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Evelyn Levine Gold Scrapbook

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Evelyn Mae Levine Gold April 11, 1907 - February 6, 1957

EVELYN MAE LEVINE GOLD

Born: April 11, 1907.... Died: February 6, 1957

SARA MILLER ARNON ON GREAT AUNT EVELYN:

As a child growing up with everyone on Ticonic Street, I don't remember exactly when Aunt Evelyn returned to the house--after what I learned many years later was a disastrous marriage to an abusive alcoholic. I lived there from 1945 to 1954. We had moved to Johnson Heights by the time Julie was born in December, 1954. Anyhow, dinner was a loud and happy time every day with The Boys, my dad and mom, and Nana and Aunt Evelyn. What I thought was really cool about Aunt Evelyn was she liked to sleep late---Ludy and Nana and my parents were up early and busy early----but Pacy got up later (he had what they called a delicate stomach--probably too late out with the women in those days!!) And, Aunt Evelyn got up late and didn't get dressed right away--she came down stairs in her robe and hung out and talked for a long time--this drove my Nana crazy--"Evelyn, get dressed already!!" In those days I went to Brook Street School and walked home for lunch every day and Evelyn was holding court in her bathrobe in the den with her sisters--Aunt Bibby visited alot too. Now, for all I know they may have been helping her through a difficult divorce and time in her life, but from a child's perspective, I just remember that she made them laugh alot. And, my mother adored her and together thev qo antiquing in Oakland, Fairfield--wherever. would Interestingly enough, I remember my Nana and my mother preparing for dinner every day, but I don't ever remember Aunt Evelyn cooking--just talking and laughing!!! She was spunky!!!

TEMA CUSHNER AND SARA LEE BLOOM ON AUNT EVELYN (AS TOLD TO ERIC):

Aunt Evelyn was different from anyone in the family. She had a wonderful sense of humor and spoke her mind. If she did not like what someone said or did not like a person, she would tell them to " piss up a rope." When it came to her family, there was nothing else in life. She loved each of her nieces and nephews as if they were her children and when you were alone with her, you felt special. She had a special bond with each of her siblings.

WENDY MILLER ON GREAT AUNT EVELYN:

I lived on Ticonic Street until I was 4 years old. I remember very little in "story" from that time, but a great deal in "feeling tone." I remember eating breakfast twice – once with Nana, my sister Sara, mom or dad and then again with uncle Pacy. As Sara wrote, he slept late which in that house probably meant til 8:30 or 9 o'clock since uncle Ludy awoke at 5! Uncle Pacy always had a small shallow bowl of stewed prunes with his toast. Yuk, I thought then! I remember the den really well -- sitting in a big chair on the side of the room on aunt Evelyn's lap – leaning against the pillow of her large chest. She totally adored me, and now, as a mom and a stepgrandmother, I can imagine what it was like – everyone else went off to work, Sara went off to elementary school, the elder sisters were with their own families – I was the toddler in the house with my mother. Aunt Evelyn would come for walks with us, pushing me in the stroller on Main St or around the neighborhood. Mom told me years later that aunt Evelyn told her she wanted to adopt me. Mom said, "But Evelyn, you already have her." As an adult now, I think about what that might have been like for her, home from a divorce, in her fifties and perhaps regretting that she didn't have a child of her own. And there I was, everyday playing in the house.

I was six years old when aunt Evelyn died. I believe she died in the hospital in Boston, but maybe I am wrong. I remember the day though because I was sent to school anyway. I did not really know what "died" meant but everyone was very sad. I sat against a tree in the yard of the school playground because I didn't want to come home on Ticonic St. At that time, family seemed to think it best to shield children from death and not take them to the funeral or the memorial service. Maybe that is why I was in school.

Home, on Johnson Heights, I told my mother that aunt Evelyn came to me in my room at night and sat on the end of my bed to talk with me. She told me that she would always look after me, like my own special angel, and that I could call out to her whenever I needed. I guess that was my way of telling my mother that I was talking to my aunt. Years later, when I was trying to become a mother, and went through miscarriages and fertility treatments, I "felt" the presence of aunt Evelyn as I knew how deeply she had wanted to be a mother. I named Eliana after aunt Evelyn, and her middle name after my nana Frieda.

