



Rachel Roberta LaSala

May 6, 2020

Rachel Roberta LaSala, 67, of Farmington, CT, passed away on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 after heroic years battling kidney disease and lastly Covid-19. Rachel was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at The Jewish Hospital (Einstein Medical Center) on September 27, 1952 and lived in West Philly before settling in Woodcrest, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. She had a short move to West Palm Beach, Florida in her teen years, before returning to Cherry Hill and graduating from Cherry Hill West High School in 1970. She attended the University of Tampa and then transferred to University of Miami where she graduated in 1975. Rachel went on to earn a Master Degree in Social Work from the University of Connecticut. Shortly after marrying Anthony F. LaSala, M.D., she took on her greatest job and her most proud accomplishments bringing up her two children: Anthony S. LaSala and Natalie M. LaSala. She was nothing short of the best mom to ever do it.

Growing up Rachel was often stage side at the Latin Casino (legendary Philadelphia-area nightclub), where her father, Martin Blumberg, was the maitre d'. From roughly 1960-1980, Rachel got to meet almost all the famous nightclub performers of this time. Stars like Sammy Davis Jr, Frank Sinatra, and The Supremes, to name a few. This led to her passion in dancing and a modelling career that found her in catalogs and even on a billboard off I-84 through Hartford. The dancing and fashion continued throughout her life, with numerous ballroom dance competitions; always dressing to the nines, and

eventually meeting her closest friend, Eddie Salgado. She joked that her last wish was to be buried in a Latin dance costume.

Rachel lived most of her life in West Hartford, CT. After a divorce in 2000, she resided in Cochranville, Pennsylvania and Merchantville, New Jersey before returning to Farmington, CT. She battled kidney disease for years and was fortunate to receive a transplant in 2007, which gave her some semblance of a normal life. She had the most vivacious passion to live and everything that she was part of was simply – FUN! She had an infectious personality and no one ever felt like a stranger, rather quite the contrast; she had an indescribable way of making people feel like family, from the very first conversation. There wasn't a charity she didn't donate to or a scam she didn't fall for. The economy is really going to miss Rachel LaSala not being around when things open back up.

Her battle with kidney disease involved making new friends every time she went into the hospital or to dialysis with the entire staff and other patients. She would never go to the hospital without her hair done, make-up on, and her Victoria Secret pajamas packed in her Louis Vuitton bag, no matter how sick she was. Saying she had the biggest heart, is an overused cliché, and barely touches how powerful she gave herself to everyone and loved everyone. Taken from us too young, she leaves behind heartbroken family and friends that will forever keep her iconic spirit alive. If you met Rachel once, it really felt like you met your long-lost best friend.

There are some people in life that don't need to show off material possessions or professional success to describe or honor the person or life they led. All the people that were lucky enough to have crossed paths with Rachel Roberta LaSala know she achieved a far more meaningful legacy.

Rachel was predeceased by her father and mother, Martin Blumberg and Frances (Brotslow) Blumberg, and her brother Stephen Blumberg. She is

survived by her two children; Anthony S. LaSala (Marianne) of Farmington, CT and Natalie M. LaSala (Luba Bululu) of West Hartford, CT; her brother Benjey Blumberg (Linda) of Medford, NJ; her best friends Shay Rosen of Cochranville, PA and Marsha Woolsey of West Hartford CT, and lastly her favorite people in the world, her cherished grandkids who call her Gigi – Sebastian Michael, Anthony Jules (AJ), and Leo Francis. The three boys will forever remember Gigi as their grandma that left them a lifetime of chocolate chip cookies and candy.

If you wish, in lieu of flowers, please donate to the National Kidney Foundation in Honor of Rachel LaSala. Services have been postponed until there is a safer time to congregate. Of special note, Rachel's selfless daughter, Natalie, has devoted her life to helping her mom navigate the endless health obstacles and always being there to give hope and positivity. Whether that was the possibility of giving her a kidney or just a home cooked healthy meal that would help cure it all, Natalie is the best example of Rachel's greatest work. A giant THANK YOU to Hartford Hospital and all her caregivers, notably, Dr. Matthew Carley and Diane Rosborough, who Rachel loved like family. Hartford Hospital and the heroes that work there have long been saving Rachel's life and our family is forever indebted for your care and love. Rachel's Army will keep her alive from here.

Tribute Wall

CG

“ I consider myself extremely fortunate to call Rachel my friend. Not only was Rachel an amazing person, with the kindest heart, she was so down to earth. I will always value our conversations, about, fashion, dancing, family and all the laughter. Rachel's eyes would light up when she talked about, Natalie, Anthony, Marianne, Luba, and her beautiful grandchildren, always saying how blessed she was.

Rest with the Angels my dear friend.

Cheryl Geltzer

Cheryl Geltzer - June 08, 2020 at 07:56 AM

LR

“ My deepest condolences to Natalie and Anthony and families. How fortunate for my family and me to have had Rachel as my friend and neighbor for many years. She was a loving mother and always full of high energy and kindness. Smiles and laughter were Rachel no matter how difficult her road to good health was. Rachel even had the thoughtfulness during her illness to call me in November on the passing of my husband. She was a real gem. May she rest in peace.

