

Joe Dyro, August 19, 2014

Betsy and I were driving from Ocean Grove, NJ to our house in Setauket when Betsy mentioned that she thought pachysandras would make a good ground cover around our house.

I told her about the time Joel put all of us to work planting pachysandras around the newly constructed facility in Plymouth Meeting. Probably one of the most productive uses of the talented engineers and scientists Joel had amassed. Joel was quick to do what was right and expedient while crashing through the musty walls of convention.

I mused to Betsy about what life would have been like had I stayed at ECRI and how I would do competing against Joel in the "wheelchair races." We fellow workers in the 70's joked about an imagined Joel vision of a retirement community of loyal employees who, to pass their time, would participate in wheelchair races and other fun activities.

Ironic, coincidence? I prefer to think of this evening's musings as a brief whiff of the spirit of God that in some way made me aware of the respect I owe to the invaluable encouragement to excel in finding the truth inculcated in me by my boss, Joel Nobel.

Joel said, "If you don't know the answer to a question, say that you don't know but you'll find out the answer." This and many more guiding principles have enriched my life.

The morning I returned to work after the funeral of my father in 1974, Joel sat beside me at my desk, offered his condolences and shared his thoughts on memories of the death of his father and the importance of persistent memory of those we love. Whenever I see a schefflera plant I think of the kindness of Joel and the ECRI crew who sent one to my mother as a token of their sympathy.