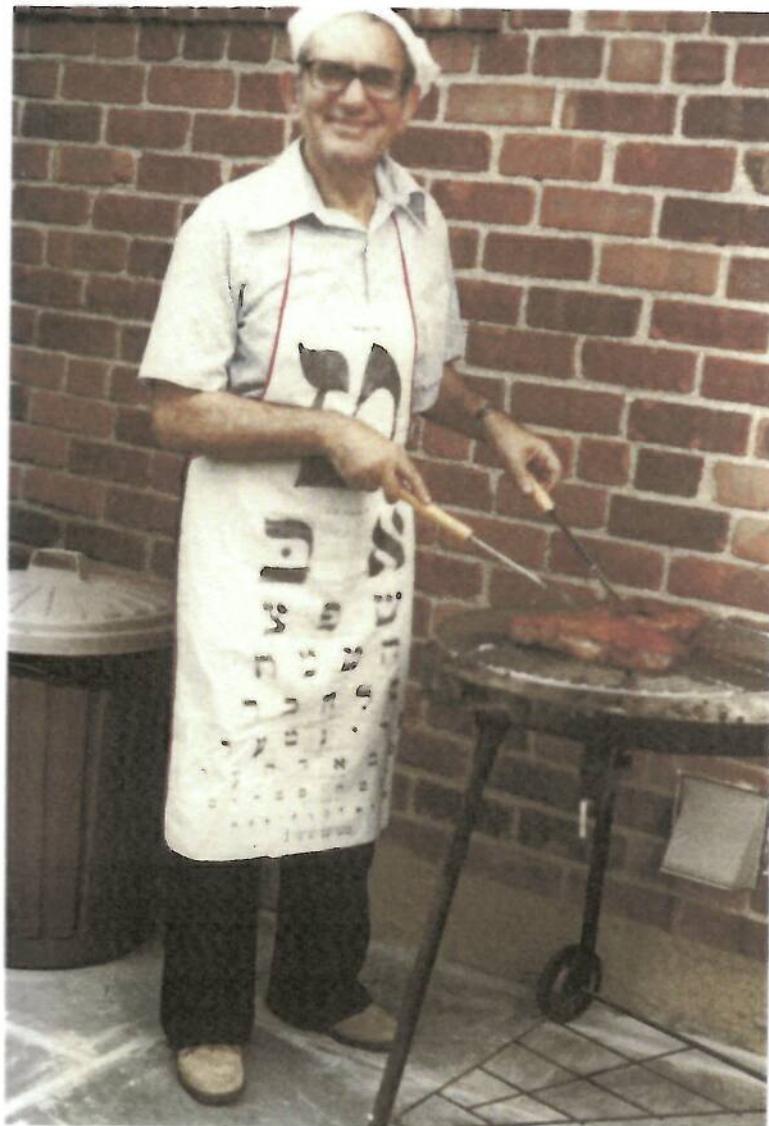


1950 - 2000 MOVING EAST

During the summer of 1950 Abe, Nettie and Susan moved to Glen Oaks, which was very close to Hillside Hospital. It was there that they met Miriam and Irving Roth and Milt and Susie Gurvitz who were already living there. In January of 1954 Shirley and Norman Mangel moved there. Lois and Gerry Sanderoff, Mickey and Mel Kiel, Gloria and Ken Rapp followed soon after and the GO (Glen Oaks) Club was in full swing.

In 1952 Abe started going to school once again, taking doctoral courses at NYU School of Education. In April of 1953 his father Isadore Lurie suffered a stroke and died at the age of 65. Abe, ever the social worker, arranged a job for Celia through the Jewish Community Services Project. Celia cared for a handicapped woman who moved in with her for which she got paid, but Celia wasn't too happy with the arrangement. During that year Abe also started teaching some classes at Adelphi University and in December of 1953 Debra was born.

In 1955 Abe started a private practice as a therapist in addition to working full time at Hillside, taking classes at NYU and teaching at Adelphi. Around this time Lena Manheim (Nettie's mother from Cleveland) came to live with the Luries, and for a short time Celia also moved in. They were Abe, Nettie, Susan, Debra, Lena and Celia in the small four room apartment. It was time to get a bigger place.



