



## DAVID L. LEVINE

January 11, 1935 - December 28, 2017

David Lee Levine, of Kansas City, died peacefully on December 28, 2017. He was 82.

David was born January 11, 1935 at St. Mary's hospital, the middle child of William and Minnie (Osadchy) Levine. He grew up on Benton Boulevard on Kansas City's east side before moving to the Waldo area, where he lived throughout his life.

David attended Paseo High School, and at the time played basketball in the Aleph Zadik Aleph youth group. He jumped center for his team. He earned a white belt in Judo, and was generally involved in athletics. Throughout his life, he was an avid sports fan. He listened to the Kansas City Royals games on the radio with religious regularity despite the team's often lacklustre performance.

From a young age, movies and cinema enthralled David - particularly westerns. He became a quick and dedicated fan of Gene Autry, the "singing cowboy" of movies and radio, whom he had the opportunity to meet and shake hands with during Autry's appearance at the Fox Tower Theater. David's fandom of Gene Autry would not abate; he would often sing along to his extensive collection of Autry's records and recounted Autry's movies late into his life.

David grew to be a fan of the movies generally. His desk at home was often strewn with video tapes packed with Golden Era Hollywood classics and thick, moderately outdated film encyclopedias, from which he would compile quizzes about movies from the era. Indeed, his knowledge of film was encyclopedic. There were few Golden Era movie questions that could stump him; he could name every Best Picture winner, every Best Actor and Actress.

After high school he worked odd jobs until starting his company, the David Levine Drive-Away Service, which he owned and operated for 25 years transporting cars and trucks to dealerships across the Midwest. He retired in 2005.

But David was, above all else, a storyteller. Here are some of his stories:

Sure, he knew Judo. He didn't want to use it, but he would if he had to! He's had to rough a couple of guys up. He's not going to let anyone put their hands on him. One time, an older guy was messing with his younger brother, so he had to step in. He was a bigger guy, had apples on his arms, but David said: Hey buddy, you're not going put your hands on a kid! And that was that. Sometimes people would say he held a black belt in Judo, but no, he was just a white belt.

He didn't know why bicycles had so many gears nowadays. Back in his day, he'd pump his bicycle up and down hills all over town, delivering Guys potato chips. That's how he got those muscles here, you see those? Man, he could ride all over.

He could tell you everything you wanted to know about the movies. You know who won the first Academy Award for Best Picture? Do you? It was Wings. Some people thought it was Seventh Heaven, but no, it was Wings. He's still working on his quiz book, you know. He's got 50 quizzes! The man from the Kansas City Star once said he was interested in his quizzes, so we'll see what happens.

Did you know that his grandfather, Papa Louie, came to America with seven dollars in his pocket? He made a good life for himself, Papa Louie. Opened a Kosher butcher, one of the first in Kansas City. That's how you do it. Boy, he was smart! Hard worker. That's how you get ahead.

Those were a few of the stories. There were plenty more. But they all transmitted a singular truth about who David was, through and through: hopeful, jovial, kind, funny. He never met a stranger. He didn't always know exactly when to be quiet. Now, of course, we all wish we could hear his voice again.

He is survived by his sister, Adelle Matzdorff, and his brother, Michael. He will be missed by his nieces, Lisa Levine and Carolyn Linck; his great-nephew, Ron Knox (and his wife, Natalie Patrick-Knox); and his great-great nephew, Isaac Knox, all of whom he doted on and loved dearly. And the many friends and acquaintances he regaled with stories over the years.

Funeral services will be Sunday, December 31, 2017 at The Louis Memorial Chapel, 6830 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO with burial following at Sheffield Cemetery.

# Events

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**DEC**   **Shiva**   05:00PM

**31**

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Kehilath Israel Synagogue

10501 Conser, Overland Park, KS, US

# Comments

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“ David Levine and I started kindergarten the same day on Jan, 1940 at Sanford B Ladd School. He was reluctant to leave his mom, as I recall,, but Miss Allen and Miss Bilsky assured him all would be well and he quit crying and joined the rest of the kids. From then on he was just one of a group of happy 5 years olds.

David wasn't in my first grade class, and then I lost track of him. However, I do recall that you lived in a nice house on Benton Boulevard which I would note on my way to shut at 43rd & Prospect, and recall it was David's house.

He obviously made a happy and meaningful life for himself filled with the love and support of his devoted family.

May you find comfort and solace in your loss.

Sarah Kraft Small

Deerfield, IL

**Sarah Kraft Small** - December 31, 2017 at 10:17 AM

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“ Mike,  
We are sorry for your loss. You were always there for your brother and he is now smiling down on you. May the memories bring you peace.

Mark, Kyle, Dan and Paula



**Paula Weisner** - December 29, 2017 at 03:26 PM