Remembering Nori

September 29, 1942 - January 30, 2019
Remembering Nori
Born during occupied Amsterdam

September 29, 1942 - January 30, 2019
Nora’s parents moved the family to a new apartment and did not notify the authorities of their move in an attempt to hide their newborn from the Nazis since Rita was Jewish (although on paper she converted to marry) and therefore little Nora was Jewish.
Remembering Nori

Shy Child Immigrated in 1953

September 29, 1942 - January 30, 2019
Nora always said she was very sad coming to America and giving up everything she knew. It looks like the whole family was sad.

(From left-to-right: Tante Gretel, Tante Wanda, Nora, Rita, a young Hans-Christian Mutti, Hans)

Grew-up in Queens, NY
Remembering Nori
Had a Junior High boyfriend named Brian
Graduated from Forest Hills High School

Attended the College of Wooster in Ohio
(Ohio was primitive in those days, they didn’t know what a bagel was)

French Language Major - Graduated 1964

Then on to Vanderbilt University for Masters
Remembering Nori

- Met Alice Landt
- Survived her first hangover
  ...
  (Got her masters)

Started running the language lab at SUNY Stony Brook

Joined Ward Melville as a French Teacher

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Remembering Nori

• Taught French
• Trips with Students
  □ Quebec
  □ France

• Taught German

• Became Foreign Language Chair

• Went back to only teaching

~ also involved with student plays ~

• Retired after 32 years teaching

Late 1960s

Nora made a trip to Berlin. Gretel and Hans-Christian at that point were still living in the western side of the divided city.
I believe it was during this trip that Nora turned into a smuggler. She had crossed over into East Berlin to visit her cousin Fritz Fries (a noted East German author). During the visit he pointed out that he could not get his manuscript out to his western publisher so Nora smuggled it out. You can read “The Road to Oobliadooh.”

1973

Nora was living in a singles community (North Isle) in Coram, NY

One day in winter (Jan/Feb) sees a guy in the club house,
Remembering Nori

"Is your name Brian" the guy says, "No" and ignores her

March - is at a Saturday Night dance
Sees same guy
"Would you like to dance?”, she asks.
they dance... exchange numbers

several days later receives a phone call
"Norma, would you take me to the hospital I’m very sick."
"Its Nora. I’ll be right over" hospitals play an important role in her future

Next, they see one another in the pool in June chatting
she mentions seeing Fiddler on the Roof on Bdwy with Topol in the lead.

He mentions seeing the musical in Switzerland with Ivan Rebroff in the title role.

She is stunned, "You know Ivan Rebroff?"
(She loved his singing)
July - Concert at Islip Speedway starring Chuck Berry
Remembering Nori
October Engaged

Married December 29, 1973
in Southside Hospital

September 29, 1942 - January 30, 2019
Remembering Nori

The Bride

September 29, 1942 - January 30, 2019
Remembering Nori

The Bride And Groom

September 29, 1942 - January 30, 2019
Remembering Nori
The Parents

September 29, 1942 - January 30, 2019
Remembering Nori
Wedding Party & Friends

September 29, 1942 - January 30, 2019
Remembering Nori

An aside
At the wedding (which was supposed to take place in the
Spielmann’s small condo) a Buffy Sainte Marie song was to be played. It wasn’t because the wedding took place at Southside Hospital. The words are particularly poignant.

Until It's Time for You to Go

You're not a dream
You're not an angel
You're a woman
I'm not a king
I'm a man
Take my hand
We'll make a space
In the lives that we planned
And here we'll stay
Until it's time for you to go
Yes, we're diff'rent worlds apart
We're not the same
We laughed and played
At the start like in a game
You could have stayed
Outside my heart
But in you came
And here you'll stay
Until it's time for you to go
Don't ask why
Don't ask how
Don't ask...
Remembering Nori
December 1974 - Puerto Rico Honeymoon
(had many Pina Coladas)

We had planned on a February honeymoon at an island off the coast of Venezuela but we both got quite sick so it wasn’t until December ‘74 that we went to Puerto Rico. We had a great time.
Remembering Nori
Married Years

December 31, 1976 12:31pm
A Child is Born
1977

The Trips

Summer 1980 (six weeks) - Europe with Renée
Remembering Nori

Germany with Hans and Rita
introduce Drew to family
(Hans Christian & Sabine, Gretel, Katja, Carsten)

Holland
introduce Drew to childhood friends (Minna, Miep & Dik,
Arjan, Inga, Weitske)

Belgium (just drove thru)

Switzerland introduce
Nora to family
(Marie & Ernest, Marie, Paulette, Marie Rose and their families)

Paris
(wine, women, song)
• wine - hey its France
• women - Club Lido
• Song - Oui, oui, oui, over the pont
(alons enfant de la pomme-frita)
Remembering Nori
1991

Belgium stayed
with Betty

Germany - Gretel, Christian, Gesa

Holland

1995

Germany
(weird wine tasting)
German old guy, “I learned to drink red wine when I was a prisoner in France.”

