

OBITUARIES



HARRY WEISS

BANGOR - Harry Weiss, friend, musician, humanist, story-teller, and great-grandfather, died peacefully in his sleep just before midnight on January 7. Born in New York City in 1917, he lived a remarkably healthy ninety-nine years, remaining musically creative to the end and performing as recently as New Year's eve. Harry was a musical prodigy from early childhood, taking up piano at three years old, but with a creative bent that ultimately led to him being more of a composer/arranger than a pianist. He began playing club dates in his early teens, and directed musical theater at City College. He played and wrote musical arrangements for vocalists and dance teams.

Harry briefly taught keyboard harmony and completed an unpublished textbook of the same title. He had serious interest in classical composing (and had once hoped to go to Russia to study with Prokofiev), but he was also fluent in the jazz and popular music of his era. In his early twenties his band was about to be signed by Decca Records, but Pearl Harbor changed that. He enlisted in army intelligence and, with his good ear and his knowledge of Japanese morse code, tracked and monitored Japanese movements and communications.

He married his beloved Sylvia just before the war. After the war, now with two sons, Paul and Matthew, he changed course from the uncertainties of a music career to become an audio engineer and music editor at United Recording Laboratories, and went on to become one of the most respected studio engineers in New York. His technical skills, musical knowledge and unaffected manner earned him the confidence of the many musicians and celebrities that he worked with.

After retirement, he and Sylvia were able to spend many years engaged in community service, traveling the world, and visiting their growing family. (Sadly, his son Matthew was lost to a freak automobile accident in 1979.) Harry also took up organic gardening, and he wrote and directed the music for the Sunday services of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, of which they were long time members.

One of his unique pursuits, begun in his student days, was to play live piano

for silent movies. Harry abandoned the conventions and the classical scores, sometimes composing his own themes in advance, but largely improvising the score on the spot in response to the film. He played at art venues in New York and for many years at the Cinema Arts Center on Long Island; in Florida during his retirement there; and, finally, in Bangor, where he played for showings at the Bangor Public Library and the Bangor Opera House.

Harry and Sylvia moved to Boyd Place in Bangor in 2007 to be closer to family. Harry lost Sylvia at the age of 94, after seventy-one years of marriage. After many years of dedicated caring for her during her final illness, he now threw himself back into creating music, recording eight CDs of original arrangements and jazz improvisations on classic tunes in his own apartment. His last two CDs were completed at the age of ninety-eight, even after moving into assisted living at Phillips-Strickland.

(Some of his story-telling and his music may be heard on WERU interviews on Youtube and on the WERU archives, and in other articles and footage available at BangorDailyNews.com.)

Till close to the end, Harry enjoyed sitting in at clubs with local jazz musicians half his age. He also offered memorable piano music most evenings and on special occasions in the dining rooms of the Boyd Place and Phillips-Strickland residences. Harry found a wonderful last home there, and they, in turn, will miss his positive presence; as he will also be missed by his devoted family, to whom he and Sylvia showed great constancy, love, generosity and support.

He is survived by his son Paul of Bar Harbor; his grandchildren, Isaiah of Brooklyn, N.Y., Piari of Brooksville, ME., Josiah of Andover, MA., Gabriel of Brattleboro, VT, and step-grandchildren Scott of Penobscot, ME and Jason of Portland, OR; his great-grandchildren, Morgan, Elias, Dylan, Tae, Luna, Wilow, Lucian and Adia; and his niece and grand-nieces, Helen, Ariana, and Cyrena of NYC.

A celebration of his life will be held at Phillips-Strickland on Friday, February 12 at 2pm.

WALTER E. DUNIFER, JR.

BANGOR - Walter E. Dunifer, Jr., 97, died February 4, 2016 at a Bangor Hospital. A complete obituary will be published in a later edition of the Bangor Daily News. A service of Brookings-Smith, Bangor.



RICHARD (DICK) A. EUSTIS

OLD TOWN - Richard (Dick) A. Eustis, 83, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at a local health care facility.

