



## *In memoriam*

Our friend, because whoever met him soon became his friend, **Jay Kenneth Weiss**, died of liver failure on November 12 at the age of 85. A few days earlier, the arrival of hurricane Sandy left him without electricity forcing him to leave his home in Caldwell, NJ and move to his son Ben's house in Montclair, NJ where he passed away peacefully, still keen of mind, surrounded by his family. His playful personality and unwavering sense of humor were the qualities that best described him, and for those of us who knew him and miss him, it is hard getting used to the idea of his death. How could we ever forget how enthusiastic and knowledgeable he was about Wodehouse, the English writer whose humor Jay put in to practice every day?

He was a Harvard graduate and extremely proud of it. Whenever one of us came to see him, he never failed to invite us to the Harvard Club of New York City. In 1952, he received his dental degree from Tufts University and joined his father's orthodontic practice in Newark before opening his own orthodontic office in Caldwell, NJ, where he practiced for over 40 years.

He was a member of both the American Association of Orthodontists and the SFODF where many of us first met him. When he came to our meetings, he blended his two great loves – orthodontics and the French language. His first encounter with French took place in Marrakech on the US Air Force base where he practiced dentistry with the rank of captain during the Korean War.



He always loved to write. As an undergraduate, he was the editor of *The Harvard Crimson*, then of *The Bulletin of the Essex County Dental Society*. After his retirement, he was devoted to his work as a translator of professional articles from French into English. He had countless friends worldwide with whom he corresponded by email. He also loved teaching and taught at the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery as well as at Montclair High School.



I personally translated his book *Embraceable You*<sup>1</sup> that introduced orthodontics to the general public. Addressing young patients and their parents, he showed his compassion for children who have to endure the discomfort and inconveniences caused by the appliances that we esteem so highly. When the *Revue d'ODF* became bilingual, I suggested to Yves Barat to contact the person with the perfect skillset – at the very least he was a translator who understood what he was translating. Because of his outstanding work and steadfast kindness, I believe the Revue never regretted this decision. He was named a Distinguished Member of the Revue in 2008 so as to recognize his many contributions to orthodontics.

He loved sports, the sciences, culture, humor. We consider ourselves fortunate to have known him. He is survived by his wife Joan, a librarian and talented artist, his children Samuel, Wendy and Benjamin. He suffered the loss of his son William in 1991.

Boris TERK

<sup>1</sup>Translated into French with the title *À belles dents* – Éditions Denoël, 1986.