

# Graham Palmore – NGM

**Handball became an integral part of Graham's life from the age of 11. He began playing at Knickerbocker Park in his neighborhood.**

He played for his high school team, Bushwick, but on a limited basis because he had to work after school. He was aware, however, of the great rivalry between Bushwick's first singles player at the time, Winfield Balance, and Ken Davidoff of Brooklyn Tech. When the USHA initiated its National 1-Wall Tournament at the Brownsville Boys Club, Graham's lack of experience against strong competition rendered him unsuccessful in the open singles division.

But once passed forty, his game, both singles and doubles, began to excel. In 1982 he entered his first National 1-Wall Masters Tournament. At this writing (2015) he has missed only one such tournament since. Graham won in excess of 20 National 1-Wall Masters Championships, mostly in singles, elevating him to National Grandmaster.

At 39, having dabbled in 4-wall, he determined to become proficient in order to compete in the many local, state, and regional 4-wall events held in New York. Initially he entered "B" tournaments. At 40



he began competing in masters play.

Once committing himself to 4-wall, Graham entered more than 150 local, state, and regional tournaments resulting in approximately 50 championships. He played at: Albany, Fishkill, Rockville Center/Syosett, Long Island, NYAC, Fairfield, New Jersey, and many other venues. He is a member of the Fishkill Hall of Fame. He also entered several National 4-Wall Masters Tournaments traveling to Maryland, Michigan, and Texas. There he had more modest success, his greatest win coming

with his frequent partner, Al Green, against Fred Chapman and Stuffey Singer.

Generously, Palmore offered credit to the many players with whom he partnered over his long career in 1-, 3- and 4-wall: Al Green, Jerry Yee, Mike Dikman, Richie Saffer, Dan Maroney, Billy Farber, Dan Flickstein, Marc Goldberg, Dennis Uffer, Tom Vitale, Fred Munsch, Bill Kennedy, Joey Guzman, and others. But he credited his wife for being his greatest partner, who always supported his desire to play and improve.

Graham saw handball as a significant part of his life, providing him with health, both mental and physical, happiness and lifelong friendships.

A member of the 1-Wall Committee in the middle 1980's, Graham was also instrumental in helping create this virtual web site for the New York Handball Hall of Fame. It was his great hope that the site would be accessed by the general public as well as handball players and enthusiasts – and that it would prove to be a joy to all.