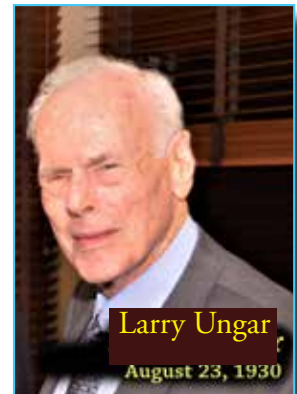
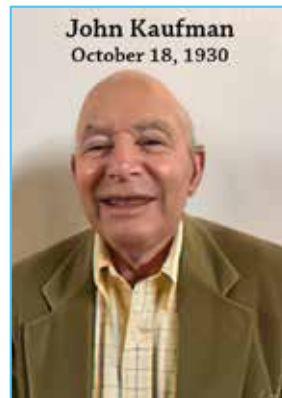
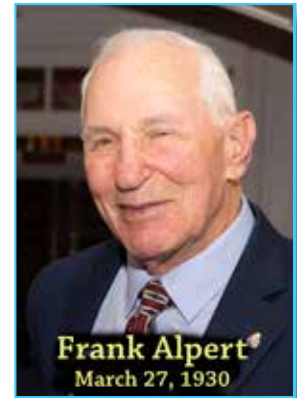


# SENIOR MOMENTS

Visit our website at: <https://www.oldguardofwestchester.org>

## MEMBERS CELEBRATING THEIR 90TH BIRTHDAY IN 2020



On December 15th, the Old guard celebrated these eight members who were born during the great depression , suffered their teen years through World War II, had careers, raised families, retired from business and are now navigating the swirling waters of the digital revolution.

The lead article, written by Larry Ungar. is a wonderful piece recalling the years of his youth growing up in Brooklyn. Bernie Robinson, born in 1927, recalls both his years serving in the army and his years growing up in the Bronx. Paul Schneiderman, born in 1948, recalls the street games he played, the genesis of which is lost in history.

Actively seeking new articles. Articles, photos and poems can be e-mailed to the editor, [mholstein@optonline.net](mailto:mholstein@optonline.net)

# Brooklyn Memories of the 1930's



**The games we played**—stickball, touch football, kick the can, ring-a-levio, Simon says, johny on the pony, stoop ball, hide & seek, scully, mumbly peg, hopscotch and blind man's bluff.

**The theaters we went to**—Loew's Kings, RKO Kenmore, The Albemarle and The Astor.

**The movie stars**—Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart, Henry Fonda, Cary Grant, James Cagney, Carole Lombard, Betty Grable, Lana Turner, Roz Russell and Shirley Temple.

AH YES, I REMEMBER IT WELL

**The athletes**—the Brooklyn Dodgers with Leo Durocher, Pete Reiser, Mickey Owen and Larry French, the New York Yankees with Jolting Joe Dimaggio, Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, the New York Giants with Willie Mayes, Bobby Thompson and Mel Ott. Joe Louis v. Max Schmeling—where Schmeling won the first fight by KOing Louis in Round 12 and Louis knocked out Schmeling in the second fight in two minutes and four seconds.

**World War II**—Pearl Harbor and where I was that day, the loss of the Philippines and MacArthur's return, D-Day, Salerno, Patton and Eisenhower and Rommell, the Desert Fox. Rationing with blue tokens for canned goods and red ones for meat and poultry. A, B and C stickers for gasoline and war bonds and stamps.

AH YES, I REMEMBER IT WELL

**The schools**—PS 139, 217, 169 and Montauk Junior High School—desks fixed to the floor, ink wells at each desk and boys taking the ends of the long hair of the girls sitting in front of them and dipping them into those ink wells. Victory Gardens, white shirts on auditorium days, gym, substitute teachers we harried, current events concerning the war.

**The cars**—all American—Chevrolet, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Buick, Cadillac, Plymouth, Dodge, Chrysler, Ford—only with gear shift and clutch until Hydromatic by Oldsmobile.

**The big bands**—Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, Stan Kenton, Harry James and their live performances at Broadway movie theaters along with the movie.

**The Presidents and their opponents**—Hoover, Roosevelt and Truman; Landon, Wilkie, Dewey.



Happy Memories,

*Larry Ungar*

# Bronx Memories of the 1930's

by Bernie Robinson



About 1937 in the south Bronx, very few people had phones in their homes. In some apartment buildings, there was a phone on the first floor. When the phone rang someone would pick it up and yell the name. The one called would come down and have a conversation that every one could hear.

My life revolved around two blocks from my apartment. My school P.S.52 was half a block away. Across the street was a barber shop, a candy store, a grocery store, a drug store, a kosher deli, a chinese laundry, a butcher store, a luncheonette and a fire station.

The candy store had a few phone booths and my friends and I would try to answer an incoming call to find out who they wanted. We would get the name and address and then walk or run to find the person and bring them back to the candy store. A tip was between two pennies and a nickel. The pennies bought candy and the nickel bought ice cream. This whole scenario took at least 15 minutes.

# Army Memories of the 1940's

by Bernie Robinson

To join the Army I had to be 18 years old but, in 1944 you could join the ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM. I had to get permission from my father who needed a lot of convincing. The program sent me to college at Norwich University in Vermont. The courses were basically engineering. In addition, there was a lot of military training and vigorous workouts. At age 18, I was activated into the regular army. The next step was Fort Dix, in New Jersey, for orientation before being sent to camp Robinson [no relationship] for basic training.

