



Josefina Margarita Lora-Perdomo

August 18, 1944 - May 10, 2020

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Josefina “Jo” Lora-Perdomo, daughter of the late Nini Pimentel and Amilcar Lora, was born, raised and educated in the Dominican Republic. She spent much of her adulthood as a resident of New York City. Bilingual with a passion for reading, opera, theater, travel, gardening and cooking, Jo was deeply religious and wonderfully outspoken. She enjoyed her adopted borough of Manhattan tremendously; it was a source of endless adventures. She spent most of her professional career as an executive assistant with major companies including Gulf & Western and American Express as well as the law firms of Willkie Farr & Gallagher and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. While New York was a special place providing her with unlimited opportunities to explore and enjoy, her heart belonged to the Dominican Republic. The people, places and culture of the Dominican Republic nurtured her throughout her lifetime, and her many friends outside of the Dominican Republic learned of its magic through her stories, pictures and cooking. Exuberant and joyful, generous and playful, Jo had a life filled with the deep care and love of her family and friends. Her circle of family and friends was wide, spread over many states and countries. She was “Tia Fifi” to multiple generations of children and pets. She was so enthusiastic, charming and welcoming that people that she met quickly became friends and then family, including the devoted health care workers who helped make the last years of her life a time of kindness and compassion. Josefina Lora-Perdomo is survived by multiple siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends located across the globe, especially in the Dominican Republic. A celebration of her life will be scheduled at a time when it is possible to get together in person and collectively share our good fortune, prayers and blessings to have known such a wonderful person. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the causes that were close to Jo’s heart: children (Save the Children - <https://www.savethechildren.org/>), the elderly (CityMeals on Wheels - <https://www.citymeals.org/>) and the care of those afflicted with cancer (Memorial Sloan Kettering- <https://www.mskcc.org/>).

Josefina Margarita Lora-Perdomo Agosto 18, 1944 – Mayo 10, 2020

Josefina “Jo” Lora- Perdomo, hija de los difuntos Nini Pimentel y Amilcar Lora, nació,

creció y se educó en la República Dominicana. Pasó gran parte de su edad adulta como residente de la ciudad de Nueva York. Bilingüe, con pasión por la lectura, la ópera, el teatro, los viajes, la jardinería y la cocina, Jo era profundamente religiosa y maravillosamente extrovertida. Ella disfrutaba a plenitud de su ciudad adoptiva de Manhattan; fue una fuente de aventuras sin fin. Pasó la mayor parte de su carrera profesional como asistente ejecutiva en importantes empresas, incluidas Gulf & Western y American Express, así como en los bufetes de abogados de Willkie Farr & Gallagher y Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. Si bien Nueva York era un lugar especial que le brindaba oportunidades ilimitadas para explorar y disfrutar, su corazón pertenecía a la República Dominicana. La gente, los lugares y la cultura de la República Dominicana la nutrieron durante toda su vida, y sus innumerables amigos fuera de la República Dominicana aprendieron de su magia a través de sus historias, fotos y cocina. Exuberante y alegre, generosa y juguetona, Jo tuvo una vida llena de profunda solidaridad y amor con su familia y amigos. Su círculo de familiares y amigos era amplio, extendido por muchos estados y países. Ella era la "Tia Fifi" para múltiples generaciones de niños y mascotas. Era tan entusiasta, encantadora y acogedora que las personas que conoció rápidamente se hicieron amigas y luego se convertían en familia, incluidos los dedicados trabajadores de la salud que ayudaron a hacer de los últimos años de su vida un tiempo de amabilidad y compasión. Josefina Lora-Perdomo le sobreviven múltiples hermanos, hermanas, sobrinas, sobrinos, primos y amigos ubicados por todo el mundo, especialmente en la República Dominicana. Se programará una celebración de su vida en un momento en que sea posible reunirnos en persona y compartir colectivamente nuestra buena fortuna, oraciones y bendiciones por haber conocido a una persona tan maravillosa. En lugar de flores, por favor considere una donación para las causas cercanas al corazón de Jo: niños (Save the Children - <https://www.savethechildren.org/>), los ancianos (CityMeals on Wheels - <https://www.citymeals.org/>) y el cuidado de las personas afectadas por el cáncer (Memorial Sloan Kettering- <https://www.mskcc.org/>).