Great tour of a wine cellar much to the frustration of the owner (thanks Gesa)
“We have no wine from those years as the occupying Americans drank it all.”
Nora responded, “Well, we won!”

Holland - (always Holland)
Remembering Nori
Fateful year
2001

• March - Nora diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease

• May - Last Europe Trip
  Germany
  Holland

September (no need to explain this obscenity)
2003

• October - Sedona - Shirley Macclaine group meeting

2009
September October - 3 car accidents in 6 weeks

• side of car into rocks at Islip beach
  • rear-end guy’s car
• head-on collision with tree in our driveway - car totaled

• Nora stops driving and turns in license
Remembering Nori
2011

Renée and Joe marry

Our Wedding Day

Renee Elise Bourrut
-and-
Joseph Aaron Conrad

Saturday July 9, 2011

Our Wedding Party
Rev. John V. Weicher — Officiant
and family friend of the Bride
Associate Pastor at Swarthmore PA, PA.
Nora Bourrut — Mother of the Bride
Maggie Conrad — Mother of the Groom
Harley Lever — Best Man
Janna Brandon — Groomsman
Ken Conrad — Father of the Groom
Sydney Conrad Cook — Groomsman
and Sister of the Groom
Baine Conrad — Groomsman
and Sister of the Groom
Elka Lumbra — Matron of Honor
Eric Lumbra — Usher
Jean Weicher — Bridesmaid
Daisy Baldwin — Bridesmaid
Samantha Freeman — Bridesmaid
Carson Cook — Ring Bearer
Nephew and Godson of the Groom
Kingston Wesley Shillito — Usher
Gloria Grace Shillito — Flower Girl
Drew Bourrut — Father of the Bride

Ceremony — Chuppah
It's your Chuppah by Fred Rodgers
Processional: Miserere in Galliard, Carissimi, D-Friedelish, Butterfly Waltz, Ballad From
❖ Greeting
❖ Prayer
❖ Declarations of Intent
❖ Affirmation of the families
❖ Affirmation of the congregation
Reading: Kurt Kloeppel Chuppah of the Bride:
"Das Eheleben" by Richard Dolm 1908.
"Recipe For Marriage" — Translation from German
The man of the house, as was understood, was probably the one who wore the pants, but nowadays this is hard to off, as both are working together. To keep the marriage going harmoniously, I will give the woman good advice, with caution be a diplomat. The closer women with much thought, keeps an eye out for his honor. If there is a thunderstorm on the horizon, you better get out of his way fast. Keep the mystery of a woman, and never expose too much. This his curiosity will prevail, and he will keep on fighting for you. Tell her often that you love her, would give you life for her, and do not make her jealous. She will reward you for it. This recipe will come true for whoever will follow it with honor. Because a happy, harmonious marriage always depends on recovery.
Reading: Scott Shillito — Friend of the Bride:
"Love is like owning a dog," by Tolle Matt
Mediation: Rev. John V. Weicher
❖ Blessing of the Hubble
❖ Vows
❖ Exchange of Rings
❖ Unity Sand Ceremony
Breaking of the Glass
Ceremony "Mazel Tov"
Bubbles sent off
Recessional

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Remembering Nori
2011/2012

Renée is pregnant

Nora loved this picture

September 29, 1942 - January 30, 2019
Remembering Nori

May 12, 2012 - The Boys are born

End of May - Our last plane trip - Seattle to see the boys

Hallucinations

We can’t talk about Nora without remembering her terror.
Remembering Nori

It started on the day we returned from seeing the infant boys. She went to lie down; I went into the family room and rested in my chair.

Some hours later Nora came in the room saying, “I came to join the party.” I asked, “What party?” She responded, “All these people.” I said, “There are no people. Just you and me.”

Thus began months of terror for Nora and me.

Highlights
- Nora sees people filling the house
- Nora sees a woman with green hair (some years later I realized she was seeing a hanging plant)
- The axe-murderer

One night I luckily woke up as Nora ran (parkies can’t run but she did) around the bed and down the hall to the front door. At the front door I tackled her. She collapsed to the floor asking, “Are we dead yet?”
Remembering Nori
2013

Pimavanserin

Shortly after the beginning of 2013 Nora was entered into a trial of a new drug to treat Parkinson hallucinations.

Within days they were gone. A few years ago they came back but as long as she took her pills they were mild and she knew that they weren’t real and she was no longer afraid.

We can’t thank the Acadia company enough for that medicine. Without it she would have lived in terror and have been institutionalized.

Nora and I are introduced to Sandy Hawthorne (Softball Catcher extraordinaire!) and begin a relationship that still continues.

Sandy’s help 3 days per week; then four; then five brought much joy to Nora and much help to me (Drew).
Remembering Nori
Nora is becoming quite bent over she looks like a number seven.

Dr Friedling insists something is wrong and wants Nora to go to another neurologist, Dr. Bruce Mayerson.

After the visit Mayerson speaks with Kreitzman and Nora is tested for Myasthenia-Gravis. Not only is the test positive but within hours of taking the first pills she is upright.
Remembering Nori

2014

Nora had started to get very depressed. She hadn’t seen her daughter or grandkids for awhile. I looked for a solution knowing she can’t fly. The answer: purchase a used motorhome.