Celia moved to a residential hotel in Long Beach where her roommate was Isaac Asimov's mother. It was a perfect match. In 1958 Abe, Nettie, Susan, Debra and Lena (Mrs. Manheim) moved to Jericho, Long Island and the Mangels moved two houses away with their two children, Stuart and Leslie. Fredda arrived a few years later.

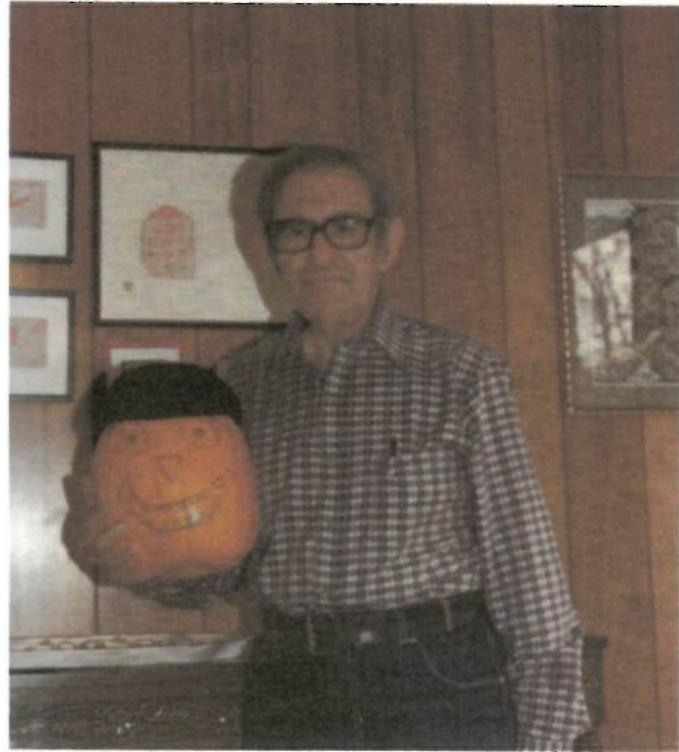
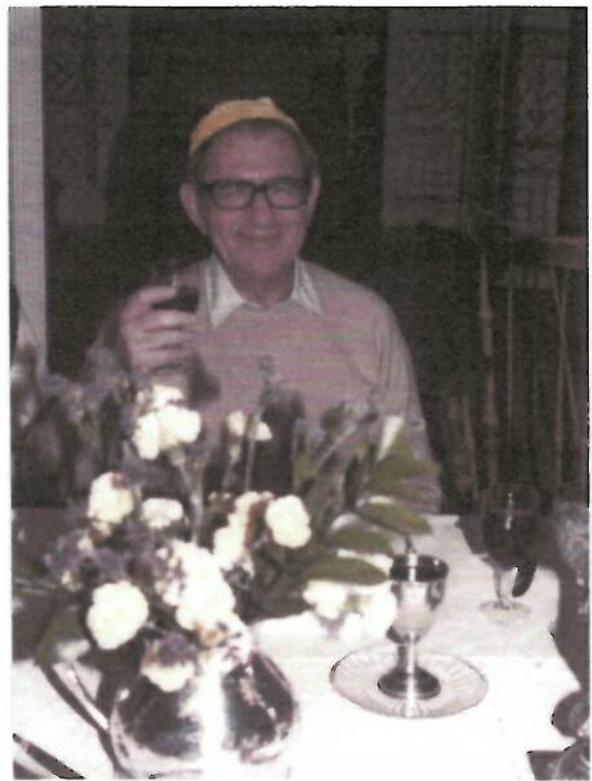
After twelve years of school, Abe received his Doctorate in 1964. While Abe was working at Hillside and teaching at Adelphi, Gary Rosenberg, a young social work student at Adelphi, started his career at Hillside. In 1973 Hillside Hospital and Long Island Jewish Hospital merged and from 1973-1984 Abe was the Director of the newly combined Department of Social Work. By this time, he was in charge of over 200 social workers in five affiliated hospitals. Gary took over Abe's position at Hillside. By now Gary had become a close friend of the Lurie's, and their bond was solidified when Gary hooked up their first stereo system. During this time, Abe started teaching at NYU and Columbia.

