

Herbert Wasserman

# HERBERT LOUIS WASSERMAN

1928 - 2020



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WASSERMAN, Herbert Louis Age 92, of Lincoln, Massachusetts, died on the evening of April 19, 2020, joining his beloved wife Phyllis, who passed away in March. Herb was born in 1928 in Winthrop, Massachusetts.

Though his family struggled during the Great Depression, Herb felt lucky to grow up in a musical household where his father Maurice was a cantor and his mother Rebecca was a pianist who had accompanied silent films in London. Herb himself picked up guitar and continued to play his whole life, specializing in folk music. Herb attended school at Cambridge Rindge and Latin and as a teenager worked the turnstiles at Fenway Park, a job

that instilled in him a permanent devotion to the Red Sox. He received a bachelor's degree from Boston University; a master's from Columbia University's School of Social Work; and a PHD in Social Work from Brandeis University's Heller School. During the Korean War, he served as a social worker for the US army. Herb made significant contributions to the mental health field in the Greater Boston Area. In addition to developing alcoholism treatment services for Tufts New England Medical Center, he became Director of Bay Cove Clinic, one of the city's first methadone clinics, all while overseeing a private practice. After 25 years at Tufts, Herb accepted a position as Director of Addiction Services at Emerson Hospital in Lincoln. And later in his retirement, he worked for the US government, treating returning soldiers with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Herb was an adventurous traveler his whole life. In his early 20s he hitchhiked across the United States to visit his sister in Oregon. He later moved for a year to Israel, working as Head of Psychiatric Social Service at a hospital in Tel Aviv. He also visited Cuba, Russia, Central Europe, and in his 80s, China. Herb sustained a lifelong commitment to civic engagement. As a young man, Herb marched behind the Reverend Martin Luther King at Selma, Alabama. He also campaigned for Deval Patrick in his successful bid for the governorship and later for Barack Obama's presidential campaign. As a senior citizen, Herb could be found on the Lexington Battle Green where, in a tricorn hat, he regaled tourists with tales of Revolutionary War battles. Herb involved himself in many hobbies. An avid tennis player, he built his own court on Cape Cod's Lieutenant Island where he summered with his family and enjoyed clamming, swimming, and sailing. He also loved playing poker, telling jokes, and cheering on the Sox. Late in life he became a champion Bocce player at the retirement community where he lived. Herb is survived by his daughter Amy Wasserman; son Mark Wasserman; son-in-law David Steeves; and grandchildren Annabelle and Benjamin Dietz.

Remembrances can be made in honor of Herb to the American Civil

Liberties Union (ACLU), [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org) Levine Chapels, Brookline  
[www.levinechapels.com](http://www.levinechapels.com) 617-277-8300

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Published in Boston Globe from Apr. 20 to Apr. 21, 2020.

### WASSERMAN Pages

See more records on Ancestry

### MEMORIAL EVENTS

No memorial events are currently scheduled. To offer your sympathy during this difficult time, you can now have memorial trees planted in a National Forest in memory of your loved one.

Funeral services provided by

Levine Chapels

[470 Harvard Street](#)  
[Brookline, MA 02446](#)

[6172778300](#)

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## MEMORIES & CONDOLENCES

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**6 entries**

June 11, 2020

I am very sorry to learn of Herb's passing. I have many fond memories playing Battle Green Tennis with him. He was a master tennis player. I always enjoyed seeing him at the Commons when I visited with my mother. I also got to enjoy a few walks with him in Willard Woods. Such a nice man!

Dan Stone

April 22, 2020

Oh Herb we are going to miss you!!!! You were such a bright light on the Island, always with something interesting, funny or helpful to talk about. I never saw you without smile on your face. Michael and I drove past your house this past Sunday and both of us started sharing memories, little did we know that you had left us. Amy, I am so so sad for you. It's always hard to lose a parent, and this dad of yours was a very special one indeed. Sending hugs and love to you and the family.

**Christine Young-MacDonald**

April 22, 2020

Amy,

Herb set the standard for all of us who followed his lead and had the thankless job of being president of the "Lt.'s Island Association"!

What a "Great Guy"! Always a wonderful smile and a firm very handshake!

He will be missed. Take care,

Michael MacDonald

April 22, 2020

Amy and Mark, I'm so sorry for your loss. Your parents and mine were good friends for many decades, and we all had lots of fun together at family gatherings. Your parents were kind, good, friendly, funny people who I really enjoyed knowing. Your mom played "Simple Gifts" on her violin at my wedding, which I remember fondly and appreciate. Wishing you well at this sad time. Love, Eliot

**Eliot Levine**

April 21, 2020

I will miss Herb and Phyllis, my neighbors on Lieutenant Island. We would often meet on the road when Herb was walking his dog. I have nice memories of our chats. My husband played tennis with Herb and also

worked with him professionally as a consultant on addiction issues.  
My condolences to your family. Diane Becker

April 21, 2020

I'm so sorry I never met Herb. He sounds like he was a soulful and kind individual.

Dan Dangler

### INVITE OTHERS TO ADD MEMORIES

Share to let others add their own memories and condolences



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