



Herbert Hadad

October 6, 1936 - November 6, 2021

Herbert Hadad, an award-winning writer, who specialized in the topics of family and the Middle East, passed away on November 6, 2021 at his home in Pocantico Hills, New York. He was 85. Born October 6, 1936 in upper Manhattan to Syrian and Jewish parents, his family soon moved to Boston where he grew up in the neighborhoods of Dorchester and Roxbury. He attended Roxbury Memorial High School and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Northeastern University. He would tell you that the education that set the course of his life, however, took place in his early twenties working as a copy boy in the newsroom of the Boston Globe and in the ring moonlighting as a featherweight boxer in dusty gyms across Boston.

Intoxicated with the thrill of writing and covering the news, he would achieve a celebrated career as a reporter, essayist, public relations representative, speech writer, and press officer. He was the author of two books, *Finding Immortality: The Making of One American Family*, and *Tender and Tough: 60 Years of Storytelling*. His essays appeared in publications including *The New York Times*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *Parenting*, *Reader's Digest*, *Poets & Writers*, and several anthologies. He worked as a reporter for *The New York Times*, *New York Post*, *Boston Globe* and the *Keene Sentinel* of New Hampshire. He won writing awards from the New York Press Club, Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, *Folio* magazine and others.

Herbert had countless fascinating personal and professional tales along the way, but his most coveted adventure started in 1972 when he met Mary Evelyn Meekins in New York. They would marry in 1975, move to Tarrytown, New York, have three children, and then settle in Pocantico Hills where he lived for the last 40 years. His true dream was to be a father and family man. Many of his stories explore the pleasures and pains of marriage and fatherhood with humor, insight, and uncompromising honesty. He had an observational gift for reflecting on the multitude of life's little wonders that take place every day, such as the uplifting conversation with a stranger in the park, the pleasure of waving to a passing train, or the investigation of his children's questions on life. Much of his writing also explored the juxtaposition of his Arab and Jewish heritage. He was a fisherman, a marathoner, a romantic, a flirt, a joke teller, and a fighter who was quick to let you know if he felt he, his family, or his friends were being mistreated. He described himself as a tiger of a father who would do anything for his children, and all three would readily attest to that fact. He adored Evelyn, who was the secret hero in most of his stories. He lionized his parents from which he passed on many lessons, and he loved his country, his city, and a good martini. In fact, he was a founding member of the local Monday Night Martini Club.

He joined the 1972 presidential campaign of Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine as the deputy press secretary and spearheaded public relations for a fledgling educational children's television program called Sesame Street. A character based on him named Herbert Birdsfoot appeared in a number of seasons. He taught writing at the Hudson Valley Writers Center in Sleepy Hollow where he also served on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. He was a governor emeritus of the Silurians Press Club, a venerable journalism society, and was a founding board member of the Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve. He also started a cable television program called On Writing with his friend Benjamin Cheever. As a

capstone to his career, he proudly served 18 years as a press officer for the U.S. Department of Justice for the Southern District of New York for six U.S. Attorneys including Mary Jo White, James Comey, and Preet Bharara, and received several distinctions for his work.

Herbert's family includes his loving wife Evelyn, his son Edward Hadad and wife Adlin and their children Evan and Willow of Croton-on-Hudson, NY, his son Charles Hadad and wife Alice and their daughter Maya of Brooklyn, NY, his daughter Sara Le Brusq and her son Damian of New York, NY, and his sister Sylvia Rosenberg of Newton, MA. In addition to his immediate family, he had a wide circle of in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews, friends, students, and colleagues he loved dearly. He was predeceased by his parents Morris and Norma Hadad of Boston and his brother Alvin Hadad of Oakland, CA.

Herbert lived a rich and fulfilling life. He reveals in his first book Finding Immortality that the title was chosen as a wish for his stories to live on after he was gone and, except for the names and places, for others to embrace the stories as their own. In the days preceding his passing, his family confirmed for him that not only would he achieve immortality through his stories on the page but also through the vivid memories, lessons, and appreciation from all those who loved him.

Funeral notice:

A wake will be held on Friday, November 19 from 4:00-8:00PM at Dwyer & Michael's Funeral Home, 90 N Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591. The family will give remarks from 7:00-7:30PM. The Hadad family respectfully requests that attendees wear face masks indoors.

