



Hugh Harrison Memorial Plaque

As a first step in the Memorial Plaque Program in Hamilton Park, the HPNA has chosen to honor long-time Hamilton Park resident Hugh B. Harrison with the inaugural plaque. Hugh passed away in May 2020.

Hugh was born in Kingsnorth, England and studied Art at the College of Kent. He moved to the United States in 1958 and eventually made his home on Pavonia Avenue in the Hamilton Park neighborhood in 1980. He and his partner of over 40 years, Gerry Case, split their weekends between Hamilton Park and Gerry's hometown of Brooklyn Heights.

Hugh was an accomplished professional artist who illustrated numerous books and magazines and even created storyboards for documentarians. He also did the artwork used in the display windows of Manhattan's finest department stores and boutiques. He was a lifelong student of drawing and composition and took classes at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan for decades. He, in turn, shared his love of art by teaching art to seniors at Grace Van Vorst Church. In December 2002, an exhibit comprised of 71 works of art by Hugh entitled "Works on Paper," was the featured presentation in Jersey City's City Hall Rotunda Gallery.

In 1977, Hugh designed the logo for the newly established HPNA. It was a pen and ink drawing of the Hamilton Park gazebo, and it was featured on the HPNA's stationery and various posters and banners over the years. To further honor Hugh, we have used the original logo above. Hugh was a dedicated HPNA member who rarely missed a meeting. He was a block captain for over 20 years distributing leaflets announcing upcoming events. He was one of the original planners of the Park's annual Festival. An avid gardener, Hugh was responsible for planting many of the memorial trees in the Park, trimming the cherry trees, and tending to the flower beds around the gazebo. Many will likely remember Hugh happily riding his bike in and around the neighborhood.

The inaugural plaque dedicated to the late Hugh B. Harrison, proud HPNA member and dedicated neighbor, humanitarian, and friend, will be paid for by donations from the public. A donation button on the HPNA website will be added and an announcement will be made once it is activated.

For additional information, please contact: Aaron Underwood, President, HPNA at president@hpnajc.org