Cemetery

Cementerio Cristo Redentor Sto. Dom

Comments



“ I’m lucky to have worked alongside Jo - she would always check in on people and make sure they were doing okay and her warm spirit made it a more pleasant place to be. She also became a friend who was always supportive, who would come see shows I was in...even after she left our office, we’d cross paths in the city and share a laugh. And she always made clear her love of the DR and her roots. Rest In Peace friend!

Chris Wight - June 04, 2020 at 01:48 PM



“ Thank you for sharing such a beautiful memories with Jo!!

Otilia Josefina Lora (sister) - June 12, 2020 at 06:30 PM



“ Jo was a beautiful soul with a shining smile and spirit that filled every room she entered. Although we only knew Jo from social gatherings we attended annually, we felt a warmth and comfort that emanated from her that made us feel as if we had known her always—this was the gift of her generous heart. The depth of her spirituality was evident through this kindness and caring that she shared with everyone so graciously. It was an overflowing of love, and grace, and kindness that will stay with us forever. We mourn her loss, and express our deepest condolences to her family. You shall remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Love,
Ken, Erica, and Amelia Male

Erica Obert-Male - June 01, 2020 at 02:51 PM



“ Remembering a fine colleague and a lovely family friend...

Claire, Saverio, Adriana, Luisa & Alexander Mirarchi

Claire Mirarchi - May 18, 2020 at 05:35 PM



“ I always knew that I would see Jo at EVERY Chicon/Esposito/Lalli ‘event’ whether it was a celebration of great joy or sometimes enormous loss. Jo was the force in the room that emanated warmth, kindness, joy, empathy, laughter, and compassion. That smile would make me laugh before she told a funny story. Tuck and I often provided rides home from yearly gatherings in Westchester and we always knew the ride would be filled with conversation that included a humorous story about an experience she had, an endearing story about a friend or relative, and something about food.

I believe that Jo could make you laugh just by being. She could comfort just by standing with you and Jo made you feel grateful simply by providing a BIG hug. Jo was a very special person whose life was rich with family, friendships, a real belief in God, a passion for travel and people and of course, an appetite for all epicurean experiences. She taught us all how to live. She promised to make La Bandera for Tuck and me. Then she would burst out laughing saying that she forgot we were vegetarians and she would think about making it with ‘fake’ meat. I would make a face and in response to that, she said, “I’ll make it, scoop the meat out, and then you can eat it.” Another face from me, and she responded, “Okay, I’ll leave the meat in. You will like it that way.” I loved her!

Honestly, I can’t imagine how much she will be missed at all the routine gatherings we shared. She was the life force behind so many memories. This world is in desperate need of more Jos. All the angels in heaven are still celebrating her arrival.
---Suzanne

SuzanneClair Guard - May 18, 2020 at 03:33 PM



“ I first met Jo back in 1978 at the wake for Maida’s mother. She came to the funeral home with Tia Aurea.

In those early days of our relationship, Jo was “Maida’s cousin” to me. However, very quickly it became apparent that Jo and I shared many interests and so a long, strong and abiding friendship ensued.

She LOVED baseball as I do and was a huge NY Mets fan. While I am a diehard NY Yankees fan I have always rooted for the Mets as well. ML baseball was a common bond. We often attended games together at both Yankee Stadium and Shea Stadium/Citifield. We talked, watched and read about baseball all the time. We were kindred spirits!

Jo and I also enjoyed the theater and we would exchange birthday and Christmas gifts by buying Broadway theater tickets for each other and attending together with our friends along with a lunch or dinner at a favorite dining spot as part of the day.

For years, we were also members of an informal Friday night dinner group that included Paula and Ian, Kathy Wankel and Maida. To end a long work week and start the weekend, we would choose a restaurant and eat well while “catching up” on the week’s events in each of our lives. We were our own support group – we laughed, we sometimes cried, we shared our challenges, sought trusted advice and discussed our family and other friends.

