

June 21, 2006

Obit: Dr. Elliot S. Wetzler



• Funeral Services for Dr. Elliot S. Wetzler, 68, were held Tuesday, June 20, at Sinai Chapel, Fresh Meadows, NY, with Rabbi Lazar Karalitsky of Bayside Jewish Center, Bayside, NY, officiating.. Burial was in the family plot at Beth El Cemetary, Westwood, NJ. Elliot died Saturday, June 17, 2006, at the home of his long-time friend and caretaker, Betty Breck, Groton, following his stroke in 2001.

- Elliot was born December 1, 1937, in Brooklyn, NY, to Max and Hedwig Wetzler, Jewish immigrants from Germany. The Wetzlers then moved to the family home in Flushing, NY, where Elliot's three brothers were born and reside today.
- Elliot received his Bachelor's degree from Brandeis University, a pre-eminent Jewish educational institution in Waltham, MA, and earned his PhD in Economics from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. He was employed as an economist by the Institute for Defense Analysis in Washington DC. In 1981, he responded to an ad in the Economist Magazine and ventured to Alaska to become an economist in the Governor's Office in Juneau.
- While in Juneau he became acquainted with Betty Breck and her daughter Krissie. The friendship endured over the years and Betty and Krissie tended him at his death in Groton. Elliot left Alaska in 1983 and returned to Flushing to manage the family business, Wetzler Clamp Company, which his father founded in 1928.
- Elliot flourished near university towns because he loved libraries and research. After selling the family business in 1984, he moved to East Brunswick, NJ, to be near the Rutgers University Medical Library, where he spent over 10 years doing research on nutrition for the elderly, with the intent of writing a book on the subject. Elliot moved more than a ton of research papers to Groton in 1996, to continue work on the book with Betty's help. Elliot expanded his research to the Internet and utilized the library at Northern State University, Aberdeen. He could often be seen at the Groton City park or local restaurants, or walking down the sidewalk, reading his research papers or a book.
- Elliot was an avid chess player and a novice inventor, following in his father's footsteps. He was a lifetime member of Mensa and a master of the pun. He and his family belonged to the Bayside Jewish Center, and he was a member of Congregation B'nai Isaac in Aberdeen while residing in Groton.
- Elliot was preceded in death by his parents and several aunts and uncles. He is

survived by his brothers Gerald, Peter and Leonard Wetzler, 32-04 171st Street, Flushing NY 11358, who often visited Elliot in Groton. The brothers began the traditional Jewish mourning immediately after the burial, not leaving the family home for a week. They do not work, shop, cook, shave or talk on the telephone during that time. The twins, Peter and Lenny, want to return to Groton in the future to visit the many local people who made them feel so welcome here.

- Spitzer-Osthus Funeral Home coordinated the arrangements with Sinai Chapel for returning Elliot to New York for burial.
- Dr. Wetzler will be remembered for his dedication to research and his uplifting sense of humor.