

Good morning,

My name is Lori Krass and I would like to thank everyone for coming today to celebrate Chapel Haven being honored by the Jewish Historical Society.

I'd like to begin by telling you a little bit about what life was like when Chapel Haven started more than 50 years ago.

Everybody knows that CH was founded in 1972 by my dad and the Rossman's. Maybe you didn't know that when it was founded, I was still at Maplebrook School. I lived there from 1970 – 1977. My dad and the Rossman's met while Peter and I were students there. The Rossman's were from Scarsdale, NY and I grew up in New Haven. My dad had his own company called SL Krass Real Estate and he was the one who found our original house at 1599 Chapel Street.

I can't remember the names of everyone who lived there, but I remember 4 of them. They were Steve Kanter, Jeff Barry, James Kaufman, and Sheila Gallagher. My dad and Mr. Rossman, who were part of the Maplebrook Parent Association, believed that after we graduated from Maplebrook we needed to live independently in the community and not back at home with our parents.

By the time I graduated from Maplebrook in 1977 and moved to Westville in 1978, we already had the building at 1040 Whalley and Ron and Jeanne Berkowitz lived here with us in apartment building. I can't remember which apartment exactly, but I know that they had two Irish setters, and one was named Dawndy. They were nice. I had a life skills counselor named Linda Brunswick. She was nice but also very strict.

When Sunny asked me what my Top 10 Favorite Moments have been at CH, this is what I came up with:

Number 10: I liked my job working in the cafeteria at Southern Connecticut State University

Number 9: I helped my dad file at his office on Chapel Street

Number 8: I loved playing volleyball and bocce with Tim Charron's Recreation Program

Number 7: Eating lunch at Katz's deli with my family

Number 6: Potluck dinner with my friends, Paige, Rosalind, Denise

Number 5: Exercising with Kim Stack

Number 4: Jewelry Making & Ceramics Class with Tina

Number 3: The best staff: my Support Coordinator, David Viscuso, Mike Storz, Erik Rambush and Sunny Richards

Number 2. I love Chapel Haven

And my Number 1 all time favorite memory about Chapel Haven is that My dad started Chapel Haven!

I'm so glad that everybody is here today! I hope you enjoy it and have a good time! Thank you!