JULIE MILLER SOROS ON GREAT AUNT EVELYN:

I remember hearing about how Aunt Evelyn always did whatever she wanted to do. She hated to wash dishes or to clean anything so she would throw the dishes into the lake after they were used or dirty. My father loved telling us that story.

I also remember hearing about how much Aunt Evelyn loved children and how she always wanted a child. She wanted a child so badly and she adored Wendy so much that she asked my mother and father if she could please adopt her because they had two other children anyway, and they would always still get to be with her, but she would become Wendy's mother.

MORTY BLOOM ON AUNT EVELYN:

I loved Evelyn's personality. What a sense of humer. She was a a lot of fun! You could kid her and she would laugh. She spoke her mind.

TEMA CUSHNER ON AUNT EVELYN (AS TOLD TO ERIC BLOOM):

My Mom told me that when I was born, besides my dad, Aunt Evelyn was the first person in the Levine family to see me. I felt so loved by Evelyn. You know, mom & dad did not name me for six months. I was just called baby. Evelyn was also called baby. Finally, mom & dad decided on Tema which was Esther's mother's name, but I am really named for Uncle Teddy.

A STORY ABOUT AUNT EVELYN AND DODO, HER SCOTTY DOG, BY SARA LEE BLOOM AS TOLD TO ERIC:

Evelyn once lost Dodo for two days. She was devastated because Dodo was like her baby; she made all Dodo's food from scratch; no canned stuff, here! Dodo had lived with her in New York and when Evelyn moved back to Waterville, Dodo came with her. At the time, Sara Lee, who was 12, was visiting from Boston. Sara Lee had a mission to find Dodo. She was, also, attached to that dog, because whenever Evelyn came to Brookline, Dodo came with her, for weeks at a time. Sara Lee, for two days, went all over the "NORTH END" looking for little Dodo....Ticonic St,.... Maple St,.... Brooks St,.... Kelsey St,.... Ash St,....Edwards St..., College Ave,.... Main, St, etc! Finally, Sara Lee went up to the "Old Boat and Canoe Factory" located at the corner of Ticonic & Chaplin Streets and heard a dog whimpering. Behind the factory and caught under some railroad ties lay Evelyn's beloved "DODO". Sara Lee was able to free Dodo from the ties, and brought her right home to her Aunt Evelyn, who hugged and kissed Dodo and Sara Lee.

ERIC BLOOM ON EVELYN'S NAME etc.: We always thought Evelyn's middle name was Lucille. Her middle name was "Mae." A picture from her High School year book says Evelyn Mae! I'm named after Evelyn, so I think I'll make up that Eric Lloyd Bloom stands for Evelyn Levine. Evelyn's Hebrew name was Rivka. Her marriage date was August 10, 1938. Also, I was curious to know where Aunt Evelyn lived when she attended Emerson College, so we asked Glenyce. Evelyn lived with my Nana & Papa.

Then, I had contacted The Emerson College Achieves to find out if it had Evelyn's birth date. The lady I spoke with was quite nice, but there was no birth date. Also, Emerson's records show that Evelyn was from Maine and that she was a freshman in 1927. After 1927, there were no records. She would have graduated in 1931. Maybe she dropped out? What did she do between 1928 and 1938, which is the year she got married? She was not in any of the yearbooks. Did she help with the rents, work in the store, visit her sisters in Brooklyn and Brookline? I have said it before: *Inquiring minds want to know.*

The archivist of Emerson College called and said September of 1926 Aunt Evelyn entered Emerson as a freshman; she finished her entire freshman year. In 1927, Aunt Evelyn entered her third semester as a sophomore, received bad grades, and dropped out of Emerson. Attached you will find interesting information that the archivist sent on Coburn Classical Institute

RESPONSES TO THIS INFORMATION FROM SARA: What does Sara Lee say? We'll have to ask Aunt Glenyce at the reunion. I bet she stayed in Boston and dated; maybe went to New York to visit Ann & George and dated. Single women didn't just live on their own and work--she must have been with family, but for 10 years? If she pulled off being cared for by family, no rent to pay, living and dating in the city for all that time, she was definitely the ultimate Jewish American Princess---perhaps Queen!!!!! **RESPONSES TO THIS INFORMATION FROM JULIE: DEFINITELY, a QUEEN.** I would have loved to live rent free and expense free for 10 years!!!!!!! I'd still like to do that one - anyone ready to take me in for free?

