2011

Pacy Levine Scrapbook

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Percy "Pacy" Jerome Levine
April 16, 1905 - November 1, 1996
PERCY "PACY" JEROME LEVINE
Born April 16, 1905, died November 1, 1996

Eric Bloom on names: Pacy is an Americanized version of the Yiddish male name Pashke. I have a feeling that Ludy is also an americanized version of Ludki which is a Yiddish name. Nana said Grandma & Grandpa called all their Kinderlech(children) by their Jewish names.

JULIE MILLER SOROS ON GREAT UNCLE PACY:
What I remember about Uncle Pacy is how he loved to watch and see any and all new construction projects. He loved watching new buildings being built or any renovation of any property.

BILL ALFOND ON UNCLEST LUDY AND PACY:
My favorite memories of Ludy and Pacy were the many trips we made to the Final Four over the years. One game in particular stood out, the Michigan Fab 5 game against Duke in 1992 at the Metrodome in Minneapolis. Ludy and Pacy were friends with the UConn athletic director and he helped us all get into the NCAA interview rooms after the Saturday game. It was really something special to listen to these future NBA stars, Chris Webber, Juwan Howard, Jalen Rose, and Jimmy King. Ludy and Pacy, of course, were their normal sociable selves, moving around the room, making friends with everyone. I will always remember that experience and the many times that Ludy and Pacy helped make the Final Four so memorable.

On a more personal note, I still remember how Pacy taught me how to take care of my feet. In the last trips to Final 4 with Ludy and Pacy’s, I would often help them with their appearance, checking that their ties and coats were straight. During those moments, Pacy would often instruct me on good personal habits. I remember that he had a special technique with his socks to keep his feet comfortable and moisturized. To this day, I remember that lesson and my feet are grateful for his advice!
SARA LEE BLOOM, TEMA CUSHNER AND ERIC BLOOM ON UNCLE PACY:
Uncle Pacy was also a real gentleman, who really liked the ladies. He always had a girl. He & Uncle Teddy were the only siblings that had light color hair and they were both quite good looking.

ERIC BLOOM ON GREAT UNCLE PACY AND NANA BETTY:
In the spring of 1985, Uncle Pacy had surgery was for an abdominal aneurysm operation at a Boston hospital. Nana would be there everyday to make sure things were going all right; she did not leave his side. Before he went back to Waterville, Uncle Pacy stayed with Nana to recuperate. The day after the operation I came to visit him and he had tubes going in and out of his body. He did not complain, but did say "I wish I could take you out to eat." I guess it was his way of saying I wish I was not here. Grandpa, Ludy, and Evelyn, also, stayed with Nana a number of times to recuperate after being in the hospital. She did not mind taking care of them because that's what you do for family.

ERIC BLOOM, AN ANECDOTE:
Whenever we went into Waterville, we always stopped into Levine's to see Ludy, Pacy, & Howard. Over the years, Uncle Ludy would take us out for lunch (sometimes Uncle Pacy would come too.) We went to Datsies, Adolphs, and in later years, The Silver Street Tavern. As each place went out of business, he would take us to a new restaurant for a hamburg. He claimed each place had the "Best Hamburg in America." In all these restaurants, he would introduce us to whomever was there. Ludy and Pacy seemed to know everybody. Ludy gave everybody his attention. He told them where we went to school, etc. He was very proud of his family and made you feel important! He and Pacy were an integral part of my life. I'll never foget them!

ERIC BLOOM ON WORKING AT LEVINE'S STORE:
One week, in August 1980, the boys and cousin Howard needed some help in The Underground for 'Back to School.' Howard, as they say, "showed me the ropes" and I went to work and really enjoyed the experience. I"ll never forget how Uncle Pacy would run
up and down those stairs all day long; he had a lot of stamina. He also had style -- I miss Levine's!

MORTY BLOOM ON THE BOYS (AS TOLD TO ERIC BLOOM): When Sara Lee and I would go to the New York Furniture show, sometimes the men's clothing show would also be on. A number of times, the boys and Howard would insist that we have dinner together. They were real "sports." I enjoyed their company because "what you saw was for real......no phoniness!"

