

**Michael Barcham**  
By Ken South

In 1949, [Harry S. Truman](#) is [sworn in](#) for a full term as [President of the United States](#). Also that year, [Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific](#), with Mary Martin and Ezio Pinza, opens on [Broadway](#), and The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) organization is created in Washington, DC. Arthur Godfrey premieres on CBS TV, and Arthur Miller's play, "Death of a Salesman," opens on Broadway, while the first VW arrives in the [United States](#).

And, on September 27<sup>th</sup>, in Queens, NY, Mr. June was born following his older sister by a few years. His family includes his physician father and his working mom, all living at their home in Jamaica Estates.

Mr. J enjoyed his elementary and high school years there and graduated from HS in 1967. He attended SUNY (State University of New York) Buffalo, majoring in sociology, graduating in 1971. The next three years are spent at Law School at American University in Washington, DC.

While there, he met a fellow law school classmate, Dee; they marry and create a family with a son and daughter. They are a family for 30 years. His daughter delights him with two grandchildren, Harry and Sadie.

In 1974 he was hired as a lawyer at the U.S. State Department in Washington, DC. Following several years there, Mr. J decided to go into private practice, which he did in 1987, in northern New Jersey.

Then, after a few years as a private practice lawyer, Mr. J became interested in the restaurant business. He became a part owner, with his brother-in-law, Ronnie of the "Ben's Kosher Deli" chain, which he thoroughly enjoyed, until his retirement in 2015.

*"Ben's Kosher Deli is a family-owned and operated restaurant and delicatessen that has been serving up the finest authentic New York Kosher delicatessen and eastern European comfort foods since 1972."*

"Ben's" has New York delis in: Bayside, Carle Place,

Greenvale, Manhattan, and Woodbury, as well as in Boca Raton, Florida.

Mr. J and his wife Dee, decided to part ways after 30 years of marriage in 2007. Mr. J was then able to live his second life by coming out, to himself, family, colleagues and the world. As he said, he was then "very out!" He looked forward to his time away in Ft. Lauderdale, and joined a cluster of GLBT organizations for the fellowship and friendship they provide. He attends "Coffee and Conversation" and Prime Gentlemen events when he is in town. He continues to live on Long Island, close to his children and grandchildren, but he also purchased a condo in Ft. Lauderdale at River Shores for his many "snow bird" stays.

He is very active in the SAGE chapter in Long Island, as well as a gay fathers group. Now, with his grandchildren growing older and his retirement from the restaurant business, the prospect of full time living in Ft. Lauderdale is looking more and more attractive.