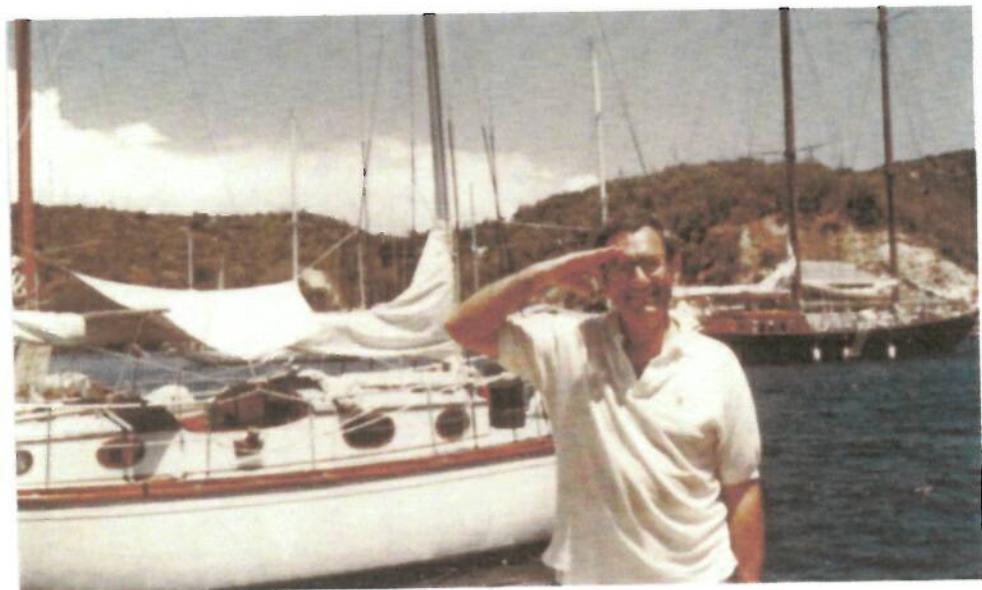
In 1966 Judith Bloch, one of Abe's first social workers at Hillside and by now a close friend and colleague, proposed starting a school for very young children with developmental disabilities including autism. Abe was instrumental in giving the school professional as well as personal support and became the first Chairman of the Board. Currently the school, The Variety Pre-Schooler's Workshop employs over 400 people and provides services to more than 1000 families each year. Abe is still an active member of the board.