ANECDOTE ABOUT UNCLE PACY BY ERIC: I remember Uncle Pacy sometimes would watch two sporting events at the same. He would run from the den TV to The Kitchen TV...."BACK & FORTH".... My Dad, Morty, would say, "He must have a bet!"

ERIC BLOOM ON UNCLES LUDY AND PACY: I remember when you would tell Uncle Ludy a story about some crazy thing someone did, his reply would be: meshuggeeeeee,meshuggeeeeee......Right Pacy! And Uncle Pacy would nod!

TED ALFOND ON UNCLE PACY (AS TOLD TO BARBARA ALFOND): When I think of Pacy, I remember how he loved to bet and gamble---and that Ludy was forever ribbing him about choosing the loser!

SUSAN ALFOND ON "THE STORE": I think I went to the Levine store almost every day with my Mother. I’d get penny candy and see my uncles Ludy, Pacy and Howard. The Levine's Store was well-known in that part of Maine. Initially when my grandmother and grandfather came to this country, they sold clothes from a horse and buggy. They stayed in Dexter, Maine for six months but couldn’t make a living there so eventually came to Waterville and settled. Their store became the largest department store in Maine.

My uncles’ attention to each customer made the store successful. Uncle Ludy would keep a black book in his pocket where he noted the names of all of his customers. He spoke with all the Colby parents when they came in to buy blazers and pants for their kids;
afterwards, he noted their names in the black book. Ludy socialized with everybody; I'm not sure that he actually sold anything!

Uncle Howard was the best sales person. He and Ludy and Pacy would yell back and forth to one another. As Howard talked to the customers, he might yell, “Hey Ludy! Do you realize that we’re getting the number one football player from Brookline this year?” Pacy, meanwhile, was more nervous. He always had a tape measure around his neck. Somehow, the three of them sold many suits and blazers; they were the perfect combination.

SUSAN ALFOND ON UNCLE LUDY AND PACY:
Thirty-nine Levine family members attended Colby. Ludy and Pacy were more than devoted fans; they were fanatics. During football games, they would run up and down the sidelines yelling and screaming at the players. They dragged everyone to the games. As two bachelors, the Colby athletic program became their families. They went to all the basketball, football and baseball games.

JOSHUA SOROS ON UNCLE LUDY AND PACY: One thing I’ll never forget is the yearly hand-shake test from Ludy & Pacy, where they would comment on my strength, which was judged by a handshake. I would never hold back, giving as firm a hand-shake as a 5-year old boy could muster.

SARA LEE BLOOM ON UNCLE LUDY AND PACY: Whenever the boys came into Boston to a clothing show, they would stay at The Parker House because that is where the show was being held; we, always, went down to have dinner with them. Mom loved seeing her brothers and Daddy enjoyed talking with them.

ERIC BLOOM ON GREAT UNCLE LUDY & PACY: Isn’t amazing how everybody always referred to Ludy & Pacy as "THE BOYS" even when they were men in their 90s? There is no other name? When someone in the family says the "BOYS" we know it is Ludy & Pacy. They were originals! What "great" Uncles( & Great Uncles)....!
PETER ALFOND - Thoughts about the Levine Family

It has been wonderful how the Levine family reunion has prompted all of us to reminisce and reflect on the impact our extended family has had on each of our lives. All of the stories, conversations, and excitement for the reunion have been a reaffirmation of the deep connection we continue to share even as we have dispersed around the country and the world.

The Levine family has been such a valuable part of my life. Through my mother, the Levine characteristics of emotional warmth and family togetherness have served as an important balance to the more detached, individualistic-adventurous qualities on my father's side. Although we call my family's camp, "Alfond Camp," it was my mother's Levine persistence that convinced my father to buy the property originally and it was her warm and inclusive Levine heart that kept us returning to it every summer.

