



JOSEPH LEWIS BORNSTEIN (1946 – 2020)

This year's Maine Jewish Film Festival is dedicated to Joe Bornstein. Joe passed away October 1st at the age of 74, leaving a lifetime of commitment to his home state as his legacy. A native of Portland, Joe lived his life to the fullest. A true mensch, Joe was man of integrity and honor, and a true friend to the Maine Jewish Film Festival.

Joe's dedication to Tzedakah filled his heart and his devotion was practiced both personally and through his law firm. Never one to seek acknowledgement, his generosity impacted thousands of Mainers throughout the state including the Jewish community.

One of the originals in the Old Port long before its stature of today, Joe started his firm in a one-room office where he worked and lived with his cat in 1974. Forty-seven years later, the Law Offices of Joe Bornstein has grown into a statewide practice with seven offices – including his flagship on Moulton Street in Portland - that has represented more than 25,000 injured and disabled Mainers.

Having watched his father work tirelessly as an electrician to support his family, Joe began representing injured workers who needed a legal advocate. Offering Mainers access to justice and educating them on their legal rights was a point of pride to Joe. His groundbreaking advertising helped make him a household name, but for those who knew him, he was simply "Joe."

His law firm's Arrive Alive Creative Contest helps educate teenagers about the dangers of distracted driving during their most formative driving years. And for the past 10 years, CALL JOE has flashed high over downtown Portland from the historic Time and Temperature sign, which the firm has donated more than 300 times.

Joe's love of family and community are what fueled his passion for life and his efforts for those who need a helping hand. The board of the Maine Jewish Film Festival was honored to call Joe a friend. His generosity allows us to present our Disability Programming with sponsorship by the Cromwell Center for Disabilities Awareness, of which he was a board member.

So this festival is for you Joe.....and, in your words we truly believe "the best is yet to come."
Zichrono l'vracha – may Joe's memory be for a blessing.