

## **Max Huberman Tribute**

Max Huberman, 86, passed away May 10, 2008 after a brief stay at Heritage Manor following a fall at home.

Max was born September 23, 1921 in Paris, France, a son of the late Nathan and Dora Huberman. He emigrated to the United States on September 22, 1924 entering through Ellis Island and grew up in New York City.

He volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and served in the China, Burma, India Theater from 1941 to 1945 where he earned the rank of First Sergeant. During the War he won numerous awards and citations for writing and producing shows to entertain the troops. He met his future wife, Ruth Shulman, at the USO on Hazel Street in Youngstown. They were married on March 24, 1946. He and Ruth lived in New York City from 1946 to 1948 during which period Max attended the Columbia University School of Journalism where he studied and honed his talents in narrative writing and poetry. He worked as a waiter at the Hotel Taft and became a union organizer for the Hotel and Restaurant Workers. Max and Ruth moved to Youngstown in 1948 shortly after the birth of their son, Jeff. Max worked for various furniture companies including Robins, Reicharts, Leslie's and Copelands.

Max overcame polio in 1950, a health crisis that led him and his wife to embark on a lifestyle of vegetarianism and natural living, a program that ultimately led them to open a health food store in 1958 originally called Natural Health Foods, one of the first in the nation to sell organically grown fruits and vegetables. In 1960, they moved their store to Boardman where they expanded their offerings and changed the store's name to Natural Health Foods and Barbell Center which they operated for the next 31 years.

Max became a leader in the health food industry rising to the level of President of the National Nutritional Foods Association, a position he held for an unprecedented five years from 1992 to 1997. During his tenure, Max led the successful fight for the passage of Federal Legislation which guaranteed consumers the right enjoyed to this day to purchase vitamin and mineral supplements without a prescription. He championed movements for health freedom and to restrict or label irradiated and genetically engineered foods and to develop standards for natural food products. He was also a 55-year member of the National Health Association and served on its Board of Directors.

Max was truly a man for all seasons who was far ahead of the times on many causes. He was a voracious reader, a gifted writer who wrote for several health publications, a popular lecturer and humorist and a brilliant poet and comedy writer. He was also an activist and champion for political and civil rights, an avid organic gardener, a health enthusiast, environmentalist, chess player, gifted actor and student of the arts. Most of all, he was a model husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to anyone in need.

Max was one of the founders of the Ohev Tzedek Temple and played leading roles in several of its musical productions. He also was a long time supporter of the Youngstown Playhouse where he also appeared in several productions.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Ruth, with whom he recently celebrated his 62<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary. He also leaves two sons, Jeff (Raquel) Huberman of Peoria, IL, and Mark (Wanda) Huberman of Boardman and is the proud grandfather of five grandchildren: Jacob and David (Shusher) Huberman, Heather and Lisa Huberman and Liz Fowler. He is also survived by a sister, Florence Harshman of Youngstown. His two brothers, Abe and Ben Huberman, predeceased him.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the National Health Association,  
P.O Box 30630, Tampa, Florida 33630.

Services will be held at the Ohev Tzedek Temple in Boardman at 4:00 P.M. on  
Sunday. Friends may visit one-half hour before the service at the Temple.

Arrangements are being handled by McCauley Funeral Home