


JHS Hit 'n' Run Reunion Photo Album - April 27, 2021

A man dressed in medieval-style armor, including a helmet with a visor, a chainmail surcoat, and a quilted gambeson with a red lion rampant on the chest. He is standing on a beach with the ocean and sky in the background, pointing his right arm towards the horizon.

Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon, 1513: "Upon this fair, verdant land, with its sparkling seas, I envision condominiums. Lots and lots and LOTS of condos, as far as the eye can see! And pharmacies! On every street corner! And a minstrel named Jimmy Buffett shall delight the inhabitants with songs mainly about getting baked. And I shall call this paradise: Floridastantinopolis!"

*Ponce de Leon sailed to Florida
In search of the fountain of youth.*
Today we do the same,
Now that we're long in the tooth.*

*"Ain't that the truth!"
Exclaimed Babe Ruth...
Always so uncouth...
Knockin' back a quart of vermouth...
Before callin' his bookie from a telephone booth.*

HELP! I'M DOWN HERE! I STARTED RHYMING,
AND NOW I CAN'T STOP! FOR THE LOVE OF GOD,
PLEASE! DO SOMETHING!

History of Florida, part 1



* Contrary to popular belief, Ponce de Leon did not come to Florida in search of the Fountain of Youth. He was, however, searching everywhere for the perfect thin-crust pizza. After several fruitless (and cheeseless, too) months spent wandering the Everglades, he realized he should have docked his ship in Brooklyn.



(Left) Among the first to arrive, longtime friends **Marna Ludwig Moseson**, **Cheryl Goldenberg**, and **Deborah D'Amore Ascari**, all from the JHS class of 1972. Marna and Deborah now live in Florida full-time, while Cheryl will be moving soon to Raleigh, North Carolina. Deborah, incidentally, is a professional singer and pianist who also gives lessons.



(Right) Deborah again, surrounded by **Phyllis Kushner Riordan** ('76) on the right and **Melanie Siegel Dolan** ('72) at left. Melanie drove down from her home in the Villages, and, no, not in one of those little golf carts that make every day in the Villages resemble a Shriners' parade. A car-car, smartass.



(Above) It's always great when folks show up unannounced, especially in this case. We hadn't seen **Allan Cohen** ('72, left) since the class of 1972's thirty-year reunion in 2002, and with **Robert Kashan** ('72, right), it had been longer than that. Bob now lives in Florida.



(Left) Melanie (right), with **Roslyn Appelbaum** (left) and, in the middle, **Elizabeth Stark Perez**. All are from the class of 1972, although Liz graduated a year early. She and her husband, John, own the Pavilion Grille, one of Boca Raton's most popular restaurants and nightspots.

History of Florida, part 2



As far back as the sixteenth century, violent battles routinely broke out among patrons standing on line in the blazing sun for four hours just to ride the Astro Orbiter at Disney World. A statewide “No Cutsies” law went into effect in 1604.



(Above): “The kid.” Thank you, thank you, thank you, **Michael Breidenbach**, from the class of 1979, for attending and thus lowering the average age of our group that night. He grew up in Jericho’s White Birch neighborhood.



(Above) This is a great story: **Ellen Marsden** and **Michael Kushner**, both from the class of 1974, grew up in the same neighborhood but never dated. Then they met again at their twenty-year high school reunion. Long story short, they fell love and got married. She’s now **Ellen Marsden Kushner**. At right, **Michael** poses with his kid sister, **Phyllis Kushner Riordan** ('76). All three Kushner sibs live in Florida, including older sister **Caren Kushner Gottesmann** ('72), who was at last year’s Florida gathering but couldn’t make it this time around.



(Right): The class of 1969’s **Larry Levinson** and fiancée **Betty Cohen**. Betty didn’t attend JHS, but she’s probably been to more reunions since 2010 than you have. The two split their time between New York and Florida.





At left, Ponce de Leon's high school yearbook photo (Inquisition High, Seville, Spain, class of 1478). Socially speaking, the future explorer was lost at sea. Classmates derisively called him Punch da Peon as they slugged him repeatedly in the gym during swordplay practice.

Senior year, he was voted "Least Likely to Sail Across the Atlantic Ocean to the New World." After he landed on the east coast of Florida, de Leon took great pleasure in taunting his fellow alumni via savage posts on Twitter. "Whaddaya think of me NOW, bee-atches?" he'd write. In hindsight, de Leon believed that being routinely shoved into his hall locker and trapped there against his will prepared him well for the cramped quarters found on most sixteenth-century sailing vessels.



(Above) The class of '72's **Melanie Siegel Dolan** and **Philip Bashe**. Melanie grew up in East Birchwood; Phil, in West Birchwood. But they've known each other since second grade or so at Temple Or-Eloheim, where Phil got in trouble for defaming Sandy Koufax during the 1963 World Series, when Koufax and the Dodgers were sweeping his beloved New York Yankees. (True story). Phil was down in Boynton Beach for five days to help his stepmom pack up her house in order to move to California. Naturally, while in Florida, as is his wont, it was time for yet another Hit 'n' Run Reunion.



A couple of group shots.

(Above) **Melanie Siegel Dolan**, **Marna Ludwig Moseson**, **Deborah D'Amore Ascari**, **Roslyn Appelbaum**, and **Phyllis Kushner Riordan**.

(Right) Once the music started in the main room, we ducked into the Grille Room, so named because it's wear they grill seniors suspected of stealing packets of sugar and ketchup, and the occasional tablecloth, as older folks tend to do. Clockwise from bottom left: **Phyllis Kushner Riordan**, **Ellen Marsden Kushner**, **Michael Kushner**, and **Michael Breidenbach**.



(Above) Great to see **Stuart Rader** ('75) for the second year in a row. An attorney who specializes in elder law and estate law, he's lived in Florida for close to forty years.

History of Florida, part 4



Ponce de Leon (standing) receives good news from his first mate: "Congratulations on reaching Florida, sir! You just racked up 3,828 nautical miles. A few more trips like this will get you enough seafaring points for a free excursion to the Ottoman Empire!"



(Left) So you don't think that **Roslyn Appelbaum**, here with **Philip Bashe**, changed outfits, the two of them had such a good time at the reunion party that they went out to dinner at the PV two nights later. After living in Colorado for many years, Roz moved to Florida in 2020. Meanwhile, her daughter, **Jess**, just landed a great new job with a little mom-and-pop company called Apple. Maybe you've heard of it.



(Above) **Elizabeth Stark Perez** (sans mask), **Philip Bashe**, and **Shari Weinstock Davis**, who, like Liz, graduated a year early, in 1976. For the record, every person in attendance had been fully vaccinated, so, following state law, we were able to eat and drink maskless. Man, did that feel good! The party broke up after four hours around 10:30 p.m.—pretty respectable for a bunch of old farts.

(Right) **Shari** with **Phyllis Kushner Riordan**. After years of living in Connecticut, Shari relocated to Florida several years ago.



Looking good, that's **Michael Lewis** ('72), who became a full-time Floridian a few years ago, with **Tara Cohen**, Allan's wife.