He was a mentor to many, a tech geek (how many seniors have 2 desktops, 2 laptops, an iPad, and over 3000 people in their e-mail contact list?), and a respected member of the State, National, and International Civil Engineering community.

Dick was born in Strong, Maine, on October 24, 1932, to Ralph and Marion (Richardson) Eustis. He graduated from Strong High School in 1951, and from the University of Maine with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1955. At the University of Maine, he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and served as class treasurer for the past 50 years. Dick served in the military (2nd Armored Division, US Army, Germany) from 1955-1958, ending as a decorated Sergeant.

At the time of his passing, he was a Maine Professional Engineer (PE), a Fellow of the Construction Specifications Institute (FCSI), a Certified Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA), and a Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineering. Dick spent nearly 40 years working for the University of Maine System, beginning in 1958 as Assistant to the Maintenance Engineer at the Orono campus. In 1970 he was appointed Assistant Director of Facilities for the UMaine System, rising to Director of Facilities in 1974. A few years later he became Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities, and retired from that position in 1998. During his years with the UMaine system he oversaw construction and maintenance of many new and existing buildings at all 7 campuses.

Dick was also heavily involved in the Engineering profession outside of his work for the University. In 1970 he joined the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), and over the years served in multiple capacities with the Maine and Northeast Region chapters, as well as the National organization. He was appointed a Fellow of CSI in 1986, and served as National president in 1996-97. Under his leadership CSI became the lead society in coordinating National Engineers' Week. In 1994 he took his engineering interests internationally, and was an active member of the Atlantic chapter of Construction

Specifications Canada (CSC). Dick was one of the founding members of the Northern New England Chapter of the Eastern Region Association of Physical Plant Administrators, and served a term as president of the Eastern Region. In 1995 he also began serving on the Maine Association of General Contractors (MAGC) Building Committee.

Retirement simply meant that Dick had more time to devote to Engineering (continuing with his CSI, CSC, and MAGC work) and other interests, and was active in all of these up until the time of his passing. He traveled extensively, attending and giving presentations at state, regional, national, and international meetings of Engineering organizations of which he was a member.

Since 1998 he has been a member of the Old Town Museum Board of Directors, and has served that organization in various capacities - most recently as treasurer. Also in 1998, he became a facilitator for Maine QBS (Qualifications Based Selection) which guides clients in need of construction/design services on how to best select designer professionals based on their qualifications for conducting a specific project. Dick participated in many Penobscot Valley Senior College programs, and served a term as the organization's President in 2011. He became a member of the AARP Capital City Task Force in 2009, and spent time lobbying lawmakers in Augusta on issues important to Seniors.

Ever the technology geek, Dick was involved in creation of both print and digital resources (newsletters, websites, collections databases, etc.) for numerous organizations, including the Old Town Museum, and State, Regional, and National chapters of CSI. From 2002 until his death he was editor of the National CSI newsletter The Fellows.

Dick is survived by his daughter, Debbie Eustis-Grandy and her husband Matt Grandy, of New Sweden, Maine; dear friend and companion Laura Messenger, and her family; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by his wife Elizabeth Currier Eustis, his sister Marjorie Eustis Smith, and nephew Mark (Joe) Duane Smith.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making a donation to the Old Town Museum, PO Box 375, Old Town, Maine, 04468.



REUTERS FILE

Maurice White, lead vocalist for the group Earth, Wind & Fire, performs with the group during a taping of a television special in Los Angeles, in 2004. White, the founder of the R&B funk band, died in Los Angeles, a band spokesman said Thursday. He was 74.

Maurice White, founder of Earth, Wind & Fire, dies

BY ADAM BERNSTEIN AND TERENCE MCARDLE
THE WASHINGTON POST

Maurice White, a percussionist and singer who founded and led Earth, Wind & Fire, a crackling mainstay of 1970s dance music that leaned heavily on funk, soul and R&B, died Feb. 3 at his home in Los Angeles. He was 74.

The cause was complications from Parkinson's disease, his brother and band bassist Verdine White told the Associated Press.

