



## AARON REUBEN RAUSEN “SPIRIT OF ‘51” AWARD

**A**aron, you are a man of strong and enduring convictions. Born into one urban environment, Jersey City, and receiving your early education in another, Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan, you were somehow attracted to the rural joys of Hanover, New Hampshire, where for three years you were intent on gaining a genuine liberal arts education at Dartmouth. Although it now seems clear that your long-range goals were medical, you majored in English and took a raft of courses in philosophy, all the while piling up credits in such premed courses as chemistry and zoology. Beyond that, you honed your communication skills as a WDBS staffer and as a Managing Editor of the *Dartmouth Quarterly*, a campus magazine devoted to showcasing the literary talents of our undergraduates. We have an example of one such effort of yours, a poem notable not only for its post-teen angst but also for its juxtaposition on a page with an ad for a plastic ukulele (\$5.95, including shipping).

After three Dartmouth years, your academic and extra-curricular successes translated into a full-tuition scholarship to attend the State University of New York College of Medicine, where you received your MD in 1954. You then specialized in pediatric medicine at the Bellevue and Mount Sinai Hospitals; thereafter, entering the Army and serving as a base pediatrician in Arizona. Ever since you have continued your studies and practice to become a prominent authority in pediatric oncology, a field of medicine which specializes in discovering the causes of cancer in children and treating them with the latest technology available. In that capacity, you have been instrumental in the creation and funding of such foundations as the Children's Cancer Research Fund and the Optimist Childhood Cancer Campaign and its affiliates throughout the United States and Canada. Over the course of more than thirty years, you have contributed much to the advancement of knowledge of cancer in children as a professor of hematology/oncology and as an author of dozens of articles published in a variety of medical journals, articles with such eye-crossing titles as “Addition of Ifosfamide and Etoposide to Standard Chemotherapy for Ewing's Sarcoma and Primitive Neuro-Ectodermal Tumor in Bone.”

Indeed, so busy have you been in cancer research and treatment that it seems a wonder you found a way to meet and fall in love with Emalou Watkins, a talented dress designer, make her your wife, and raise a family of three children, David (Dartmouth '90), Susan and Elizabeth. And perhaps an even greater wonder is your enduring attachment to Dartmouth, to which you have returned regularly, usually attired in the business suit you were wearing as you left your Manhattan office for the drive north for a football weekend. Your Class is grateful for your presence at these events, as well as for your work as a student admissions interviewer, as a volunteer for the Dartmouth Capital Campaign, as a member of our Class executive committee, and as a long-time member of the Dartmouth Club of New York City. Today it seems clear, Aaron, that although you did not graduate with us in June 1951, you have made the best possible use of your studies in literature and philosophy at Dartmouth.

For surely your education here has played a part in your attraction and marriage to a creative artist; and just as surely that education has also played a part in your becoming a teacher and mentor of your medical students seeking to carry on the work of ridding the world of cancer in children. With your help, the incidence of cancer fatalities in children has been reduced by more than 80 percent within one generation. Truly, you are one of our modern heroes, as implacable a foe of the enemy as were those heroes of yore, not motivated as they were by revenge but rather by compassion for the helpless and innocent victims to whom you have given not only comfort but hope. For cancer is no respecter of age or gender or social class; and when its victims are children, we weep in frustration at the injustice of their suffering. That's the bad news. The good news is that Dr. Aaron Rausen is on duty.

Aaron, for all you have done for Dartmouth and our Class of 1951, and for your long and distinguished medical career in the field of children's cancer, your classmates are pleased to honor you with our “Spirit of '51” Award.