In anticipation of the reunion, I have found myself often reflecting on my years growing up in Maine and all of the meaningful time spent with Levine cousins, aunts, and uncles. Considering that it would take an entire book to relate all of these stories and memories, I have chosen to focus only on Ludy and Pacy for now since I wanted to share the whole new appreciation I have for them now that I am older and wiser.

Recently a good friend forwarded me a story about an interesting research study by a Harvard psychologist, Ellen Langer. In the study, Langer took a group of men in their 70s and 80s and put them in a hotel that had been made to look like it was from twenty years earlier, down to the very last detail. She asked the men to not reminisce about the past and to instead live as if they were actually 20 years younger. Within a week, the group of men showed a noticeable improvement in their mental and physical health. By living as if they were decades younger, the aging process had effectively been reversed.

The study reminded me of Ludy and Pacy and their secret to aging. Rather than settling into the conventional habits of the elderly, Ludy and Pacy stayed active until the end of their lives, surrounding themselves with young people and this community
they loved. I will be honest that when I was growing up, I had a hard time understanding how they could be content staying in Waterville for almost their entire lives. My cousins and I gossiped about them and how their lives seemed so boring to us. We wanted to go out and see the world and have adventures. Looking back, I realize now that Ludy and Pacy had created a rich and interesting world for themselves right here in Maine, filled with the vibrancy of youth, long friendships, and their passion for the drama of sports, a life so well expressed in one of Gene Cohen's books. When I am stuck in a "grass is greener on the other side" mentality, I remind myself of Ludy and Pacy, and their example helps me to look around and see the wonderful world I already have around me.

I want to end by sharing one piece of wisdom that Ludy and Pacy always tried to teach me. "Use common sense" they told me again and again. They even gave me a poster with those words on it! As you can imagine, "using common sense" was the last thing I wanted to do as a teenager and a young adult. However, as I look back now, I realize that if I had heeded their wisdom earlier in my life I could have avoided a lot of challenges. Fortunately, I like to think that I have finally integrated their lessons now that I am older. Although, that said, even today I still need a reminder occasionally... I wonder if I can find that poster they gave me?!?

This wonderful Levine family gathering is truly a testament to Ludy and Pacy and their success in bonding our extended family together long after their passing. I am so grateful that I was able to have them in my life and learn from their wisdom and their passion for life. As we have all witnessed in the build up to the reunion, the Levine spirit continues to flourish and spread to new generations of our family.

BILL WHITMORE: Reflections on Pacy and Ludy

The flashback to 1970 and the first visit to Levine’s as a first year basketball coach yet remains vivid in the joy of memory. Ludy was there first and he immediately recognized me as a former athlete (because of size) and, although not too sure that a Bowdoin man should be coaching the ‘Colby Boys, he was gracious and had me
in a suit in 20 minutes. Pacy was another story. Desirous of specific
detail as to recruits, returning players and being ready to play
Maine he was free with his commentary and extremely
knowledgeable.

From that time on the magnet to the store grew strong and the
visits more enjoyable. The Boys always came to football practice,
once a week, usually on Wednesdays. The sign they were there was
clear, the Cadillac was always parked in front of the field house or
on the field so they could get quickly to the action and share in the
joy of competition and for Pacy to get information to the most
detailed level. The knowledge as a coach that you have made a step
in the right direction is always difficult, but in 1971 it was the
Thursday practice after a shocking basketball victory over Maine.
Twenty minutes into practice down the stairs come Pacy and Ludy,
hats and overcoats ready to come off and action to be joined.

Ludy had compared me to a former athlete named Bob from the
first meeting. For the first few years it was always ‘hi Bob’ and a
private smile. Then one day Pacy said ‘its not Bob, Pacy, its Bill.’
Howard eventually intervened and I became ‘Whit’ to them until the
90’s. The legend of the generosity of Pacy and Ludy is based on
fact and their compassion for ath-letes who were in need
immense. The number of times that suits, coats and other men’s
wear were purchased on a unique credit system.