Earth, Wind & Fire was a major crossover act known for such hits as "Shining Star," "September," "Boogie Wonderland," the conga-driven dance groove "Serpentine Fire," "After the Love Has Gone," "Sing a Song" and a cover of the Beatles' "Got to Get You into My Life" — songs defined by a rollicking beat, jangly electric bass lines, bracing trumpet breaks and soulful vocal choruses. They reflected White's roots in Memphis, that seminal Mississippi River crossroads for rock, blues and jazz.

Earth, Wind & Fire, named for three elements of White's astrological sign (Sagittarius), was known for its elaborate stage shows filled with wild lighting and pyrotechnics, arrangements that combined the African percussion instrument kalimba (thumb piano), and lengthy, jazz-influenced brass solos. The group also was distinguished by its vocal harmonies and interplay between White, a tenor, and Philip Bailey, who sang in falsetto.

White saw the musical almost totally in the service of creating good vibes and spiritual brotherhood — bridging the gap between black and white musical tastes while incorporating uplifting messages of black pride and African consciousness. The title cut of their album "Open Our Eyes" was a rearrangement of an inspirational song earlier recorded by the Gospel Clefs in 1958.

"We live in a negative society," he once told Newsweek. "Most people can't see beauty and love. I see our music as medicine."

Earth, Wind & Fire, which sold tens of millions of records, won six Grammy Awards and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2000. His music was continually revived for films — from the spy farce "Austin Powers in Goldmember" (2002) to "Summer of Sam" (1999) — when a song was needed to instantly evoke an era.

Maurice White was born on Dec. 19, 1941, in Chicago, and he grew up in Memphis in a family that included nine other siblings. His father was a doctor, but he boasted of musical forebears, including a grandfather who was a New Orleans honky-tonk piano player.

At 6, White began singing in the church gospel choir but soon gravitated to drums and played an early professional date with organist Booker T. Jones, later known as the leader of the soul instrumental group Booker T and the MGs.

After high school, he attended the Chicago Conservatory of Music and then worked at Chicago-based Chess records as a session

drummer accompanying Billy Stewart (on "Summertime") and Fontella Bass ("Rescue Me"), among others.

During a brief tenure in the late 1960s with pianist Ramsey Lewis' trio, White discovered the kalimba, which became a trademark part of the band's sound. Touring at universities and club dates with Lewis sparked an awakening about changing tastes among young recordbuyers.

"Being on the road with Ramsey and playing colleges for kids my own age, I saw there was a need for a different type of music — a type of music that was a little more inspirational for my age group," White told the St. Petersburg Times.

In 1969, he decamped for Los Angeles and, with keyboardist-singers Wade Flemons and Don Whitehead, formed a group that evolved into Earth, Wind & Fire and were guided by White's vision to defy musical categories and fuse jazz, rock and soul.

They were featured on the film soundtrack to "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song" (1971), director Melvin Van Peebles's underground hit and were featured performers in the "That's the Way of the World" (1975), a drama about the corporate music world that featured their megahit "Shining Star." At their height, the band included such notable instrumentalists as saxophonist Ronnie Laws and White's brother Verdine.

By the early 1980s, White said he felt drained by non-stop performing and touring. He returned to studio work, producing and arranging for acts including Barbra Streisand, Neil Diamond, the Emotions, Deniece Williams, El DeBarge and Jennifer Holliday.

He did not entirely give up recording his own music and had a top-10 R&B cover of the Ben E. King's 1961 ballad "Stand by Me" in 1985 that was layered with electronic percussion. He also reunited his old band, sometimes singing but more often serving as composer, producer and guiding spirit.

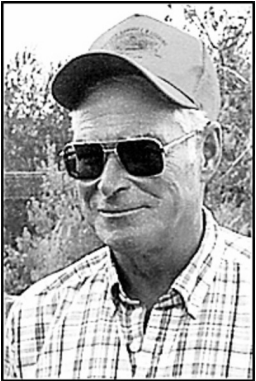
One reason had been his worsening health. Just before his induction into the hall of fame, he publicly disclosed his struggle with Parkinson's. A complete list of survivors was not immediately available.