We spent an unscheduled week in Rapid City, SD when the transmission died coming down the road from Mt Rushmore after seeing the four wise guys.
Remembering Nori
2015

Nora spent a week in the hospital with pneumonia and then 6 weeks in rehab.

2016

Drew has a triple bypass. Nora spends a month in Alexandria, VA living with Renée, Joe, and the boys. “Mom, please sit down... Mom, please sit down.”
Fun time for Renée

2017

Nora has started to severely decline

2018

May - we travel to Montclair, VA for the boys birthday. Trip down and back not fun as Nora’s dementia causes her to do things like trying to open the passenger side door at 70 mi/hr.

July - Nora is no longer walking. We wheel her wherever we go.
Remembering Nori

December - Nora collapses and is hospitalized for 11 days with pneumonia and blood clots in one lung.

Nora is released from hospital and starts a program of inhouse care via Kindred At Home.

2019

Friday Jan 11 - Nora stops responding. No response Saturday or Sunday.

Monday 14\textsuperscript{th} - Sandy brings Nora to consciousness and Nora spends the next days ravenously eating and drinking.

Saturday 19\textsuperscript{th} - In the evening Nora again lapses into unconsciousness.

Tuesday 29\textsuperscript{th} - Renée walks into the bedroom to say goodnight to Nora and Nora’s eyes open. Everyone there is stunned.

Renée calls Katja and says, “Katja, speak German to
Remembering Nori

Nora.” She does and Nora smiles. We spend the evening joyously and the next morning she has passed.

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Remembering Nori
The people in Nora’s life these last years

Sandy Hawthorne
Remembering Nori

That picture says so much. Look how engaged Nora is. Sandy was the one person who could bring Nora out of her dementia shell.

And if you think Nora’s time in these last years had no bright spots. Take a look at this picture.

Sandy used to take Nora for rides. Look at Nora’s joy.

Sandy we love you
Remembering Nori

Sandy’s approach to Nora was unique. In 2013 I was looking for someone to primarily be a companion to Nora. Sure, there was me but it was not enough.

Nancy Gardella was/is the nurse for Dr. Kreitzman, Nora’s Parkinson’s specialist. I had mentioned looking for someone to her and she wanted to know if I would consider her niece Sandy.

We tried others and while we had some wonderful people help us:

Moez Azziz - now studying in Albany
Kathy Capuano - down the block

Maria - briefly

it was Sandy who was key.

Dr. Kreitzman - neurologist specializing in Parkinsons

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Disease. He proved to be instrumental in giving Nora as much quality of life as she could have.

Dr. Mayerson - neurologist - instrumental in diagnosing Nora’s Myasthenia-Gravis

The people of Acadia and their advertising agencies - (thanks Jessica) - Their Pimavanserin (now sold under the name Nuplazid) for keeping Nora sane when she was having terrible hallucinations

Dr. Steve Friedling - the best doctor anyone could ask for. For keeping Nora on a good path for as long as possible.

Maple Pharmacy - Thank you Nina - for keeping things together when renewals weren’t always there or for helping battling the insurance companies.

Friends in no particular order

Kaz - for being a joyful presence in Nora’s life. Popping in from time-to-time and for those dinners that got Nora out of the house.
Remembering Nori

Chris - For being a very old friend although not the oldest.

D and B - for being there year after year until D got trapped recently in Virginia - get better D.

Joel and Susan Brenner - long time friends (the JewBu’s) for all they did including putting us up when we needed a place to stay when that hurricane attacked.

Grace - who Nora thought of as Durga. Yoga teacher extraordinaire, but more importantly, friend.

Joe Gardella - when we needed a ramp.

Nancy Gardella - if for nothing else, giving us Sandy. But also for being an encouragement to Nora

The other Hawthornes - for all your support.

The Weichers - putting up with us for many years (Alice Weicher and D are Nora’s oldest close friends)

And on and on....
Remembering Nori

Renée and I thank you all for your thoughts and help.

Painting by Kasmira Mohanty

September 29, 1942 - January 30, 2019
INSPIRED BY COME-AGAIN MOON
A poet and song writer whom I met on www.ShirleyMaclaine.com

"Kghrh- ughn - kgeck - szipfh --"

If we could use a sponge or cloth
To take a bath each day
We wouldn't be accused of sloth
You wouldn't have to spray!

"Kghrh- ughn - kgeck - szipfh --"

And oh, our throats would not constrict
To purge ourselves each time
We then could socialize and sit
Instead of spewing slime!

"Kghrh- ughn - kgeck - szipfh --"

The HAIRBALL is a special scourge
For cats whose fur is long
So please excuse this vile urge
And join us in this song!

"Kghrh- ughn - kgeck - szipfh --"

Nori
2004

September 29, 1942 - January 30, 2019
Remembering Nori

I hope this helps a bit to remember Nori.

Drew

(Nori, I miss you so much)