Lynn Rubenstein

lynn rubenstein - June 07, 2020 at 08:44 PM

MD

“ Anthony, Natalie, Benjey, Eddy, Shea, Marla and family,
Please accept my deepest condolences on the passing of Rachel.
She was an amazing and unique person who loved life and her
family. You selected a great picture of her with that bright smile that
she wore every day. Her positive attitude and inner strength were
key characteristics of her nature. She loved seeing her three
grandsons every day grow from infants to toddlers right before her
eyes.
Her stamina was impressive. After a long day with the boys when
the rest of us would be looking to relax, Rachel and Eddy would
often head to the movies for the evening show or out for a quiet
dinner.
Her spirit, laughter and smile will always be with us because she
gave of herself unconditionally while she was here every day.
Sincerely, Michael

Michael DeConti - June 07, 2020 at 03:21 PM

AL

“ I am a friend of Natalie's and I was so saddened to hear of Rachel's
passing. She was a remarkable women and will truly be missed.

Ally - June 06, 2020 at 11:01 AM

JH

“ Such a beautiful tribute to honor a loving woman and life well-lived.
Sending love and condolences to Anthony, Natalie , Eddie and all of
Rachel's family and friends. We will miss her fun personality,
gorgeous smile, and interesting/thoughtful conversation. Love to
you all. Joanne , Troy , Tyler and Tommy

Joanne Helms - June 06, 2020 at 01:44 AM

RW

“ To know Rachel was to love her. Such a special lady. Our deepest sympathies to Anthony, Natalie, and Eddie, the family and all who loved her. She will be missed immensely.

Love

Rose & Dave

Rose (DeConti) Weed - June 05, 2020 at 07:24 PM

KD

“ Boy do I remember all those stories that she told me while she lived in, Farmington and West Hartford, Ct with my daughter Marianne and her husband Anthony LaSala. When my daughter married Anthony, Rachel and I held hands when we walked down the aisle and lit the candles on the altar at the church. I spent many hours with her when she was too sick to go out listening to stories and she was my cooking buddy and my movie partner at the house. I enjoyed her very much and it was so nice to be with her and her friend Ed to go to plays at Park road playhouse and the Bushnell. Mike and I went out to dinner too with Rachel and Ed. I AM SO PROUD OF MY DAUGHTER WHEN SHE HELPED RACHEL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT SEVERAL TIMES AND MADE HER FEEL BETTER before she went to the hospital for the umpteenth time. I also so proud of Anthony who knew that his mother needed help and needed to live with him. I miss her dearly and I know she is in a better place now dancing with the angels in heaven. Love,
Kathy

Kathy DeConti - June 04, 2020 at 01:57 PM



What a beautiful person Rachel LaSala was and a joy to know. LaSala family and friends, I am so very sorry for your tremendous loss of this beautiful soul. I feel very blessed to have known her and we shared some heartfelt conversations at times. She fought really hard and never give up no matter how bad things got; I admired that so much in her.

My deepest sympathy to all who knew her and loved her. I am confident that wherever she is, she is entertaining and storytelling, and having a good time! OXOX

Pat Johnson - June 05, 2020 at 10:38 PM

JC

Rachel was one of the nicest people I ever met. Despite all her pain and suffering from her own problems, she always wanted to know how you were doing and provided a listening ear. I was her visiting nurse on and off over the last several years and she was one of my favorite patients and people ever. May she rest in peace. Her suffering is over. My deepest sympathies to her family during this very difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Janis Campbell

Janis Campbell - June 06, 2020 at 07:59 AM

JW

I had the privilege to meet Rachel through my son Kemston and daughter in law Lauren. She immediately welcome me and my family with open arms we had so much fun with her and always look forward to see her when we visit. It is true to know her was to love her and will miss her dearly. My heart goes out to Anthony, Natalie, marriann and the rest of the family. SIP dear Rachel heaven gained a beautiful angel. The Best family.

Julia williamsbest - June 06, 2020 at 01:05 PM

MR

Dear Natalie and Anthony - Losing a parent is one of the hardest things I've ever experienced - just lost my dad 7 months ago today and that brings me to your mom... Being your and her neighbor for I cant even recall how many years, was an integral part of my childhood. Some of my best memories are of you both, your mom, my mom and Marcia!! Hanging out at your pool! Someone trying to teach me tennis lessons. Rachel telling me to come up and use the pool anytime. Your mom was so good to me. Such a light to be around. Several years ago, my mom and I went to Marcia's house for her birthday. When I heard Rachel was coming, I was SO excited to see her. . It had been so many years. And she looked EXACTLY the same, sick and all, she was amazing. I know you have friends and family to help you, but if there's anything i can do, please don't hesitate to call/ask. Same with my mom. We love and will miss your mom's beautiful soul. What a beautifully written obituary as well. I laughed and cried reading it. Much love and condolences, Marla Rubenstein, your old neighbor

Marla S Rubenstein - June 06, 2020 at 02:25 PM

KB

I was one of those nurses that Rachel saw in the hospital. We always had nice chats about our grandchildren. Rachel always remembered my name and no matter how she was feeling, she was always so kind. Her smile was contagious. I saw her when she was first admitted and then And then in the ICU. My heart goes out to you.

Karen Bement - June 10, 2020 at 11:25 AM