"It's important for me to communicate higher thought, higher spirit, higher ideas in my music as well as communicate emotionally," he told the Chicago Tribune in 1985. "It's important to put the emphasis on the positive aspect."

"There are a lot of things wrong on this planet — starvation, poverty, negative thoughts, racism, a lot of weirdness," he added. "So somebody has to communicate something to try and balance that, if it's possible. ... Spiritually, we don't all have to walk the same path. I'm not speaking in terms of any denominational religion. I'm talking about a more universal thing. But people should make sure that whatever path they walk is a positive one to instill good things in yourself and others."

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory Of
DARREL F. SMITH
Feb 10, 1951 - Feb 06, 2008



Eight years have come and gone, but the memories of your love, kindness and the fun we shared are very dear and close to our hearts. We think of you daily, sometimes with a tear - but mostly a smile or laugh as that is how you would want us to remember you. This day is remembered and quietly kept - no farewell words were spoken, we did not get that chance. If memories bring you closer, we are never far apart. Not a day goes by that I do not think of you - you're always in my heart. I have not given up hope that your case will be solved and we can have closure. Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by your loving wife, Barb; mother, Glenda; brothers, Wayne and Donald; sister, Donna; stepdaughter, Michele; grandson, Tyler and wife Lindsey; and your many, many friends.

Express Your Condolences

Online Guest Book obituaries.bangordailynews.com

Jack Riley, coach of 1960 gold medal US hockey team, dies at 95

BY MATT SCHUDEL
THE WASHINGTON POST

Jack Riley, who coached the hockey team at the U.S. Military Academy for 36 years but was best known for leading a group of amateur players to a series of upset victories at the 1960 Winter Olympics, capped by a come-from-behind win in the gold-medal game, died Feb. 3 at an assisted-living center in Sandwich, Massachusetts. He was 95.

His death was announced by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he coached from 1950 to 1986. The cause was not disclosed.

Riley's undefeated Olympic squad won seven games without a loss or tie, including wins over heavily favored teams from Canada and the Soviet Union. It marked the first time a U.S. team captured a gold medal in hockey.

There was a flurry of jubilation at the time, but Riley's team was soon overlooked, especially after the 1980 men's hockey team defeated the pow-

erful Soviets in what became known as the "Miracle on Ice." A 2009 documentary about the 1960 team was called "Forgotten Miracle."

The 17 players on Riley's squad were college students, carpenters and insurance salesmen. The goaltender, Jack McCartan, was on leave from the Air Force. The captain, 31-year-old Jack Kirrane, a teammate of Riley's on the 1948 Olympic squad, was taking time off from his job as a firefighter.

When the University of Minnesota tied his Olympians in an exhibition game, Riley exploded: "If we can't beat a college team, we're really in trouble."

Risking a rebellion, he brought in three new players and cut three others from the roster. (One player dropped from the squad was Herb Brooks, who went on to coach the 1980 Olympic team.)

Despite festering resentments, Riley united his fractious players when it counted most, and they won their first four games in the Olympics

with relative ease. On Feb. 25, 1960, they faced the Canadians, who were overwhelming favorites. McCartan turned away 39 shots as the Americans emerged with a 2-1 win.

Two days later, the United States faced the Soviet Union on CBS, in one of the first hockey games broadcast nationwide on network television. The Soviets led 2-1 after the first period, but 145-pound Billy Christian scored goals in the second and third periods to give the U.S. team a stunning 3-2 victory.

But the Americans still had one more game to play, against Czechoslovakia — and that game was scheduled for 8 o'clock the next morning.

After two periods, the exhausted U.S. players trailed, 4-3. The captain of the Soviet team entered the locker room and, via mime, suggested that the Americans inhale oxygen before returning to the ice.

Thus renewed, the U.S. team scored six unanswered goals to defeat the Czechs, 9-4, for the gold medal.