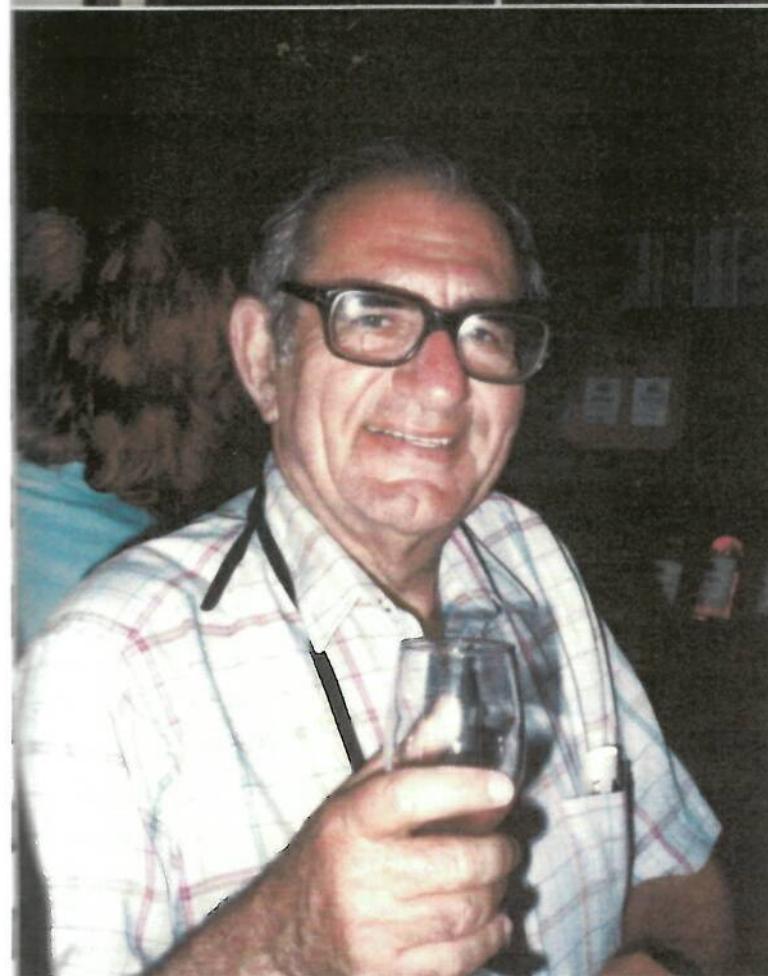
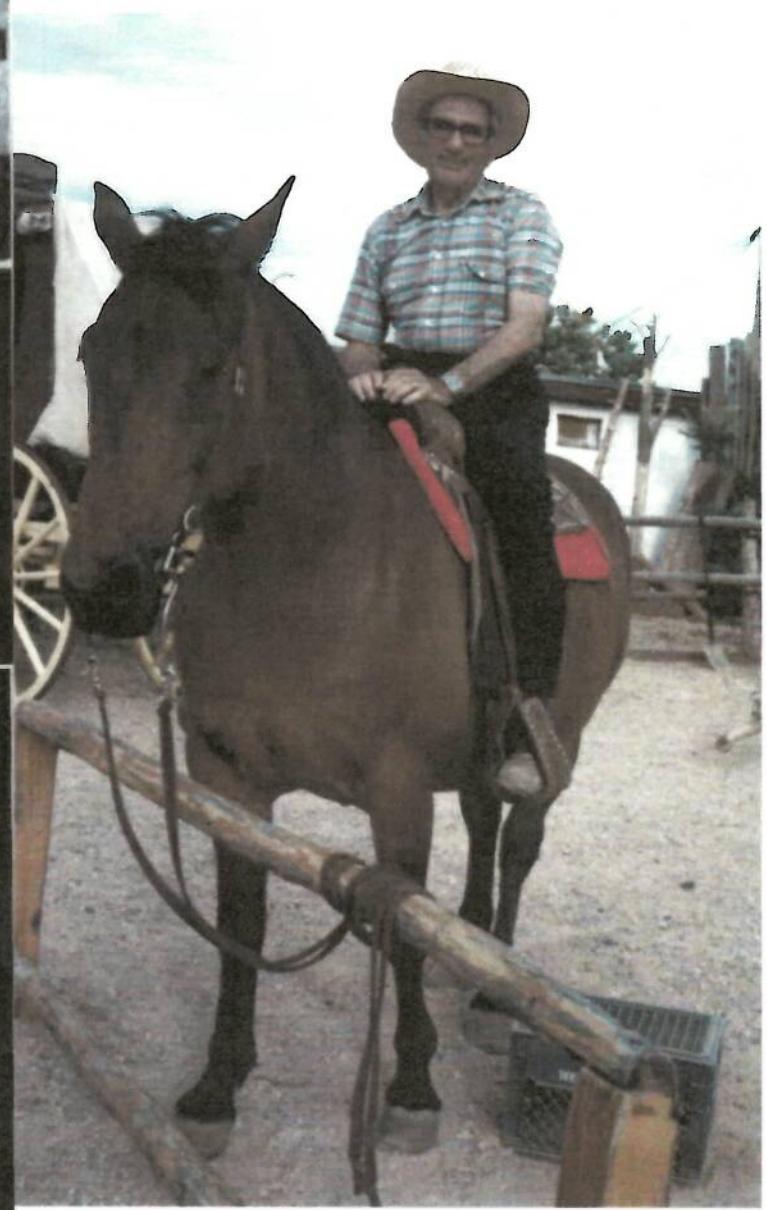