My family, the Esposito/Lalli family, embraced Jo over these decades. She was a mainstay at all of our events: birthday and graduation parties, weddings, funerals, BBQs. We all loved Jo! Her vibrant personality, unmatched humor and storytelling were ever present.

My mother and Jo had a very special relationship. They respected, liked and loved each other, and so enjoyed spending time together. My fondest memories are mom and Jo sitting next to one another, holding hands while sharing life’s experiences and insights for hours. She always brought flowers when visiting and sent mom flowers on special occasions. Jo asked mom to be her Madrina a few years ago when she took the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Malachy’s Church in Manhattan. What an honor that was!

Maida and I first recognized that Jo had a health problem during our trip to the DR for Laura’s wedding. Upon returning to the US the journey began for Jo to courageously fight off pancreatic cancer.

God put me in a position to do His work by being at Jo’s side every step of the way in this battle. It drew us even closer. At her chemo sessions all she talked about was her loved ones and the DR.

I never once witnessed Jo having self-pity and asking “why did this happen to me.” She faced this adversity bravely with grace and humor and, of course, she never lost her signature big wide smile. Jo fought for life on her terms throughout this period.

She continued to travel, dine out and attend the theater and opera. She was her own person and this terrible disease could not and would not diminish her indomitable spirit.

Jo was also deeply religious. She loved her Catholic faith. She loved her church, St Malachy's Actors' Church, where we attended Mass together many times. God was always an integral part of Jo's life and now her life for all eternity is dwelling in the hands of Our Lord forever.

Each of us is called to take care of one another and to make each other a better person. What better tribute can I personally give to Jo than to say she did indeed make me a better person and my life was so enriched by her presence in it and our friendship!

Rest in the eternal love and peace of Heaven with the God you worshipped and with family and friends that you so loved and who loved you and were waiting for you to grace Heaven's gate and join them.

Phylis M. Esposito



Phylis M. Esposito - May 17, 2020 at 06:12 PM



“ I LOVE that picture!

SuzanneClair Guard - May 19, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ Through a very good mutual friend, I met Jo in 1999, during my 6 years stay in NYC. Since then we never lost contact. She was a loving person and a helping hand to me. We had so many good moments together. Vacations, shopping, drinks, dinners, laughs. Actually “the good life “. Some of her expressions made me laugh so much. Jo had a great general knowledge. She talked a lot about her family and introduced me to them and her friends. It was great being in her company. I will always cherish the memory of her.



Mireille Cappuyns - May 16, 2020 at 06:37 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Angela Cots - May 15, 2020 at 02:09 PM



“ Coco, un gato hermoso, blanco y caprichoso fue el causante de que nos conociéramos. Josefina ha sido mi amiga y vecina durante 29 años. Toda una vida en la que nos hemos ayudado mutuamente, celebrado todo tipo de ocasiones, compartido amigos y familia, buenos y no tan buenos momentos y, como buena cocinera que era, tanto Michael como yo hemos tenido el placer de saborear muchos de sus platos favoritos típicos de la RD.

Nunca olvidaré la amistad, generosidad y cariño de mi querida amiga y vecina Josefina!

Angela Cots

Angela Cots - May 15, 2020 at 02:02 PM



“ Gracias, Angela

Otilia Josefina Lora (sister) - June 12, 2020 at 06:36 PM



“ Diré una frase que ella me dijo un día "El amor va más allá de la muerte". Nos conocimos en 1996 y desde entonces nuestra amistad fue un regalo para mí. Te llevaré siempre en mi recuerdo. Descansa en paz y un beso muy fuerte desde España.
Luisa Linares

Luisa Linares - May 15, 2020 at 01:42 PM



“ Luisa, Josefina te quería mucho
Gracias por tus bellas palabras
Cuca hermana de Josefina

Otilia Josefina Lora (sister) - June 12, 2020 at 06:39 PM



“ We are deeply saddened by Jo's passing. Heaven received another angel. Jo was a very vivacious, warm hearted, loving, and caring person who always had a smile on here face and welcomed you with a warm embrace. She enjoyed sports, especially her NY Mets!!!