In 1986 as a first year Athletic Director I became part of the weekly
visit to football practice and would join the ‘boys’ in their magical
tour of Seaverns Field each week, only after I had moved the
Cadillac to a safer parking place. Football home games were the
BIG EVENTS for Pacy and Ludy. Both would begin in the Press Box
and, fortified by a quick meal, they would watch the kickoff from the
booth. At the first point of difficulty, Pacy would get emotional and
tear off to the sidelines. After witnessing his movements up and
down (for many years) with the flow of the action the concern was
such that a new student job was created, one of the basketball
players stayed with Pacy making sure he was safe from ball and
player contact.

Later in the 80’s the BOYS joined Bill Alfond and me at the Final
Four NCAA basketball tournament. The crowds, the excitement, the
sports legends that surrounded the event were a perfect match.
Whether it was a Seattle lunch with Digger Phelps, a Minneapolis
elevator and thirty-minute conversation with Billy Packer it was a
great scene. In addition there was always a special treat. In each
city was a ‘great deli!’ Usually on Sunday night we would travel to ‘the place.’ Shapiro’s in Indianapolis remains most clear in my mind. As I moved my tray through the line each of the boys would add a special treat and at the end of the counter I picked up a tray that had to weigh 12-15 pounds. It was a time of joy and fraternity that one could never forget.

In New Orleans in 1993 there was a most memorable experience. The task of getting to arena seats was becoming more difficult. Thus I suggested to the boys that we go to the wheel chair section, where the view was perfect and access was relatively easy. Thus we rented wheel chairs for the 93-year-old Ludy and 87-year-old Pacy and began our journey. It was a perfect spot, the view was great there were several legendary coaches in the section and all seemed well. After a trip to concessions for food for the boys I came back and was startled and bemused as I watched Pacy and Ludy, out of the chairs, walking among the group, striking up conversations and meeting everyone in the section. What a joy!

Alas, the final outing with Pacy was the Saturday before his passing. The Colby teams were at Bates, Ludy was not well enough to travel, as AD I was to see all the games, field hockey, soccers etc. Picked up Pacy at 10 and we had a memory filled trip to Lewiston. At Bates we went to each venue, but Pacy was edgy for the football game. Also he wanted to show me his favorite Chinese restaurant in Lewiston. We headed to the Cathay Hut and had a great meal. “Now we are ready for the game” was the parting comment as we left the Hut headed back to campus. The football game was one Colby should be favored to win. However, the team could do nothing right in the early stages. Pacy was like a caged lion as there was not room for him to move the sidelines as he had done at Colby. His commentary predicted doom for football at Colby and he wanted to leave at the end of the third period if the score remained 21-0 Bates. However, Colby began to move the ball at the end of the period and we stayed. Magically everything turned around, the Mules scored 28 points in a row and pulled off a miracle comeback. At the end of the fourth touchdown drive Pacy was at or beyond the sidelines at the end zone, hat off and fist in the air. No one was more proud of Colby than Pacy. Back in Waterville I spent a joyous hour on Ticonic Street recreating the game for an excited Ludy.
GENE COHEN ON Ludy and Pacy Levine:
A Tradition of Intergenerationalism

