



PECONIC LAND TRUST

Quail Hill Farm

Community Supported Agriculture

Dear Farm Members:

Years spent in careful attention to poetry and farming could never prepare me for this moment, and I am feeling emptied, as if the Milky Way, alive with stars, quit for one night. Josh Levine, son, father, husband, farm worker, lover of plants and people, creative entrepreneur, officially our Quail Hill Farm Market Manager, died in a tragic accident, on Tuesday, just before noon, while going about a daily task on our community farm. We loved him -- he was full of spirit and sparky intelligence and good will and a measured passion for ecological farming and the essential conservation land ethic that is our mission. We at the Trust and the Community Farm pledge to respect and renew our collective commitment to the preservation of land and to growing good food.

Josh found us and found himself fulfilled in our daily work, and in the friendship he found as part of our farm community and our fertile Amagansett land. It is inconceivable that he, with such promise and dedicated practice, could leave us in an instant. But he did; and I am left with an image of his dignity toward renewing the earth -- he was passionate and curious about seeds, children, man and wife, the relations of things, the market, a rally handsome bunch of Lacinato kale, Shimmonita onions, or Bight Lights swiss chard.

We are all incredulous -- Ann, his wife, three and half year old Willa, full of delight, beautiful Ezra, born this year on the fourth of May, his parents, Myron and Susan, his brother, Noah, Ann's parents, George and Susan, her sisters, Betsy and Kathy, and our community here at the Trust and Quail Hill Farm. We ask now for the support of those who knew and loved Josh too, you, members of our community farm.

Friends and family are staying with Josh's body at O'Connell Funeral Home, 30 Little Plains Road, Southampton, 283-0098, day and night, until the funeral, noon on Friday, December 3, at Temple Adas Israel, 30 Atlantic Avenue, in Sag Harbor. Josh will be buried at the Jewish Cemetery, Route 114, Sag Harbor, following the funeral service.

No one, not a person or thought or thing or expression of our imagination will replace Josh. We thank him for the gift of life he shared with us:

"His memories lived in the place

like fingers locked in the rock ledges
like roots. When he died
and his influence entered the air
I said, Let my mind be the earth
of his thought, let his kindness
go ahead of me....."

(from "A Praise," by Wendell Berry)

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Scott Chaskey