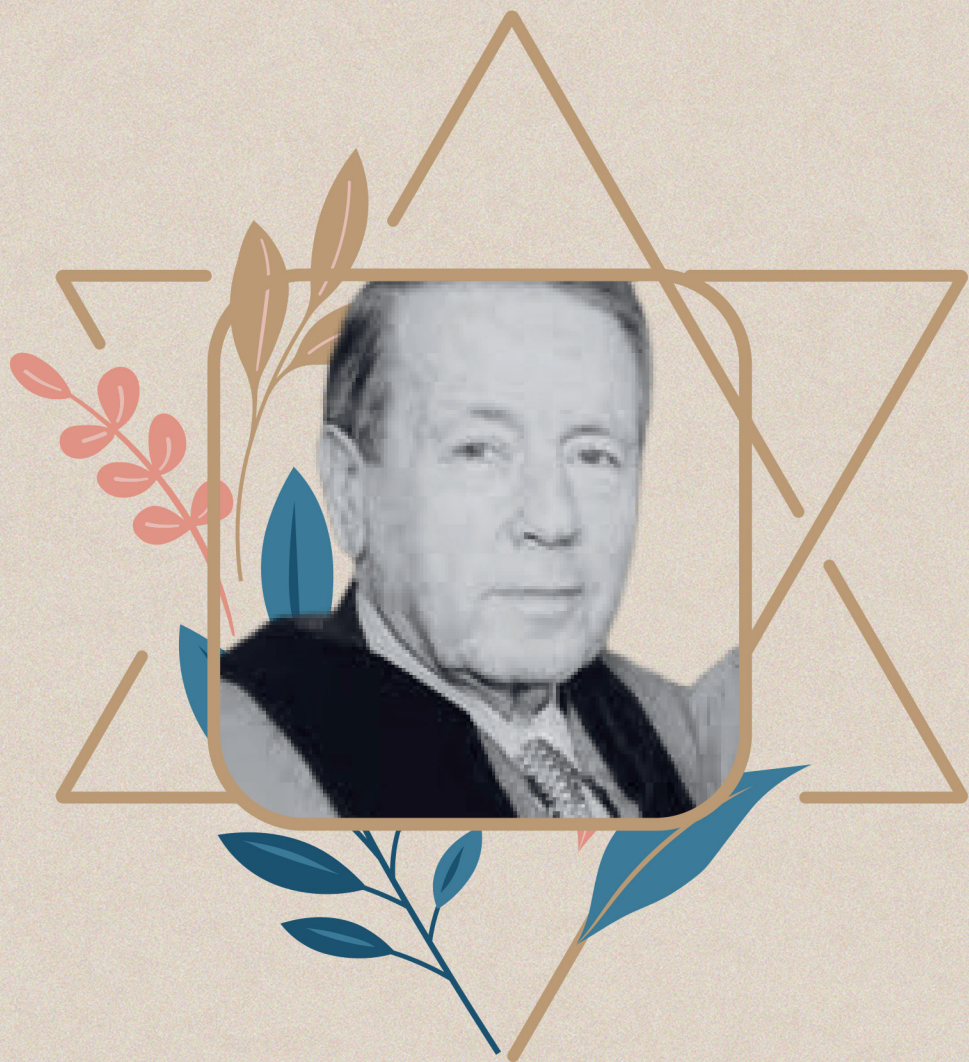

LEONARD FLORENCE

HARD WORK PROFOUND GENEROSITY BUSINESS SAVVY



EARLY LIFE

Famous for his energy and charity, Leonard Florence lived a life that included in equal measure hard work, business savvy, and profound generosity.

Florence grew up in Chelsea, one of eight children born to Russian Jewish immigrants. While working in a jewelry store, he met silver entrepreneur Dewey Stone, who was so impressed by the young man that he eventually offered to pay his way through BU. Stone agreed to underwrite Florence's college expenses on the condition that he stop working and concentrate on the books.

BUSINESS

The kindness and philosophy of his mentor significantly influenced Florence. **In a 2003 interview with Hebrew Today, he recalled, "Dewey enabled me to become a millionaire by the time I was 30. He also said if you make it, you have to share it."**

After graduating from the School of Management in 1954, Florence helped Stone revive his struggling silver business. He then formed his own company, Leonard Silver, which he later merged with Towle, one of the oldest American companies in the silver industry. In 1982, the Wall Street Journal described Florence as the "king of sterling."

LEGACY

In 1993, Pope John Paul II appointed Florence to the Order of the Knights of St. Gregory the Great, which recognizes individuals, regardless of faith, who distinguish themselves for notable accomplishments on behalf of society. **A decade earlier, the Temple Emmanuel Brotherhood honored Leonard Florence with a Man-of-the-Year breakfast.**

**JEWISH
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SOURCE: BU TODAY, JOHN THOMPSON, JULY 5, 2006