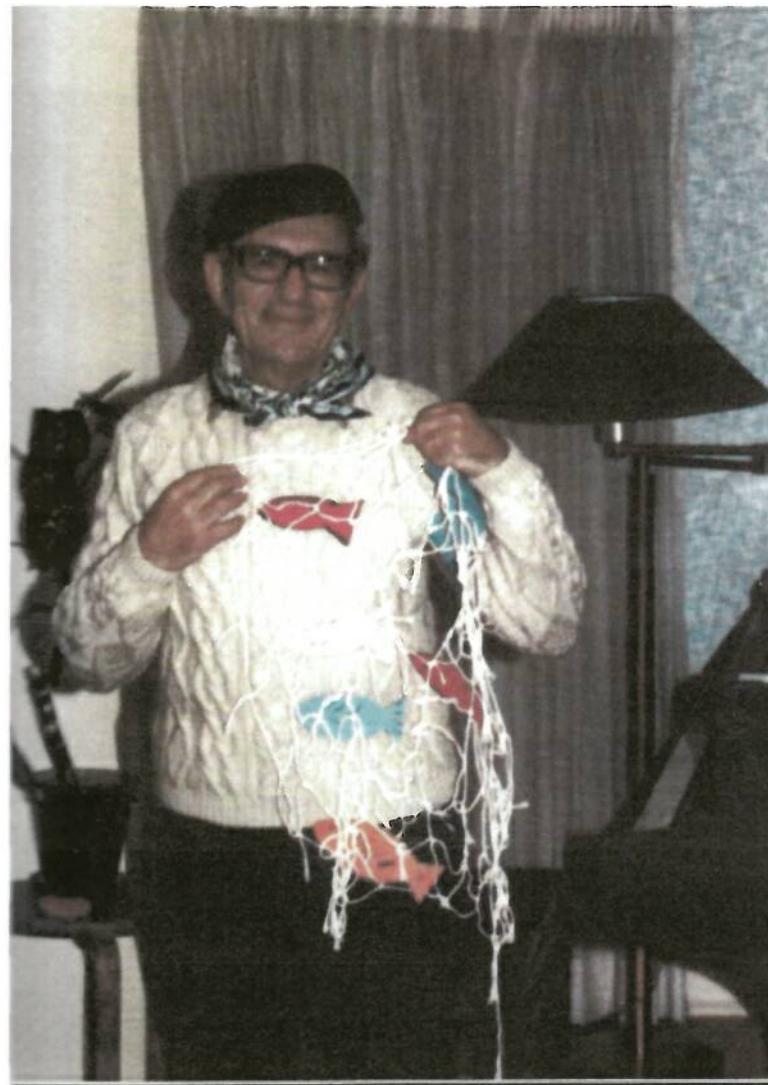


