

# Joel Rothstein

By Ken South

Harry S. Truman was President in 1948, the average cost of a new home was \$7,700.00, while the average annual wage was only \$2,950.00. A gallon of gas was 16¢ and a movie ticket was 60¢. In India, Mahatma Gandhi was murdered by a Hindu extremist. The first Polaroid camera was put on sale and The World Health Organization, (WHO), was established. NASCAR held its first race for modified stock cars at **Daytona Beach, and the first post-war, summer Olympics** were held in London, England.

Then, on March 28<sup>th</sup> of that year, Mr. September was born in Brooklyn, NY, later joined by a sister and then a brother. After a few years, the family moved to Long Island, to a town along the southern branch of the Long Island Railroad called Merrick. While there, he finished elementary and junior high and graduated from Calhoun High School in 1965. Also, while there, at 13yrs old, he met his future wife!

College years were spent at the University of Wisconsin, majoring in history, and included a glorious memory of meeting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.! Graduation was in 1969 followed by a law degree (J.D.) from the George Washington University law school in Washington, DC in 1972.

Mr. S started his work life as a department manager of an A&S department store, leaving there in 1978. In 1973 he had married his Jr. High School sweetheart and they became the proud parents of two girls. During this time, he worked for his father in law in the fabric business, until a divorce from his wife in 1984. For the next decade his life was in a state of flux and emotional pain. By 1994 he found himself as the international sales director of a wholesale fabric company based in Long Island. He looks back on those years as some of the best in his life, as his work took him to over 90 countries around the world! He retired in 2016.

In 1990 he met Jeff, his first lover. After a year's relationship, struggling with acceptance of his sexual orientation, Jeff took his own life. In 2010 he met

Marc,

a Persian man living in Paris. Given Mr. S's abundance of travel miles, they were able to see each other on a regular basis, until they parted ways in 2018, but they remain close friends.

Mr. S has lived for over 30 years in the town of Hauppauge, located in Suffolk County, LI, about one hour's drive from NYC. However, since his mother, daughter and grandsons, all live-in south Florida, he is a very frequent visitor to Ft. Lauderdale. He has been active in Prime Gentlemen activities including the socials at Matty's and even participated in two PG sponsored cruises. He also participates on weekly Zoom events. He was introduced to PG by an old friend, Michael.

