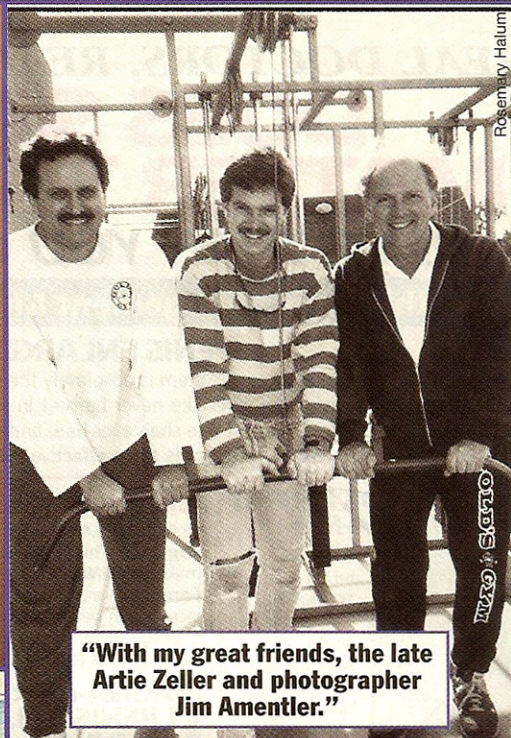




"My bar mitzvah with (left to right) cousin Gerald, Aunt Sylvia and my mother."



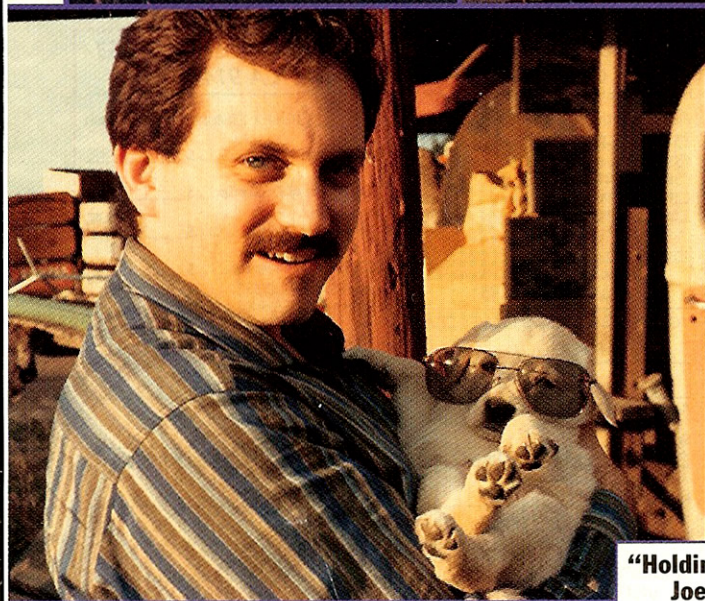
"With my great friends, the late Artie Zeller and photographer Jim Amentler."



"Counting my first big payday at bar mitzvah."



"In Cannes, France for television convention."



"Holding my friend Joe's dog."

ethic while employed at a hardware store in the Bronx. The owner of the store decided to teach him all about business, so his interests turned in that direction instead of art. "Still, I always had a passion for art and was artistic," he recalls, "so that talent just transferred into photography."

Gelb never really considered himself a photo hound during his adolescent years, so photography was a new pursuit when he went to California.

His father was a serious hobbyist photographer, though. "I guess because he forced me to take so many pictures with him as a kid, I was kind of turned off from photography until later in life. As I met a lot of fitness people at the gym and began frequenting the shows, I started taking photos as a hobby and my involvement just grew. From contacts in the gym I got some work. The first assignment I ever received was from the now-defunct *Muscle Training Illustrated* (affectionately known as *MTI*) of New York. Then I met Bob Kennedy at the 1988 Niagara Falls Pro International. I started to send Bob some work, and thanks to his criticism and advice, I have trained myself to become more professional and experience a lot of growth as a photographer."

Gelb thinks of most subjects from an artistic standpoint. When first exposed to