

My humble apologies for not being able to be present this evening. The life of a free lance musician is thus, and I was unable to get out of my already booked engagement. It bothers me some, for I have the utmost respect and regard for Josephine who was one of a kind. I am eased a bit when I think of what she might tell me, in her sage-like wisdom and calm, embracing demeanor- "it's ok pumpkin, you do what you got to do."

I met Josephine and started to perform for her beloved clients some twenty years ago and I immediately realized that she was a dedicated, compassionate and caring individual. She loved her clients as well as her staff and reached out above and beyond to care for them all, ease their worries and offer guidance and comfort when required. Her amazing ability to arrange a variety of programs and trips as well as seeing to it that everything ran like a clock was always evident, all the while attending meetings and conferences, many out of town, that filled the days of her busy schedule. Every holiday or celebration saw the facility decorated with appropriate festive cheer, and our programs reflected the particular holiday in our performances and in our programs. My fellow musicians who performed at the annual Memory Center Holiday Party still recall looking forward to the warmth and joy of these events, organized by Josephine.

To work for Josephine at the Memory Center had one requirement- that you would become part of a family, and she inspired everyone to feel as though they were part of a family. My experience at the NY Memory Center was a wonderful experience indeed thanks to the efforts and hard work of Josephine.

She would come in early, around 5 in the morning on Wednesday, the very day before Thanksgiving, and cook a lavish meal in which everyone, clients, their families and staff, would partake. She was an amazing baker and when I asked her how she learned to bake so well, she recounted the story of her younger days working in her uncle's famous bakery, Di Mlccos, which I recall was a favorite of my own family's, who used to frequent the bakery in the years before they moved from Brooklyn to Staten Island. Nowhere could you find better cannolis or sfooyaTEL, and I am more than sure that the polite young girl my mother always raved about when she shopped there, working at the counter, was none other than Josephine. Small world, methinks.

My wife likes to cruise. I never went on a cruise, I didn't think I would enjoy it, but Josephine converted me. "Oh, go on a cruise with your wife, you're gonna love it, especially that you love history, there's so many places you would want to see. Just try it" she said. I took her advice. Thank you Josephine, I now love cruising.

My wife Jan and I send our heartfelt condolences to her husband Michael and their beautiful daughters, Sara and Joanna. Josephine was one of a kind, a unique and loving soul who will live on in the hearts of so many whom she touched with her magical blessings. We will miss her for sure, but the light of this amazing person will shine on, eternally.