

## **Lucien & Rose Anne Burstein – a brief biography**

Roseanne Burstein (known to her close friends as Pony) was born May 3, 1922 in New York City. She was the only child of Moses and Myrille Kornblum. “Moe” was an engaging, upbeat salesman for a number of firms, with a love of autos. Myrille worked as a nutritionist for part of Roseanne’s childhood. Although the Kornblum family was plagued by the economic uncertainty of the time, Pony did some traveling and had a good education at Brearley. She also absorbed the family values of progressive politics and hard work.

Luce was born on May 28, 1922 in Romania during his family’s exit from post-Revolutionary Russia. His mother, Yetta, was a dentist and his father, Maurice, was an accountant. His father worked multiple jobs to support his wife and son after they got to America. From his father, Luce acquired a very strong work ethic and good business acumen. From his mother, Luce absorbed a love of beauty, art and culture. The extended Burstein clan was close and was active in the émigré community.

Luce and Pony met briefly in their senior year in high school, but encountered each other more significantly in their freshman year in college. At that time, Luce was attending Oberlin and Pony was at University of Michigan. They conspired to both transfer to Olivet College where they were immersed in an influential world of words, ideas and political thought. They met professors who had profound effects on their life together. On graduation, Luce prepared to enter the military; he and Pony married when Luce came back from basic training. Luce spent the remainder of the war in the Army Air Corps in Guam; Pony went to Washington, DC doing economic research on Japan.

After the war, Pony and Luce used the GI Bill to attend Yale. Luce got his law degree and Pony a Masters in Political Science. Luce eventually settled at a law firm where he became a partner. Pony had Barton in 1952. In time, she enrolled him at the best preschool in the Westchester area at Sarah Lawrence College. This location led her to a part-time job and, eventually, the position as head librarian that she held until 1987. She also had Emily in 1957 and Daniel in 1959. She continued to work in the Sarah Lawrence Library, eventually completing a Masters in Library Science at Columbia University.

Luce was a very skilled lawyer in the area of commercial law, especially real estate. His shrewdness, interest in and care of clients earned him the respect of many, and he became not only a business lawyer, but also a personal lawyer to some clients and their estates. In her professional life, Pony brought her lively intellect to the challenge of “match(ing) intellectual resources with users” in the words of one colleague. In this she succeeded wildly. Her other major achievement at Sarah Lawrence was in shepherding the construction of a new library facility, sculpting the spaces to match the mission of the institution.

The Bursteins knit themselves into the fabric of their friends, neighbors, and extended family. Their warmth, lively conversation and obvious caring endeared them to a wide circle of people. They built a vacation home in central Vermont, and enjoyed many weeks there, both summer and winter. They enjoyed traveling, seeing China in the early 80s and Russia just after the ending of the Soviet Union. They knew Europe well and enjoyed Renaissance art and architecture. They were frequent visitors to the opera, ballet and orchestra, and very few museums escaped their notice.

After Pony’s retirement from Sarah Lawrence, although Luce continued to work, they were able to visit their three children and seven grandchildren frequently. In 2002, they became snowbirds and joined a Davis retirement community, as Pony had trouble with New York winters. In 2010, they left New York permanently for Davis. Pony died in March of 2012, of heart failure. Luce died in August 2012, of complications from a medical procedure. They leave 3 children: Barton of Palo Alto CA, Emily of Davis CA and Daniel of New Hope, PA, and 7 grandchildren, Justin Burstein, Katie Burstein, Elle Burstein, Ali Burstein, Jake Bartolic, Noah Bartolic and Anya Burstein.