

It never fails to happen...a wave of nostalgia hits me as soon as I drive onto the Pelham Parkway service road towards my block, Barnes Avenue. But what's this?: no railing (the "meat rack") on Pelham Parkway and a stop light at the corner of Wallace Avenue and Pkwy! As I park directly in front of my building, 2162-2164 Barnes, I can't wait to take a look and see how everything stood up to the test of time. The gardens have new plantings and everything is nice and clean. Years always come to my eyes as I look at my ground floor windows that face Barnes and wrap around to the alley way, remembering all the stories and events that shaped my childhood. Now there are locked gates in front of EVERY alley way. Gone is the beautiful tree in the alley that would touch my bedroom window where I sometimes pretended that I lived in the country.

I walk down Barnes towards Lydig Avenue (with Myrna Winer Rosen and Stu Chinkin) and stop at the Van Nest Pelham Branch library on Barnes that replaced the 20 car parking lot where my Dad owned a space. It was \$25 per month and we really couldn't afford that splurge. Before the parking lot it was an empty lot where we played stickball against the windowless side of the building. At the corner was the candy store that was last owned by Bib and Sam and where I would buy so many chocolate egg creams (with extra chocolate syrup please). This is the ONLY store in Pkwy, according to MY memory, that is still standing. All the other familiar stores (the delis, the bakeries, the hardware stores, the candy stores, the clothing stores, the 2 movie theaters, Olinsky's) are all gone and are now replaced by other stores or are just boarded up or bricked over.

As we walked down Lydig towards White Plains Road we stopped for lunch at Moishy's, the only kosher restaurant in Pkwy. It was good, but not the same as Sonny's or Egan. I thought WE were old, but we were the youngest people eating at Moishy's.

Nothing on White Plains Road was familiar except for the el and the subway entrance stairs. But now there is an up escalator! We spoke to one young guy coming from the train and asked him how he liked living in Pkwy and he said it was very nice. After telling him that we lived here over 60 years ago he asked us if it changed much. Our answer: "Duh!"

We visited PS 105 and CCHS but did not have time for PS 83. In both schools the auditorium looked much smaller than I had remembered. Both schools were in very good shape and clean. At CCHS, the library was totally renovated and had a computer section and comfy lounge chairs. The cafeteria was renovated and had a whole section of tables with booths just like in a restaurant. When you enter CCHS you must go through a screening conveyor belt similar to the ones in an airport. Stu Chinkin had a pocket knife that was taken away from him before we were allowed to tour the school.

What a great day! Pelham Parkway will always hold such wonderful memories for me. I realized that you can take the boy out of PP but you can't take PP out of the boy!