

## Obituaries



**JOSEPH A. CHAZAN, MD**, 89, died peacefully on July 26, 2024, in Providence, surrounded by his loving family. He was a graduate of the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and the University at Buffalo School of Medicine. While in medical school, he met his beautiful late wife Helene on a blind date. They were married in 1958. They

were a devoted, loving couple for 47 years, and their life together was filled with much joy and sunshine.

Dr. Chazan completed his post graduate training at Boston City Hospital–Tufts. He was a renal fellow at the New England Medical Center and the Beth Israel Hospital. Dr. Chazan also served as a doctor in the Public Health Service in Birmingham, Alabama.

Following his training, Dr. Chazan joined the faculty at Brown University School of Medicine where he developed and initiated the kidney dialysis program at Rhode Island Hospital. He served for many years as Clinical Professor of Medicine at Brown University, and Director of Renal Diseases at Miriam Hospital, Memorial Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital. In 1973, Dr. Chazan established the first free-standing dialysis clinic in Rhode Island: The Artificial Kidney Center of Rhode Island. He went on to open eight more clinics in Rhode Island and two in Massachusetts. Dr. Chazan founded and was the long-time president of Nephrology Associates Inc.

He served as Governor, American College of Physicians, RI Chapter. He received numerous awards and recognition for his work as a nephrologist, including The University at Buffalo Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2013, The American Kidney Fund honored Dr. Chazan with its national Caregiver of the Year award.

He was a member and supporter of Temple Beth-El for over 60 years, serving as President and on the Board of Trustees. He loved celebrating the holidays with his family and sharing traditions.

He made significant contributions to RISD as a former trustee and committee member. The RISD Museum presented a selection of objects donated by the Chazans in its 2005 exhibition “Chazans’ Choice.” He supported initiatives at AS220, Southside Community Land Trust, The Wheeler School, WaterFire, The Newport Art Museum, The Steel Yard, Community Music Works, Farm Fresh, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, and Rhode Island College through the Chazan Family Gallery.

Committed to creating educational opportunities for others, in 1978, Dr. and Mrs. Chazan established a scholarship in their names at the Rhode Island Foundation for the benefit of The Wheeler School. In 1984, they endowed the Friends of Glass

Scholarship at RISD. In 1985, they established a scholarship fund for University at Buffalo medical students.

In 2013, he was honored with the Pell Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Arts, and in 2015 he received an honorary doctorate in fine arts from Rhode Island College. In 2019, he received The RISD President’s Medal of Honor.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife Helene and is survived by his devoted partner Vicki Veh, his three loving children Michael and his wife Leslie of Providence, Kathy and her husband Tony of Newton, Massachusetts, and Kimberly and her husband John of Providence, and his nine grandchildren and spouses.

Donations in his memory may be made to Temple Beth-El of Providence, 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence, RI 02906, The Visual Arts Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation, One Union Station, Providence, RI 02903 and WaterFire Providence, 475 Valley Street, Providence, RI 02908. For condolences: [www.sugarmansinai.com](http://www.sugarmansinai.com) ❖



### **JOHN J. HAND, MD, FACP**

(Jack) passed away on August 20th, 2024. He was the beloved husband of Mary Anne (Killea) Hand for 64 years. He was the son of the late John J. Hand Sr. and Agnes (Sullivan) Hand. Jack was born in Newport Hospital on December 17th, 1936, but spent most of his young life in The Bronx, NY.



Jack was a man of great faith and love of God. He was faithful in always renewing his promise of Oblation to the Benedictines at Portsmouth Abbey. He attended daily Mass for years and served as a Eucharistic Minister in many churches.

Jack was the product of Jesuit education attending Fordham Preparatory School and earned academic and athletic scholarships to Fordham University. He earned his medical degree from Georgetown University and completed his internship and internal medicine residency in the United States Navy. During the course of his 22-year Naval career Jack served at five Naval Hospitals, the last being at Newport, where he was president of the staff. He was the founder of the Health Risk Appraisal Program at the Naval War College in Newport. He received the US Navy Meritorious Service Medal in 1993.

During his civilian medical career Jack was on the staff of the Aquidneck Medical Center in Newport where he was president from 1978–1980. He was on the Board of Directors of the American Heart Association from 1973–1977 and the Board of Directors of the RI Joint Underwriters Association from 1976–1982. He has been an incorporator of Newport Hospital from 1974

until the present. Jack was the Director of Adult Medicine at the Greater New Bedford Health Center and on the attending staff of St. Luke's Hospital from 1993–1998. Jack was the physician for the Island Health Project on Fishers Island, NY, from June 1999–September 2005. Following that, he continued to practice medicine locally for 10 years. Jack was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians since 1992.

Jack was a man with many interests and loves. He was an avid reader of history, philosophy, theology and sports. He always had a good baseball story to tell and was a diehard fan of the NY Giants and went into mourning when they moved to San Francisco. More recently he was a fan of the Boston Red Sox. Jack ran 42 marathons, including 15 consecutive Boston Marathons from 1981–1995 that he completed in three hours or under. He also ran in numerous RI Senior Olympics and National Senior Olympics.

The most important part of Jack's life was his family. With the love of his life, his wife Mary Anne, he built a beautiful family who were devoted to him. He was the loving father of Eileen Hand Hughes, Jeanne Sullivan (Dan), Patrick Hand (Elyse), Sharon Keating (Chris), and Peter Hand. Jack was predeceased by his beloved son John J. Hand III. He was Pop-Pop to 13 grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Tunnel to Towers, 2361 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, NY, 10306 or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105-9959.

Additional information at [www.memorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.memorialfuneralhome.com) ❖



**VINCENT PERA, Jr., MD**, of Cranston, and Narragansett passed away on August 3, 2024, at Rhode Island Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Jennifer Conklin Pera for 30 years.

Born January 31, 1956, and raised in Warwick, Rhode Island, Vincent was the son of the late Jennie Frances Parente and Vincent Pera, Sr.

He was the brother-in-law of Suzanne Conklin, Elizabeth Conklin, MD, and Jonathan Conklin. He was the uncle of Nina and Amy Conklin. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins and godchildren.

Dr. Pera earned a double major in biology and music at Providence College. He graduated from St. George's University School of Medicine and completed his residency in internal medicine at Miriam Hospital. He then completed a fellowship at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Providence. He was board-certified in bariatric medicine and was the director of the Weight and Wellness Institute. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Bariatric Medicine and an assistant professor of medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He was highly respected by his colleagues, associates, and his many patients.

In his memory, please consider donating to the Erik R. Laisi Memorial Scholarship Fund at St. Andrew's School, 63 Federal Road, Barrington, RI 02806. Please share memories and condolences at [www.woodlawnri.com](http://www.woodlawnri.com). ❖