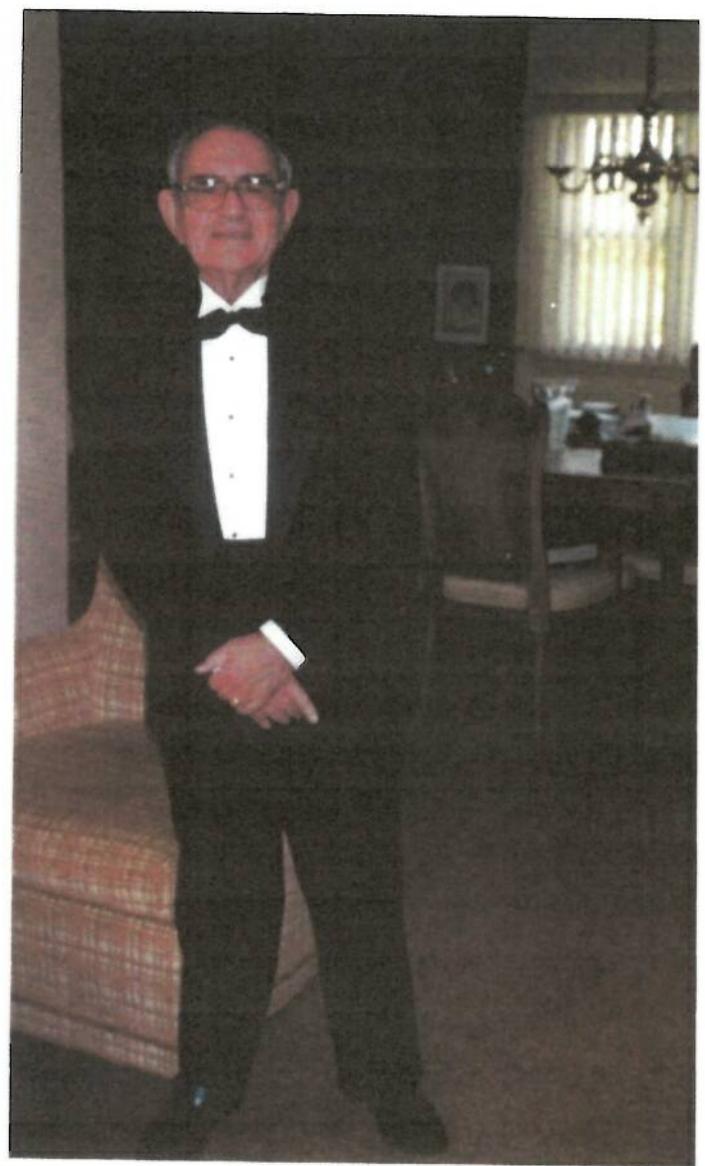
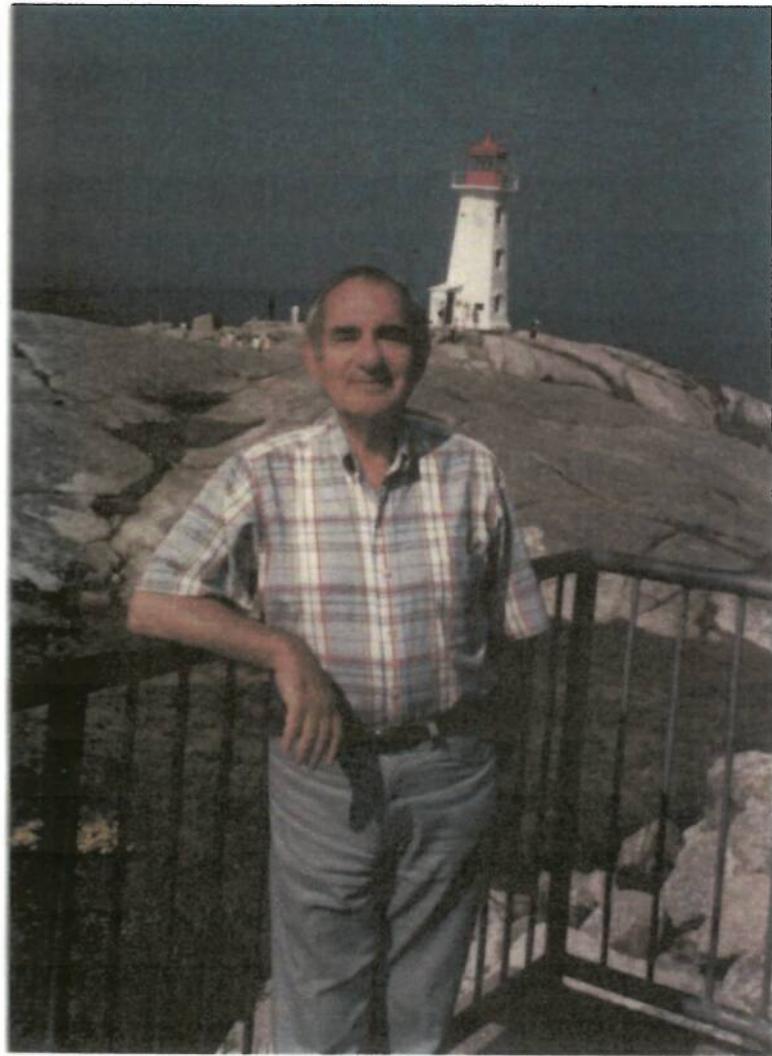
In 1975 Abe's mother Celia Lurie died at the age of 86. Abe left Hillside-LIJ in 1984 and started teaching full time at Adelphi; his private practice was still thriving. In 1988 Abe left Adelphi and began teaching full time at SUNY Stonybrook, where he is still teaching.