The war in Europe ended May 8, 1945 and, shortly after I was sent to Germany via New York on a ship to LeHavre France, I joined a crap game on the ship. I lost all my money which wasn't very much and I was sea sick for the rest of the trip. We landed in France and the trains were waiting to take us to Germany. After the basic orientation we became part of the occupation forces and my job was part of a team guarding prisoners of war. German money was almost useless and the desirable means of exchange was cigarettes and chocolate. I think I was entitled to a carton of cigarettes every month and being a non-smoker it went a long way. The last town I was stationed in was Selb, Germany, which was the home of Rosenthal chinaware, a very high end item. The captain of my command was shipping crates of china to the states so I went to the factory and had them ship some china to my mother and paid with cigarettes.

The Japanese surrendered 9/2/45 officially ended WW2. All before I was 20 yrs old.





# CULINARY CORNER

## *Restaurant reviews and recipies*

The following is a regular soup favorite at our house. The recipe is from Martha Stewart's Great Food Fast cookbook. If you are not a fan of broccoli, you can substitute cauliflower, carrots or potatoes. Easy to make and delicious.

1 tbs olive oil  
1 medium sliced onion  
1/8 tsp nutmeg  
4 cups chicken broth  
1/3 cup rolled oats (gives the soup creaminess)  
1 1/2 lbs broccoli cut up  
Salt and pepper to taste

In a large pot heat the olive oil, add the onion and cook until softened for about 5 minutes. Add nutmeg, cook for a minute. Stir in the broth, 1 1/2 cups water, oats, vegetable, salt and pepper. Cook until vegetable is tender, about 20 minutes. Purée the soup and enjoy. Very tasty hot or cold, and not fattening!

Manga!

*Elaine Loewengart.*



## THE GAMES WE PLAYED

*Paulie Schneiderman*



When asked to write a biography for the Old Guard, I was reminded of all the games I played in the streets of my neighborhood. There was never any adult to tell us how to play or impose any rules on us. We did everything on our own, just a bunch of kids eager to play.

It could be punchball, curb ball, box ball or stickball. All we needed was a "*spaldeen*" and a broom handle for stickball.

All the kids just chose up sides and we were ready to go. Bases could be a car door handle or whatever else was available. A sewer was home plate in stickball and if you could hit 3 sewers you were the Mickey Mantle of the block. "Chips on the ball" - whoever came with the ball would go home with it or 25 cents to buy a new one.

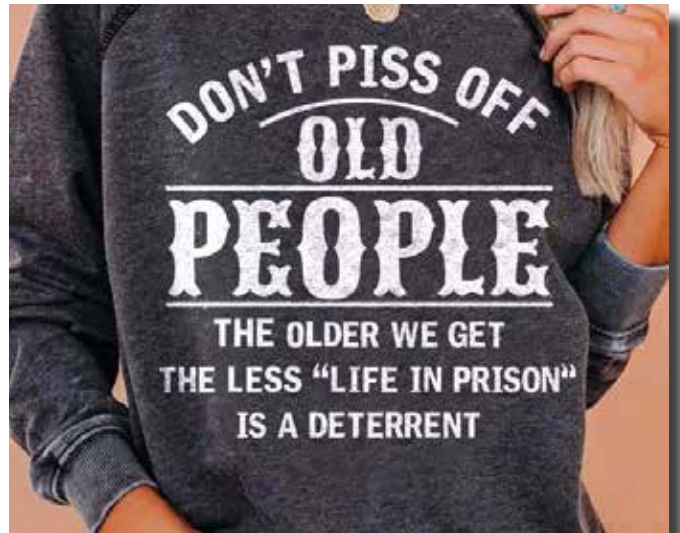
When it got too dark to see the ball (usually after supper) we played Ring O Leveo, With an equal number of kids on each side, it was a wild form of tag. I still remember the defeated feeling of being held by someone of the opposite team as he said "*ring o leveo 123,123 and sent me to jail*" When a my team member crashed the "jail" and yelled all free. I was able to join the game again.

As we grew older we started to play Johnny on the pony. The ponies had a pillow, usually a fat guy, (Me). Everyone crouches down with your arms around the guy in front of you. The Johnnies jumped on their backs to break the chain. Bucking off was allowed and the winner was decided by whomever held on. To hide while playing ( our parents didn't approve of this game ) we usually played out of sight of their prying eyes, around the corner or down the block.

The thought of playing any of these games now makes my bones ache, but what a great time I had when I was a kid on the streets of the Bronx.



# ART & POETRY CORNER



## T-SHIRT I WOULD LIKE TO BUY



*1948 Packard hood ornament photographed by Steve Loewengart*

Left: Sketches by Julian Leventhal.

Can you identify these Old Guard members and what do they have in common?

**The answer:**

Al Dold, Lloyd Cort and Dave Finch.  
They are all former Old Guard Residents



The Old Guard of Westchester is a social organization of retired business and professional men who meet for fellowship, recreation, mutual support, and community service. For membership information: 914-428-4218