Being Childless in the Levine Family

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Obviously there are enough people with children to insure that the family continues. But what about those of us without children? Who speaks for us? What is our place in this family?

There are many of us without our own children. From the elder generation: Uncles Ludy and Pacy, and Aunt Evelyn. Harold Wolfe from my mother's generation. From my generation: me, Larry and Eric Bloom, Bobby Schutzer. I won't go down a generation because those in that generation are still young enough to have their own families. But when you look at this, one factor becomes clear—the majority of us are male. I guess this should have been obvious to me. After all, women are the ones to get pregnant and bear the children. But some of us don't.

I don't think anyone starts out wishing not to have their own family. I think this happens because of decisions we make—or don't make; relationships that happen—or don't happen. Timing. Circumstances. Health. Fear and doubt. Some or all of the above. We miss a lot, not having children. We miss the sense of having someone of your own. Sure, we can be great aunts and uncles—and I think people in our family are truly wonderful aunts and uncles. There are those in the family, specifically Ludy and Pacy, who played a critical part in keeping the structure of the family together. But we don't tuck the kids in at night. We don't go to parent-teacher conferences. We don't balance the multiple responsibilities of working, parenting and trying to fit in and grow an adult relationship.

Which brings me to the elder generation and the idea that, as Hilary says, it takes a village to raise a child. When Frieda got divorced, Ludy and Pacy stepped into the role of father for Glenyce and Howard. So in a sense, they got to have the day to day experience of having children. They also had the store, and with great generosity of heart, served as temporary fathers to generations of Colby boys. But sometimes I wonder: Did they ever, as they went to sleep beside each other in those single beds, wish things had been different? We'd like to think not—but I don't know. We're so committed to seeing them as the founding fathers, the stalwarts of the family that I wonder if we ever acknowledged that there might have been some regrets, some pain at not having had their own.

We know Aunt Evelyn wished she had her own family. They used to tell us that Evelyn should never have married, she loved her family too much. I wonder if that was true. I wonder if she and Nana Frieda sat down on the beds in the pink room and talked about how divorce sucked, and how Evelyn would have been a wonderful mother and deserved her own family. Evelyn didn't have the resources that Ludy and Pacy did—socially or financially. Did they ever complain that it wasn't fair? Or did they focus on the day to day tasks of coping with multiple generations living under one roof? Who was going to go grocery shopping and who would be home for Glenyce and Howard when they came home from school? Who would take William Levine to the doctor? I think they had so much to deal with running the house and caring for the extended family that the types of questions I've asked myself and that I'd like to have asked them may never have reached consciousness. These questions have to do with pain, deprivation, and feeling less than. In our family, these issues weren't talked about. If they were touched on, it was briefly, lightly and then get back to the business of living.

Ludy, Pacy and Evelyn coped brilliantly with their somewhat unusual lives. And they did this by creating crucial, ongoing, thriving and important relationships with their sibs, parents, and extended family. But this was not without (what I imagine) pain and loss of their personal dreams. So I want to acknowledge their pain and disappointment as well as their contributions to the greater good of the family. In the end, they were loved, respected and remembered as valued family members.











COBURN CLASSICAL INSTITUTE

OREW T. HARTHORN. PRINCIPAL

Ave. 21, 1925

To whom it may concern:-

This is to certify that Eveline Levine was

graduated from this school in June 1925. She successfully completed

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This blank must be accompanied by fifteen dollars application fee for boarding students (catalogue, page 37) or five dollars for day students (catalogue, page 35).

It is understood that application for admission includes application for dormitory reservation, except in the case of day students who live at home or with immediate relatives. This application must be signed by the parent or guardian and the signing is considered an acceptance of the terms of payment of tuition and dormitory obligations as set forth in the catalogue of the college.

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Evelyn Levine Gold's Legacy:

• Eric Lloyd Bloom, great nephew of Evelyn Levine Gold, grandson of Bessie "Betty" Levine Kaplan

• Emily Pearl, great niece of Evelyn Levine Gold, granddaughter of Dorothy "Bibby" Levine Alfond

• Eliana Frey Miller-Cohen, great great niece of Evelyn Levine Gold, great granddaughter of Frieda Levine Miller