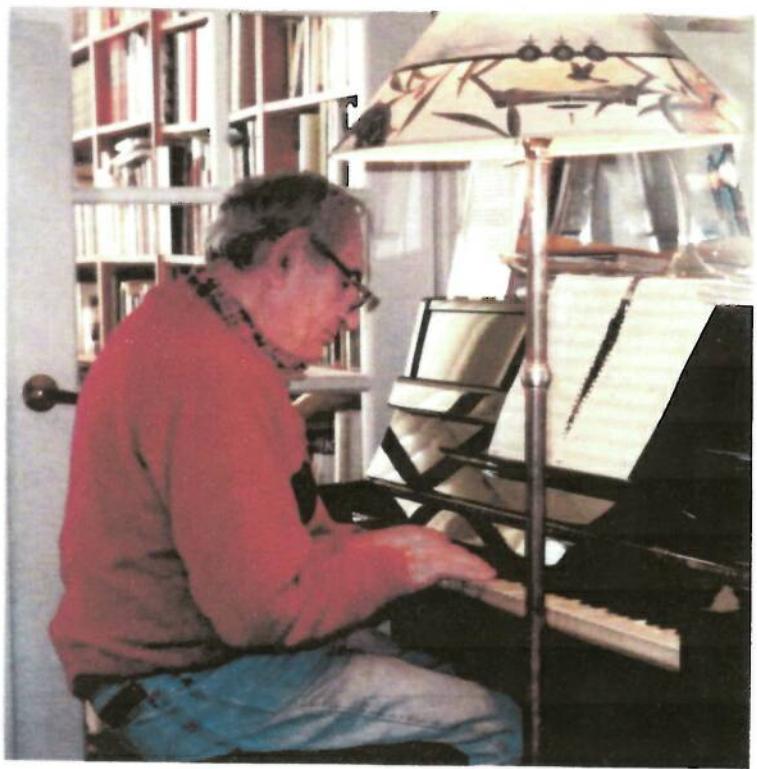
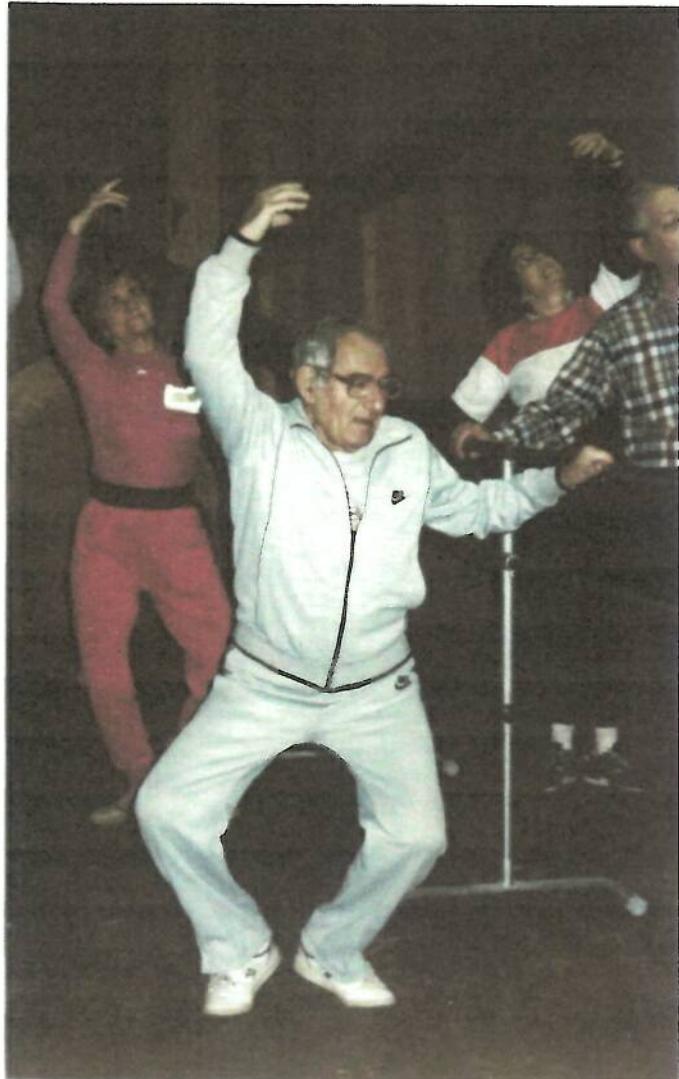
In 1990 Susan, by now a professional flutist in New York City, married Don McGeen, also a very talented musician. In addition to playing the bassoon and many other musical instruments, Don has taken over leading the Lurie Seders every Passover which gives Abe great pleasure. On April 19, 1993 Debra, who had become a librarian, and George Tingley, a piano teacher and composer, presented Abe with his first grandchild Raphael Stephen Lurie Tingley (aka Rafe) and on June 4, 1998 Anna Clare Lurie Tingley was born, both in Point Richmond, California.











2001 -
A SPACE ODYSSEY; THE NEW FRONTIER
NORTH SHORE TOWERS

Abe and Nettie had fifty three wonderful years of marriage filled with love, mutual respect, support, and world travel. In March of 2001 after long illnesses, Nettie died.

In December of 2001 Abe met Anita Gurian through an introduction by mutual friends Marty and Elaine Seitz. They became instant and constant companions and started a new life together. In October of 2003 Abe left Jericho and moved into the North Shore Towers where Anita was already living. He will be ninety years old on October 18th, 2007.

May the force be with you!

To be continued...