The following day, Saturday, November 20, at 11:00AM, a funeral mass will be

held at The Church of the Magdalene of Pocantico Hills, 525 Bedford Rd, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591. The Hadad family respectfully requests that attendees wear face masks indoors.

After the mass, from 12:30-2:30PM, the family invites all attendees to join them for a reception to remember and celebrate the life of Herbert Hadad at Tramonto, 27 Saw Mill River Rd, Hawthorne, NY.

If you're planning on attending, kindly email sarajameel@gmail.com with the subject line: Herbert Hadad Reception.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in his memory to <https://www.nudaysyria.org/>, an organization that supports women and children in the Middle East affected by humanitarian crises.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

NOV **19**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer & Michael's Funeral Home
90 North Broadway
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Memorial Mass

NOV **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Church of The Magdalene
525 Bedford Road
Sleepy Hollow , NY 10591

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Herbert Hadad.*



November 19, 2021 at 01:44 PM



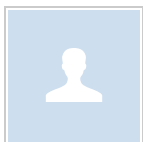
“ *The De Frutos Family purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Herbert Hadad.*

The De Frutos Family - November 19, 2021 at 11:28 AM



“ *Beyond his unmistakable talent as a journalist, Herb was a lovely person- kind, gracious, quick with a smile, a sarcastic (but spot-on) quip , or a pearl of wisdom. My heart goes out to his dear wife, Evelyn and their family.*

Ruth Tedder DiLorenzo - November 19, 2021 at 10:53 AM



“ *[Memorial Trees](https://www.dwyermichaelsfh.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Herbert Hadad.*

November 18, 2021 at 02:57 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Herbert Hadad.*



November 18, 2021 at 02:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Herbert Hadad.*



November 18, 2021 at 07:02 AM

LO

“ My first memory of Herb was as a new hire at Carl Byoir, and Associates, a Madison Avenue public relations agency. He was a seasoned journalist and a creative account executive. He took me under his wing and taught me so much about public relations, writing, and life. He was both tough, and tender just like the title of his last book.

One Valentine’s Day, he invited me to participate in his lunchtime mission to find his “Bride,” Evelyn, the perfect box of candy. We must have gone to every store that sold candy (and some that didn’t, but we thought might) in midtown Manhattan. Finally, at Godiva Chocolates on Fifth Avenue, I knew he would find what he was looking for. Alas, there was nothing good enough for Evelyn there either. I remember thinking, “I have got to meet this woman someday.”

Soon after, my husband and I became good friends with them. I quickly understood his adoration for her, how mutual it was, and how much they loved their children. I often teased that I wanted to be adopted. They always said, “bring us the papers, and we’ll sign them.

I miss Herb’s wit, wisdom, depth, insights, and mostly his love; his love of his family, his love of his country, his love of his heritage, his love of writing, and his love of his friends.

Lorraine - November 15, 2021 at 01:46 PM

LL

“ Love, Auntie Lorraine purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Herbert Hadad.



Love, Auntie Lorraine - November 15, 2021 at 01:10 PM

TF

“ *The Yates Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Herbert Hadad.*



The Yates Family - November 15, 2021 at 11:44 AM

PH

“ *I was sad to hear of Herb's passing but am so thankful for our time together over the years. He was a true gentleman who had a zest for life. A committed fisherman when at the lakes in Maine. He had a way with children of all ages, including my boys. We love your Herb and are confident you are resting in peace and looking over your loved ones. Thanks for being YOU and giving us "Maine Friends" time to get to know you. Love and hugs to Evelyn, your children and your grandchildren.*



Penny Hogan - November 15, 2021 at 11:15 AM

MT

“ *Our dear friend Herb has departed this life, responding to the solemn call of our Creator to join Him. We mourn his passing, we pray for the Hadad family in the days ahead that they may be comforted in faith by their many friends. We humbly ask our Heavenly Father to grant him a place of light and peace in His kingdom. May he rest from his labors for his good deeds go with him..*

Michael and Mary Travostino - November 15, 2021 at 06:07 AM

PR

“ I attended what I believe was Herb's last class at HVWC. He was a kind and generous man. There was one other person in the class, and the three of us spent many hours discussing our work and the world in general. I especially appreciated one class where only Herb and I showed up, and we learned a little bit more about each other's personal lives. We carried on an email correspondence after the class ended, and I ran into Herb and his wife on two other occasions in Pleasantville, once in a restaurant, and once in the Pleasantville bookstore, where he was signing copies of his latest book, *Tender and Tough*. I've since read some of the essays in the book, and I particularly enjoyed the ones about his early life in Boston, when he was working on the *Boston Globe* and boxing.

