

Remembrances of Harry

In February of 1965, I ran away from home for 2 weeks (big issues with parents)—all the way from 161st St. in Jamaica to our house on 169th off of Union Tpk. I got very sick. Kingston and Dew Drop Inn charitably ran a food drive for me and the other runaway living in the house with me, Harry Nass. Gary Ackerman (of Playboy's Penthouse) even made a special trip to the house to give us blankets and aspirin as we both weren't feeling too well. The heating system in our house (if one could call it that) was so bad, that it must have been about 55 degrees in the bedrooms where we slept. On many nights, I distinctly recall that Harry and I stayed up to the wee hours debating national politics, he being, at that time, of a more liberal bent than I. Harry was a compassionate and decent young man then. Although, admittedly, I didn't know him well in "adulthood," I am certain that he never changed.

What I would give to be debating him today, albeit, sick, freezing, but then again, not quite 18.

Rest in peace, Harry.

Steve Weiser

Had some trouble with my desktop at the office and just got to read all the posts today. This is very sad news. As mentioned, we all have memories of Harry - He was at the house most of the time and engaged easily with everyone. He was a "people person" - was at his best around people. In college, that meant us. He was the only guy I remember who was always willing to stay awake with you for an "all-nighter"... didn't matter that he wasn't in your class or that he had no test to study for. Harry was a special guy.

Bob Wernick

It is truly sad to hear of the passing of such a kind and gentle person. He was one of the nice guys.

Ralph Saltz

A warm, wonderful man, quick with a smile and laugh.

Jack Levy

I really hadn't thought of those all nighters until I read these e-mails. Harry was such a big part of them because he really enjoyed spending the time and hanging out with his friends even though he hated the studying - as we all did. A few of us were together last week and when the conversation turned to those days, as it always does, Harry's name came up - as it always does as well. He was a big part of those years for many of us. Even though we lost touch in the last few years, his loss will leave a hole. My heart goes out to Gay and to his entire family. I know they will miss him terribly.

David Mintzes

I do remember one all-nighter with Mintzes and Harry. Mintzes and I took a class together and neither of us kept up with the reading, so the all-nighter was needed. We were at Mintzes house as he had the recipe for all-nighter coffee made in a percolator. It was strong - the spoon stood up on its own in the middle of the cup. I believe it was the precursor to double strength, double shot espresso in a mug. Of course, Harry had no test or class work, he was just there for the company - so he had the TV on. No cable then, so a limited selection available. Harry had "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" on - and, of course, Mintzes and I watched it too. Unfortunately, there were no questions on the test about the movie, but it was a great night.

Bob Wernick

I spent more time in QC with Harry than anyone else other than Mintzes, and probably more all nighters and double dates (sorry Wernick). He was a great guy and one of the highlights of my college years.

The last time I saw Harry was at the last Kingston reunion. I regret that I didn't follow up with him afterwards.

At least some of us used to sing "Harry Nass is here again....". I wish he still was.

Mark Wintner

Just today I had dinner with a friend who told me the following (some of you might have already heard this but I had not until this evening). Yesterday is history, tomorrow a mystery, but today is a gift - which is why we call it the "present."

Harry's passing is a reminder to us all to live life to the fullest.

From personal experience, as well as the comments of other Kingston members today, I know that despite passing way too soon, Harry made the most of the time he was given. We are all better for having known him.

John Sherman

We were just talking about Harry on Saturday...one of the truly great guys and someone who devoted his college years to building Kingston. Over the college years we doubled with our Aloha girlfriends an immense # of times.

Anyone who ever had anything to do with Harry knew him as a great friend and gentle person. Bless you Harry.

Rich Branciforte

Like Rich, I too doubled with Harry many times. I even 'set him up' and we always had a good time. A kind, quirky and intelligent guy. This is a strange reminder of just how much fun it was. I'm glad I knew him.

Victor Blum

What could be more tragically sad and cruelly ironic in light of our light-hearted conversations of Saturday night. We had not lost any of our "boys" but suddenly, and without warning we have. There is nothing to say, only heartfelt feelings of sadness.

Stan & Lois Bleiman

Just read the postings on his website. So similar in tone to what people are saying here. Amazing to find such a centered and caring human being who touches people so similarly across the years. If you get a chance, take a look -- it will warm your heart for our friend's life and bring a smile to your face.

Michael Hecht

In the days ahead, we will all, I'm sure, be searching our memories, recalling time spent with Harry. For a really beautiful final memory of Harry, go to his Facebook page (he's Harold on FB). In just the last day or two he posted a picture of himself there with his grandchild sleeping on his chest. A beautiful photo that captures his spirit.

Larry Brewster

A sweet man gone too soon.

Allan Joseph

Yes, sad and shocking.

Sheldon Wolf

Terrible news, nothing more to say.

Steve Fuller

I'm so sorry to have word of Harry's passing. I found my way back to the Kingston House site again and looked at the Member Photos. Of all the pictures posted, I recognized Harry's photo first; mustache certainly grayer but with the same boyish face that I had remembered so well. And that's what makes losing Harry & our other friends so hard. In our heads (and like the title of the Members Photo Gallery says), they're still "the boys". My condolences to Harry's family.

Steve Danziger

I remember Harry with affection. He was a kind, warm friend.

Joel Ackerman

Like many of you, I lost touch with Harry after college, reuniting only at the two KH reunions. But then a few months ago, he and I became "friends" on Facebook. We chatted occasionally. And sadly, the last time we chatted was only a day or two before his passing. He had commented on videos I had just posted on my Facebook page, showing my 12-year-old son singing an old Jackson 5 song at camp. I saw his comment, and he was still online, so we chatted a bit—and he was so warm and generous in his compliments to my son, displaying the same warmth and generous spirit that so many of you have recalled in these messages. Having communicated with him so recently, the news of his sudden passing just a day later was all the more shocking and heartbreaking. I'm still quite shaken, as I know all of you are too.

Larry Brewster

How awful!

Al Ganzer

Baruch Dayan HaEmet. What terrible news.

Ed Rudofsky

Unbelievably sad & stunning news.

May the memory of Harry always be a blessing to his family and to all of us who fondly remember a gentle menche. We remember Harry and smile.

Bruce Mandel

So sorry to hear this.....

Harry was so kind, easy to talk to, so very smart and just a good all around person without a mean attitude about anything. A good soul.

May his soul be bound up forever in the bond of life

Too young.

Larry Speiller

I caught up with the emails regarding the death of Harry and this is a real jolt to me. My memory of KH and QC are quite vivid and Harry with his warm, quiet, easy way was an individual who took to the younger members of the House with guidance and encouragement. We spoke often in those turbulent years and he was always a voice that brought KH together. He is one of a few of the upper class men that immediately come to mind when I think of those influencing me.

Mark Mishler

I don't think I can possibly add anything more meaningful than all the collective thoughts that have already been expressed by all of you about Harry.

I do know I didn't sleep well last night, had odd dreams and awoke for good about 5AM this morning still feeling very sad.....and very mortal.

I just keep thinking about what Paul Simon wrote/sang: ".....Preserve your memories, they're all that's left you".....

Mickey Kail