Jo often spoke of her endearing family in the DR and of her extended family that she made throughout her travels. Our hearts go out to her family during this trying time and may all of our prayers serve as comfort to those that loved her. May our Lord bring her family much needed comfort and strength during this sad time. She may be gone but she will never be forgotten.

Joseph and Angela Revellese

Joseph and Angela Revellese - May 14, 2020 at 06:18 PM



“ "Jo was the cheerleader in our wonderful sisterhood of friends. She was always positive and pushing the rest of us with her zest for life and incredible sense of humor. Jo was always finding the fun in every life experience and finding it in the most difficult of places. Love and laughter filled her soul and she shared that gift with everyone who came into her circle. She was blessed to have her beloved family in the DR and her second family here in New York. She touched our lives in so many positive ways.

We will miss her presence every day but her spirit lives on through her family and each and every one of us in her second family. It is of great comfort that her fighting days are over and she sits in the hand of God surrounded by eternal love and grace. We will all continue to carry her in our hearts and honor her by being the best we can be and try to emulate her beautiful smile!"

Lisa and John Pizzolato

Lisa and John Pizzolato - May 14, 2020 at 03:55 PM



“ Josefina, me quedo el recuerdo de tu elegancia y tu buen gusto. Un beso enorme allá donde estas desde Madrid

Pilar - May 14, 2020 at 01:55 PM



“ My beautiful and ever classy Sis, your memory will always live on. My you rest in peace!



Dalmaris Pettaway - May 14, 2020 at 12:37 PM



“ It is such a sadness to miss Jo, Yet, her life force and spirit and soul were so strong, that she is one of those giant Souls that i know will always be near to us.

Jo always took interest in my great niece. She was the first and most meaningful BFF our small child ever had. The child loves her deeply. The best of her first art works had to be given to Jo. Her holiday wardrobe always included a magnificent dress and purse from Jo.

Her friends became mine and she became part of my family and friends. We grieve and miss her, but, believing in her eternal life, we know she now walks among the saints and will always be with us.

Katherine Wankel - May 14, 2020 at 10:21 AM



“ Alway i pray d'Or you.
God blessing.

CARLIXTA PEÑA GARCIA - May 14, 2020 at 01:54 PM



“ Jo was a “big personality”—full of Faith, and fueled by love of family and home. You only needed to be in her company for mere moments to realize that Jo had tidbits of knowledge from a life lived purposefully. What we learned from Jo was to keep positive, seek joy, spread Faith and persevere. For Jo, the glass was not only half full, but often overflowing, especially when anticipating a trip to her beloved DR. We hope you are comforted by many shared memories. Continue to see her exuberant smile and lively wit within your mind’s eye. Continue to feel her loving presence within your heart. It is there.

Wishing you peace and consolation,
The Lalli Family

Marigrace Lalli - May 14, 2020 at 08:45 AM



“ Jo had an engaging personality. To know her is to love her. I enjoyed listening to stories of her life and the people she cherished. Sending hugs and much love always.

Jean-Marie Posner - May 14, 2020 at 07:45 AM



“ Josefina. (JP) lived her life to the fullest. She had done practically everything she wanted. Josefina did not have inhibition or any time of fear that limited her to enjoy life Always in Our heart

olga anderson - May 14, 2020 at 04:09 PM



“ Jo was a favorite of mine at our law firm Freshfields. May I have an address to send a card with a donation to the family in DR? Thank you. Mona Blumenreich

Mona Blumenreich - May 15, 2020 at 10:11 AM



“ Jo was a hugging and kissing friend and neighbor for three decades and we got particularly close when my wife's pancreatic cancer returned with a vengeance. Jo would come up at night and bring her little gifts, read poetry, and sing in Italian with Gabriella. Sometimes they even danced a little. When Gab would not eat, Jo, suffering with her own pancreatic cancer, would come up and ask her to eat something just for her, and Gab would eat. I love Jo for that.

Then I have the memories of me hitting on Jo all the time and her putting me down, which became a routine. I will miss her smile and especially her Dominican soups. She shared her life with me and Gabriella, and my world just got lonelier with Jo's passing. I love you Jo. --- Your friend Gene

Gene Roth - May 15, 2020 at 03:35 PM