Ludy and Pacy Levine, my wife's great uncles, probably should be designated an American institution for all that they did for themselves, their extended family, and their community. Articles about them in The New York Times, the Boston Globe, and Yankee Magazine, have said the same. Ludy was born just before the start of the 20th century, Pacy just afterwards. They were close from the start to the finish, and those who knew them well referred to them as "the boys". Their father had opened a clothing store on Main Street in small town Waterville Maine that became, after LL Bean, the second best known store that sold clothes in Maine. The store thrived for 107 years until it went the way of other small family owned stores on Main Street America, closing not long after Ludy, nearing 99, had to retire. Their father, who had escaped Imperial Russia, opened the store in the late 19th Century. By the late 1920s, Ludy had left medical school and Pacy law school to help out in the family store. Their collaborative creativity as quality clothiers brought the store into a golden age where it thrived and served its community well. As the store's success grew, so too did Ludy's and Pacy's contributions to their community -- helping the YMCA, the Boys' Club and virtually every social service agency and club, church charity, the local synagogue, and cause that asked their assistance. They were also were extremely loyal Colby College alumni who became important benefactors to the college and provided numerous scholarships for needy Colby students. They never married, and as they entered the second half of life, their community, in effect, became an important new part of their family with all the help they extended and all the love and appreciation they received back. Ludy and Pacy became famous for helping young Colby students, whom they allowed to purchase clothes on credit without interest at the start of their college career and pay when the students graduated or earned enough money. No student ever failed to come through. They became so popular in their town that a local restaurant named burgers after them-a Ludy Burger and a Pacy Burger. Their devotion to family was immense, and when they were in their mid to late 70s, they renovated and expanded the family's summer camp into a substantial cottage by a beautiful lake to maximize the extended family's incentive for getting together throughout the
summer -- a very creative act as keepers of the kin. Ludy would say, "if you want the family to get together, you need a place for it to happen, where they would want to be together". On every summer Sunday at the camp "the boys" would hold court for the local family, and every Fourth of July scores of family members and friends would come by to visit. "The boys" were also avid sports enthusiasts. They supported local little league and football teams, bought Colby its new baseball scoreboard and its new football scoreboard, as well as contributed extensively to its new track. The Colby faculty and students were very fond of these elder boys. They would let Pacy sit on the bench during the football games. But Pacy was so enthusiastic that he would often run down the sidelines often onto the field during the play of the game -- even in his late 80s -- so the coach always assigned one eager player to tactfully accompany Pacy and keep him from running onto the field and potentially getting run over by the opposing front line. By their 80s and 90s, a bench was placed in the store where they held their supreme court. Countless students, friends, and customers would come by to chat and seek their advice, sometimes even about clothes. This was social creativity in action. When each brother died, his funeral was in the chapel at Colby College. Both times the chapel was packed, and both times what brought spirit to your soul and tears to your eyes was when the entire football team solemnly walked in to respectfully take their seats and pay tribute to two men old enough to be their great grandfathers but ageless enough to be their buddies. In Erik Erickson's description of earlier life stages of development, he associates the relationship between elders and young people as a context for learning about trust, a fundamental piece of emotional development. Trust, he says, quoting from the Webster's dictionary of his era, is defined as "the assured reliance on another's integrity." Children of any age continue to look for that integrity in the older generation, and they are strengthened by it in profound ways, as Erickson saw it, when he said that "healthy children will not fear life if their elders have integrity enough not to fear death." Ludy and Pacy Levine, in their exercise of trust and creative responses throughout their lives, inspired young lives and engendered in those of all ages a feeling of shared purpose in community. The nature of their creativity changed as they developed new ways of expressing it throughout their lives, as young boys, as college students, as retailers and as kindly, supportive members of a community. But
their success in life through all those years rose from their ability to see things differently, think a different way and look for the potential in every encounter -- and every generation.

*From Gene Cohen’s book* The Creative Age: Awakening Human Potential In The Second Half Of Life, *published by Harper Collins. The book was featured on a one-hour special program by PBS.*
MY FRIENDS, TODAY WE MOURN THE LOSS OF A BELOVED MEMBER OF THE WATERVILLE COMMUNITY WHOSE LIFE CELEBRATED THE TALMUDIC DICTUM: GREET EACH PERSON WITH A CHEERFUL COUNTENANCE. IT WAS HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR LIVING THAT DISTINGUISHED PACY LEVINE AS YOU MET HIM ON THE STREET AND IN THE STORE, IN THE FAMILY CIRCLE AND ON THE PLAYING FIELD. HE ALWAYS SPOKE DIRECTLY TO YOU AND NOT AT YOU, AND HIS PROBING INTEREST IN YOU WAS ENTIRELY SINCERE. SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS INDEBTED TO PACY WHO TOOK HIM IN TOW AND TAUGHT HIM EVERYTHING ABOUT BUSINESS. HE WAS VERY GOOD-NATURED AND TREATED EVERYONE WITH RESPECT AND DECENCY. HIS FRIENDLINESS WAS INFECTIOUS.


