



Dr. Joseph Irvin Rodgin

June 28, 1919 - April 3, 2016

Dr. Joseph “Jay” I. Rodgin died Saturday, April 2nd after 96 years filled with kindness and wit. He passed peacefully, surrounded by people he blessed with his genes and his heart. His last words were simply, “miss you,” honest and prescient.

Jay was a lifelong resident of Bluefield and a Paul Harris Fellow at the Bluefield Rotary Club, where he was a member for 65 years. He attended Bluefield College and graduated first in his class at Columbia University School of Optometry in 1940. He served as a Staff Sargeant in the 29th General Hospital (Yale Hospital Unit) in the US Army during World War II and received the Victory Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. He went on to practice optometry in Bluefield for more than 70 years, deftly helping others to see the immense beauty that he saw in the world. He was the president of the West Virginia Optometric Association and a founding member of Fincastle Country Club, and he authored three books, including Pathology and Pharmacology of the Eye (1983). He was an ardent supporter of Israel and the recipient of the Israel Bond Award.

Jay was an avid golfer in his youth and was well known for his expertise on the dance floor. He kept friends of all ages and could entertain conversations on medicine, philosophy, politics, and ethics. He was tough, not in words or outlook but in sinew. He taught us that victory belongs to the persevering, and

we are grateful for his tenacity.

Jay was preceded in death by his parents, Henry Rodgin and Anna Grollman Rodgin, and his sister Bertie (Rodgin) Cohen. He is survived by his devoted children, Susan Gail Rodgin (Warren Manning) of Natick, MA and Henry Rodgin of Los Gatos, CA. He grayed earlier thanks to his rambunctious grandchildren, Anya Manning (Elie Lehmann), Sara Manning (Jeremy Peskin), Sandra Rodgin, and Isaac Rodgin.

The funeral will be on Monday, April 4th at 11 AM at Congregation Ahavath Sholom in Bluefield, WV. Visiting hours will be at Jay's residence from 6:30 PM to 9 PM on Monday and Tuesday evening with prayer service from 7:30-8pm.

Burial will follow at Monte Vista Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, his family suggests donations to Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Bluefield, WV; Rotary International; or to Temple Israel of Natick, MA (Passport to Israel Program).

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Dr. Joseph "Jay" I. Rodgin.

Cemetery Details

Monte Vista Park Cemetery

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Joseph Irvin Rodgin*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *My sincere condolences. Although we only spoke at infrequent intervals in recent years, I remember Jay fondly. From the late 1930's when I worked after school in Rodgin's store on Princeton Ave. until the time I left Bluefield, I was almost a member of the Rodgin family. Formally taught by Bertie, befriended by Jay, mentored by Mr. Henry Rodgin and "supervised" by Mrs. Rodgin, those formative years helped me prepare for life's journey. Jay was thoughtful and kind with high moral guidelines. Also fun to be with. My last call to him was last month and he was his usual bright and positive self. We'll all miss him.*

*Lou Weinberg
40 Fairfield Drive
Short Hills, NJ 07078*

Louis Weinberg - April 16, 2016 at 09:44 AM



“ *i had the honor of knowing doctor rodgin since i was 9 or 10 years old i am now 65 soon to be 66.i am sorry i did not know of his passing until today.my parents knew him and my dad joe mastrandrea was a local shoe maker and fixed all his shoes as well as doctor rodgins mother.i always enjoyed talking to him about the old days in bluefield he knew so much of its history.my parents thought a lot of him as did i.he will be missed.he was very special man.i regret not seeing him sooner and not knowing of his passing.my sympathy and prayers to his family.*

john mastrandrea - April 09, 2016 at 08:23 AM

DB

“ Dr. Rodgin and I were members of the Bluefield Rotary Club for years. He would always ask me about my wife when we met. Also, my dad and mom were his customers until their deaths for over 30 years. Jay was a classy gentleman of the first order. He will be missed!!!--Dr Tom Blevins

Dr Tom Blevins - April 08, 2016 at 01:47 PM

TB

“ I am so sorry for your loss Susan Gail and Henry. The entire family has loss a great man. Dr. J always had a smile to share. He loved each and everyone of you. Never was there a day that went by he didn't say something about how proud he was all each one of you. I will always remember his smile and laugh. Give him a biscuit with butter and jam, don't burn it he'd say. And he really liked his Arby's roast beef sandwich. Remember the good times taking him out to Bob Evans, always a smile for the camera. If there is anything I can do for any of the family please don't hesitate to call, my phone number is the same.



Tammy Byers

Tammy Byers - April 05, 2016 at 01:51 PM