Steve Rosenberg's Story of Murray & Eddie's Deli

Steve Rosenberg's tribute to Murray & Eddie's Delicatessen in Chelsea is one of the most personal and heartfelt pieces in his book *Middle Class Heroes: Voices from Boston's Suburbs*. The story is deeply tied to his own family history and the immigrant legacy of Chelsea.

Rosenberg's father, Sam Rosenberg, was the owner of Murray & Eddie's Delicatessen on Broadway in downtown Chelsea. Sam, an immigrant from Lithuania who arrived in the U.S. as a child in the 1920s, grew up in difficult circumstances but became a devoted advocate for middle-class values, especially family. Murray & Eddie's was more than a business; it was a community hub where Rosenberg worked as a youth, absorbing the rhythms of Jewish life in Chelsea during its "Little Jerusalem" era.

In the book, Rosenberg recounts the deli's role in the neighborhood, its connection to the broader Jewish immigrant community, and the personal lessons he learned from his father. The essay, titled *"The Tao of Potato Salad"*, blends nostalgia with cultural reflection, celebrating the food, traditions, and values that defined the deli

and the families who ran it. It's a tribute not just to the business, but to the immigrant dream, hard work, and the enduring importance of family in shaping a middle-class life.

Rosenberg's own family connection to Murray & Eddie's is also honored in the *Jewish Journal*'s "Mensches" awards, where he is recognized alongside other Chelsea community leaders for their volunteerism and philanthropy. This underscores how the deli's legacy extends beyond its walls; it was a symbol of resilience, community, and the values that sustained generations.

In short, Rosenberg's story of Murray & Eddie's is both a personal memoir and a cultural document, capturing the spirit of Chelsea's Jewish community and the enduring influence of immigrant entrepreneurship in shaping the Greater Boston region.

Sources: Lynn Journal.com, www.discoverchelseama.com, Chelsea Record