I think about Herb when I walk in Rockwood Hall, or along the river in Sleepy Hollow near the writer's center. I wish I had had more time to get to know him better, but in lieu of that, I have his book as a remembrance. For that, I am grateful.

PETER G RODRIGUES - November 13, 2021 at 06:14 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Herbert Hadad.



November 12, 2021 at 11:50 AM

SD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Suzanne DeChillo - November 11, 2021 at 09:22 PM

SD

“ So good to cross paths with Herb Jiddo Hadad, to read your words, to watch your children grow and their children and to know your incredibly creative wife Evelyn.
So good to break bread with you and the Silurian tribe you ran with.
Martinis and hugs or all.

Suzanne DeChillo - November 11, 2021 at 09:17 PM

SD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Suzanne DeChillo - November 11, 2021 at 09:08 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Herbert Hadad.

November 11, 2021 at 08:18 PM

BZ

“ We were always so happy to see Herb in the club, and he will be missed greatly. Personally, I will raise a martini glass in Herb's memory! Barbara Zellner, Club Fit Briarcliff

Barbara Zellner - November 11, 2021 at 11:15 AM

FL

“ My deepest condolences to you, Evelyn and the "kids", their spouses and kids. Whoever wrote the obit nailed it! It captured Herb beautifully in all his glorious eccentricities and brilliance. Though our visits have been infrequent over the years, we made a hardwired connection from our first meeting at Children's Television Workshop, through his divorce from his first wife, the wondrous transformation when Evelyn came into his life and the rest so well captured in the obit. I will miss my friend, but know he loved the life he lived and was loved unconditionally by those he lived with. Thinking of you. Felicia Lowe

Felicia Lowe - November 11, 2021 at 01:30 AM

BA

“ What always struck me about the Hadad boys was the way Herb kissed his sons on the cheek. I always loved seeing him pucker up and smack a fatty on his boys cheeks and watching them smile and enjoy it with only a tiny hint of embarrassment that any son would feel. So much love there. What a great guy and he raised two more too. I call that a win. Cheers, Herb. You're one of the really good ones.

brian a - November 10, 2021 at 10:48 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Herbert Hadad.* ”



November 10, 2021 at 10:43 PM

“My first memory of my dear friend, Herb, was when I was a new hire at Carl Byoir, and Associates, a Madison Avenue public relations agency. He was a seasoned journalist and a creative account executive. He took me under his wing and taught me so much about public relations, and writing and about life. He was both tough, and tender just like the title of his last book.

Herb was a marathon runner, and he would sometimes invite me to go for a walk with him after lunch. It was his way of getting some daytime training in, and I relished the exercise and the company.

One Valentine’s Day, he was on a lunchtime mission. It was a mission that he was determined to get just right. He invited me to participate. We spent our entire lunch hour in search of the perfect box of candy for his beloved wife, Evelyn. I had heard so much about his beautiful bride (how he often referred to her). And, he was always so delighted by the notes she would slip in with the lunches she made him, I wanted in on his mission.

We must have gone to every store that sold candy (and some that didn’t, but we thought might) in midtown Manhattan. We finally happened upon Godiva Chocolates on Fifth Avenue. My feet were sore, and my back hurt, but I knew he would have to find what he was looking for at this world-renowned candy store. Alas, there was nothing good enough for Evelyn there either. I remember thinking, “I have got to meet this woman someday.”

Soon after, Herb and Evelyn invited my husband and me to their home, and I instantly knew why he was so in love with her and their beautiful children. The four of us became good friends.

I have never known such a devoted and loving family. I don’t think I ever will. There was no question about why he was so proud of them. I often teased them that I wanted them to adopt me. They always answered the same, “just bring us the papers, and we will sign them.”

I lovingly called Herb my Hadad-daddy, and he would smile at me in a way that made me know I was loved.

I will miss his wit, wisdom, depth, insights, and mostly his love; his love of his family, his love of his country, his love of his heritage, his love of writing, and his love of me. My world will never feel the same, knowing he is no longer in it.

Lorraine Johnson - November 10, 2021 at 07:26 PM