

Reading your article about the changing of the guard and our retiring Police Chief, Joseph “Bud” Sambrook brought to mind how I first met "Bud" and how we started a lifelong friendship.

It happened a long time ago when I was the then young rabbi of Congregation Beth El located on Fairfield Woods road. For those too young to remember the traffic light that is there now, at that time there was at the corner of Fairfield Woods Road and Melville Ave a stop sign, probably due to the proximity of Stratfield School. I was driving home and a bit hurriedly and injudiciously hung a right and ran the stop sign, which I didn't think would hurt anyone since Stratfield school was not in session. I had in my eagerness ignored the presence of a Police patrol car and who should pull me over but a rookie cop, Joseph Sambrook, He asked politely for my license and registration, both of which indicated that I was a member of the clergy. Bud said; /Rabbi, You ran the stop sign, but I don't like giving tickets to “men of the cloth”. I being young and foolish, answered; “But officer, you have to give me a ticket-I did run the stop sign. Bud exercised his prerogative as an officer in as I was to discover, his usual kind way and refused to ticket me.

That began a friendship that has lasted to this day. We shared a number of things. Our places of employment abutted. He could see me passing by from his window and invariably greeted me. We shared mutual friends. We shared a love for writing poetry. His 1937 Chevrolet meticulously restored as a Fairfield Police Car, evoked the first car I ever owned, a well used 1937 dark blue Chevy, We had many encounters over the years where friends we both cared about were going through difficult times and in our different capacities we both found

ourselves there to help in any way we could. Though we might seem to be an odd couple, I have always found “Bud” a profoundly kindred spirit.

Bud’s devotion to our town, his competence, his graciousness to the people he has served has won him respect far beyond the borders of the town he loves so much. He loves Fairfield. And Fairfield loves him. We shall miss him as he goes on to new achievements.

I join all those who wish him health and strength and happiness for years to come.