PACY WAS A SUPER SALESMAN WHO BROUGHT LUSTER TO THE SUCCESS OF LEVINE’S THROUGH THE MANY YEARS OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUSINESS CLIMATE OF OUR CITY. HE WAS THAT KIND OF SALESMAN WHO COULD TAKE CHARGE OF THE CUSTOMER AND PERSUADE HIM TO LOOK BEYOND THE SINGLE SUIT TO THE PURCHASE OF THE ACCESSORIES THAT WOULD PRODUCE A COMPLETE OUTFIT. HE HAD FAITH IN HIMSELF, CONFIDENCE IN THE PRODUCT AND REGARD FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CONSUMER.

WHILE THE STORE CONTINUALLY HELD HIS ATTENTION, HE WAS ALSO OCCUPIED IN THE MANAGEMENT AND UPKEEP OF THE FAMILY PROPERTIES HE SUPERVISED. HE MISSED NO DETAILS OF THEIR OPERATION OR OF THE MAINTENANCE THEY DEMANDED.

OF COURSE, HIS AVOCAITION WAS SPORTS. EXCEPT FOR GOLF, HE WAS NOT A PLAYER. HE WAS A PROFESSIONAL SPECTATOR FULLY INVOLVED AND ENGROSSED IN THE WORLD OF ATHLETICS. HE WENT ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO OBSERVE THE BIG EVENTS AND WAS TRANSFIXED BY THE ACTION TRANSMITTED ON TELEVISION. FROM HIS EARLIEST YOUTH HE WAS A BOOSTER OF THE TEAMS OF THE SCHOOLS HE ATTENDED. AMONG THEM WERE COBURN CLASSICAL INSTITUTE AND COLBY COLLEGE FROM WHICH HE GRADUATED IN 1927. HE WAS A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER OF COLBY’S TEAMS TO WHEREVER THEY TRAVELED, WHETHER THEY WON OR LOST. WE ALL RECALL THE SIGHT OF LUDY AND PACY EXUBERANTLY GETTING ON THE FIELD DURING THE GAME. HIS LOYALTY TO THE COLLEGE WAS WITHOUT RESERVATION. IT IN TURN GAVE HIM THE RECOGNITION OF AN HONORARY DEGREE FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT PARTICIPATION IN THE GROWTH OF HIS ALMA MATER.
IN THE GENERAL COMMUNITY HE SUPPORTED GENEROUSLY ACTIVITIES WHICH
BENEFITED OUR YOUTH. THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, YOUTH ATHLETIC LEAGUE
TEAMS, AND THE YMCA HAVE GAINED MUCH FROM HIS INTEREST IN THEIR
MISSIONS.

THOMAS COLLEGE GRANTED HIM AN HONORARY DEGREE. THE HOSPITALS
WERE BENEFICIARIES OF HIS PHILANTHROPY.

WE AT BETH ISRAEL ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR HIS INTEREST IN THE
SYNAGOGUE. I CAN REMEMBER THE LATE AFTERNOON OF A DAY WHEN I WAS
STANDING WITH HIM AND LUDY OUTSIDE THE BUILDING WAITING FOR OTHERS
EXPECTED TO JOIN US IN A MEMORIAL SERVICE. PACY ASKED ME ABOUT THE
BUILDING'S CONDITION. I TOLD HIM THAT THE ROOF WAS LEAKING AND I WAS
SEEKING BIDS FROM CONTRACTORS TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE. HE LOOKED OVER
THE SITUATION AND DECIDED WE NEEDED A WHOLE NEW ROOF. HE SECURED
THE ROOFER AND SET THE FUND RAISING EFFORT IN MOTION. IT WAS ALL
ACCOMPLISHED WITH DISPATCH. HE HAS, OVER THE YEARS, GIVEN
GENEROSELY TO THE CAUSE OF OUR CONGREGATION.

