

# Joe Savage

By Ken South

Five years after the creation of the State of Israel, Mr. July was born in Jerusalem on September 21, 1953. His parents had already welcomed their firstborn, a girl, a few years earlier. Growing up in that part of Jerusalem, Mr. July enjoyed the fact that he could see Bethlehem from his house. He later learned the significance of that town to Christians.

His family had emigrated to Israel from Casa Blanca, Morocco, so he grew up speaking a dialect of Arabic and, of course, Hebrew. In those years, immigrants were located with others of their own culture, so he found himself in a Moroccan section of Jerusalem, along with many other Moroccan Jews.

He spent both his grade school and high school years in Jerusalem. It was in high school that Mr. July discovered his love for tennis, a sport in which he has participated all his life. In fact, as a senior, Mr. July won medals in tennis tournaments.

All Israeli men of age must participate in the army for at least three years. Mr. July served his mandatory time and then enlisted in the Air Force for a fourth year of specialty training in electronics. It not only paid well for the 20 year old, but gave him the tools for his future career.

Following his discharge from the Air Force, Mr. July took advantage of his new found sense of freedom and traveled to places like London and New York City.

After settling in NYC, Mr. July found employment as an electronics salesman. He remembers his sales covering the evolution of electronics over the decades, from the Walkman to “boom boxes” to cassette tape recorders, to transistor radios, to early portable phones, to digital products. He worked in this field, in NYC, until his retirement in 2008.

For about ten of those working years he was able to work in Manhattan for six months of the year and then become a “snow bird” for the other six months staying in Wilton Manors. Mr. July loved New York, but not the cold.

It was during this time that Mr. July met the love of his life, Edward. They lived together in NYC as well as traveling to Florida. Mr. July had the joy of living with Edward for twenty years, until he passed away.

In 2008 Mr. July retired and moved full time to Wilton Manors. He discovered over the years that he was attracted to men older than himself, as was Edward, and many of the guys he met in Florida. He has developed many good friends here through Prime Timers (Prime Gentlemen), his love of tennis, his skill as a line dancer and his talent as a karaoke singer. His stage name is “Rock & Roll Joe.”

