

My Story 3/1/2022

I was born in Brooklyn NYC to Dora and Abraham (Red) in 1940. My childhood was good as I got lots of love from my parents and their relatives. I had a sister, "Sharon", who was 2.5 years younger who died when she was 46 years old.

My growing up was wonderful in the freedom I have to be independent (Both my parents worked). With a bicycle and friends, I peddled all over Brooklyn and Queens. They gave me the freedom to work many jobs when I was young (shining shoes, washing cars, working in stores and delivering packages all over the city. We lived in a mixed area of different ethnic groups. The neighborhood was run down (an abandoned building at the corner, an empty vacant lot behind our apartment building.



School was fun and I did many activities as part of school (traffic monitor, school projectionist). My first encounter (I was about 10 years old) with a girl not in the neighborhood, or school but in a public roller-skating rink where I met and talked to a girl. I was so proud of my accomplishment that I ran to tell the oldest of my friends.

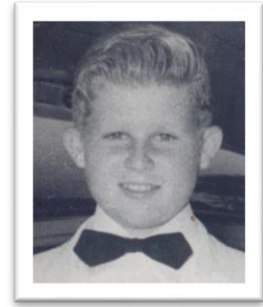
I never thought I was smart but socially I could fit in. I used to read the newspaper so politics and social issues became important to me.

In my childhood, I did see the good and bad in people. In my neighborhood there were many Holocaust survivors with tattoos number on their arms and people who were nice. I was lucky to side with being positive about people but recognize the problems we have in the world's society.

As an example, I remember when I communicated to college on the LI Railroad, there was a gentleman who had no legs but his body was on a wooden platform with roller skates wheels. People who were waiting for the train like me would pick him up and put him in the train car. Nice people!



When I was fourteen, We moved to Hicksville, LI, NY because our building was being condemned to make way for a project housing development. So, I became a suburban kid. I made friends with new kids. I became more interested in girls and started to engage with them. I continued my work career here in the suburbs with lots of part time jobs. I played with electrical lights/motors at home which got me thinking about engineering. Around the age of 17, Sheila entered my life as a girl of interest. She went to a different school, but we had common friends. We stayed together (she is one year younger) until we wed after I graduated College (1962).



I went to Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn for Electrical Engineering. I was not the brightest of my class and had to work hard to survive. I made good study partners which was a big help. I commuted every day to school, so college life was not fun for me. I was in the ROTC for four years and graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. Sheila graduated a year later from Queens College and by then I entered the Army for 2 years and we lived in Okinawa, Japan. Living and working in Okinawa, we met many different groups of people as the Army is a small community). The experience was great, I even got the opportunity to serve in Vietnam for a few months. I love the culture and language of the Japanese and wanted to stay there after the Army to study more but Sheila was pregnant, so we came back to the states.

Off to the Far East-- Okinawa



Coming back to the states, I had to find a job and a location to settle down. We did not want to live in the New York area (we didn't like the culture) and an offer I had from my job before we went into the army was in the mid-west (too far from family). Searching the



news papers, I applied and was accepted at a division of United Technology in the Hartford Conn. area.

It was an electronic engineer designing circuitry. I really was out of my comfort zone in this job. Over time and working with smart people I was able to develop skills in designing, that used mathematical simulation to develop the structure of design (Mathematical modeling). I was very lucky as I was not a great engineer to start with and was helped by co-workers as I progressed.

By then we had three children (Bruce, Douglas and Stacy) and lived in a single house in a community in Enfield, CT. My cousin Bill & his family lived in Enfield. After a few years in the company, I was asked and we accepted a temporary consulting position in Torino, Italy(beginning of 1972). It was a wonderful assignment and we got to explore lots of Europe with the 3 kids. Unfortunately, Sheila's father passed away and we ended the tour early than planned.



It was a great learning experience for the kids and still today they love to travel and learn new experience with people. (Bruce lives in CA, Douglas in Australia and Stacy in MA.) My career continued in a positive direction at Hamilton Standard where I started to take on a managerial job as a leader of test engineering for the electronics div.

In 1977 we moved to Mass, (Framingham) as we were either going to move from Enfield or look for another job. I took a job at Data General a minicomputer company here in MA.. It was exciting job and I learned a lot. I was recruited after three years to a new start-up in the high tech area as the VP of Manufacturing. The company was named "Bytex Corporation" and it made data-management equipment.

There were some trying moments where things did not work right but for the most part I was able to do some innovative things within the company and in the community. I started an organization called VP of Manufacturing that had about 30 other high tech companies as members. I created self-directed work teams in Manufacturing. We tried to learn from each other. I also connected our company to the local school system so student could come and see a company's operation. We also went public as a company on the N.Y. stock exchange.



By this time mid-1980 to 1990 the kids were leaving the house for school and Sheila and I were able to take trips and small vacations. Bruce went to engineering school at Carnegie Mellon, Doug went to UMass and Stacy went to Penn. In the early 1990 I left Bytex and went to another start-up for a couple of years but it was not successful in becoming a public company. After that I did consulting work in the industry and then migrated to an educational bent.



I was hired by a local college in a p/t position to establish a STEM program as part of a state initiative. I meet many wonderful educators and migrated to developing a program for k-5 grade teacher. The concept of the learning was to show these teachers that love literature but were afraid of STEM that they could use stories to get their students to find characters in the stories that had problems and help them solve those problems using the STEM subjects that they were using. **IE In the 3 little Pigs story**, the children could work for the pig and design something to protect the pig, work for the Wolfe and catch the pig or work for society and get them to live together. I got some teachers to help me, and we did professional development in the community. Two colleges, Tufts & WPI like the concept and got large grants to develop the ideas. I was a happy camper because the idea had merit and helped the community. This bring me up to almost my 80th birthday.

I'm now working on a new project being life skills to student (HS and non H.S. graduates) who have little career direction. www.projectacademy.org .