I HAVE ONLY ALLUDED TO THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP HE AND LUDY ENJOYED.
THEY WERE NOT ONLY BROTHERS IN THE FLESH. THEY WERE UNIQUELY
BROTHERS IN THE SPIRIT, FULLY AT ONE WITH EACH OTHER AND FOR EACH
OTHER AND ALWAYS TOGETHER. THEIR ONENESS WAS REMARKABLE FOR THE
FACT THAT THEY COULD REACH OUTSIDE THEIR UNUSUAL CLOSENESS AND BE
OPEN TO ALL WHOM THEY ENCOUNTERED. LUDY WILL CHERISH THE MEMORY
OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP EVEN AS THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF PACY IS SADLY
MISSING.

BIBI WILL BE COMFORTED BY THE MEMORY OF THE MANY YEARS SHE KNEW
THIS AFFECTIONATE, KIND AND CONSIDERATE BROTHER.

HOWARD, WHO WAS WITH HIM THE DAY LONG IN THE STORE AND AT FAMILY
EVENTS, WILL BE FILLED WITH MEMORIES OF A GREAT GENTLE UNCLE WHO
TAUGHT HIM MUCH ABOUT BUSINESS AND ABOUT LIFE. THEY WERE UNITED BY
A SYMBIOSIS OF LIFE'S PURPOSE AND ITS EFFECTUATION.

GISELE, YOU AND HOWARD WERE CONTINUALLY IN ATTENDANCE ON PACY
DURING HIS ILLNESSES. YOU VALIANTLY, AND WITHOUT REGARD TO YOUR
OWN NEEDS, DID ALL THAT COULD BE DONE TO ASSURE HIS HEALING AND
RECOVERY DURING THOSE MANY MOMENTS OF CRISIS.

WE WILL ALL MISS PACY BUT THE MEMORY OF HIS CONGENIALITY AND THE
EXAMPLE OF HIS GOOD-WILL SHALL REMAIN WITH US AS AN INSPIRATION FOR
THE CONDUCT OF OUR OWN LIVES.

--
Growing Up
With Pacy

by Oren Shiro

As we go through life and enjoy its many benefits and blessings, challenges and opportunities, we cherish more and more those who have been constructive influences in helping us grow up. For me, Pacy Levine has been such a mentor and friend.

When I first came to Waterville at the age of eight, I met Pacy (fifteen years my senior) and a lifelong relationship began between us. He became the person I looked up to, the friend, the big brother who set the standards of quality upon which I have sought to gauge my own performance in life, from business to athletics. Of course, Pacy's older brother Ludy is also a dear friend and, in his own way, has been a marvelous influence in my life; but it has been Pacy, nearer my age than Ludy, who has been the predominant role model for me.

Pacy is the "still waters run deep" kind of man, who finds it difficult to express his emotions, including praise. He will always leave room for improvement. Rather than extol my performance in a game (and he was there at all my games through elementary school, high school, prep school and college), he would always have constructive criticism, some play I could have executed better or an opportunity I might have missed. He made me want to play better. If he had not instilled in my mind this margin for improvement, he would not have been the mentor he has been during my life. He inspired me to do the best I could. That standard has stuck with me, and I am enormously grateful for his caring.

Other instances of Pacy's wisdom have deeply touched my life and continue to guide my daily activities. Growing up, he never missed the opportunity to teach us the better way—how to keep our bodies strong through proper exercise and diet, how to keep our minds keen by positive thinking, and how to measure quality in hundreds of ways. And if he could use his own mistakes as examples, he never hesitated to share them so that we would be less apt to make similar errors.

Any achievements I have made in my life have been strongly facilitated by the thoughtful friendship and concern of Pacy Levine who continues as my big brother, my mentor, my standard of quality and its importance. I see him often, in the well-known Main Street Levine store in Waterville, as well as in his home for a good chat every Sunday morning. I continue to learn from him.

I want to grow up to be just like my cousin, Pacy Levine.

Oren Shiro is a 3 handicapper and a long time member of Waterville CC.
Two of Waterville’s top sportsmen, Pacy, left and Ludy Levine, right, purchase season tickets for Waterville High’s home hockey games this season. Presenting the tickets are Dudley Abbe, center left and Dave Atallah, both Panthers hockey players. (Sentinel Photo by Dick Maxwell)
January 15, 1993

Percy Levine
33 1/2 Ticonic Street
Waterville, ME 04901-5530

Dear Friend,

Thank you for becoming a Charter Member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and for your generous gift of $100. We are most grateful.

Your support comes at a critical time. Construction is well underway and the deadline for completion -- spring of 1993 -- is less than a year away.

We will keep you informed on our progress through our newsletter and other communications. Meanwhile, I have enclosed your personalized Charter Membership certificate. We hope that you will display it in a place where others may also be moved to support this cause.

Through your gift you have become a part of this historic endeavor. You are helping not only to build a museum, but also to carry the message of Remembrance to the next generation and to all the generations that follow -- so that none shall ever forget.

Again, our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,

Miles Lerman
National Campaign Chairman
June 27, 1989

Ludy and Pacy Levine
Levine's
Main Street
Waterville, Maine  04901

Dear Ludy and Pacy:

On behalf of the people of the State of Maine, please accept my congratulations and best wishes upon your being awarded the 1989 Distinguished Community Service Award by the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce. I am sorry that I am unable to be with you on this very special occasion.

Throughout the years, Levine's has been an invaluable member of the Mid-Maine business community. While providing quality service to the greater Waterville area, Levine's has also distinguished itself as an involved and committed member of the Waterville community. Your award is strong testimony of your sense of community and civic pride, and also your personal commitment to help other people. You have set a model for businesses throughout the State by your willingness to care and get involved with your community. For this, we are all grateful.

Again, on behalf of the people of Maine, please accept my congratulations on your being named the Distinguished Community Service Award. It is people like you that make Maine such a very special place to all of us.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

John R. McKernan, Jr.
Governor
June 19, 1989

Messrs. Ludy and Pacy Levine
31 Ticonic Street
Waterville, Maine  04901

Dear Ludy and Pacey:

I was delighted to learn you have been selected as the recipients of the Distinguished Community Service Award by the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations!

Your names have been added to the Distinguished Community Service Roll of Honor -- indeed a well deserved recognition for the valuable contribution which you have made and are making to the Waterville community.

Everyone is gathered this evening to say thank you, and I wanted to add my own thanks to theirs. I only regret I cannot be present to do it in person. Enjoy this evening and this special award. It is an honor you have earned many times over.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

George J. Mitchell
July 14, 1989

Lewis and Percy Levine
William Levine & Sons
19 Main Street
Waterville, ME 04901

Dear Ludy and Pacy:

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to both of you for receiving the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce.

Your dedication and commitment to the Waterville community and to your alma mater, Colby College, have been outstanding. Through choosing to run the nearly century-year-old family business, you have been instrumental in sustaining main street business in Waterville. Your enthusiasm for Colby College sports and its students have also been important to the community.

Your caring and excellent business professionalism have been great assets to the Waterville community. You should be proud of your many accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Brennan
Member of Congress

JEB:nd
June 28, 1989

Ludy and Pacy Levine
Levines
19 Main Street
Waterville, Maine 04901

Dear Ludy and Pacy,

Congratulations on being the recipients of the 26th Annual Distinguished Service Award. You are the epitome of civic pride and involvement. We all respect you and are proud to know you. Our family has a special fondness for the Levines and all it means. Levines is synonymous with Waterville.

Continue your good works, knowing that your good deeds do not go unnoticed. These same good works continue to endear you to all the Waterville, Colby and Maine community. Thank you.

My best regards,

Sincerely,

Ruth Joseph
State Representative

District 98 Part of Waterville