



Dorothy Léonce Poplar Laplace

March 27, 2018

On March 27, 2018, Dorothy Léonce Poplar Laplace passed away peacefully at her home in Cresskill, New Jersey at the age of 96. Her magic will be missed.

Dorothy was the beloved wife of the love of her life -- Maurice Leonard Laplace, with whom she shared 51 years of marriage in Tenafly, New Jersey before his passing in 2003. She was an adoring and caring mother of Karen (Mohammad) Laplace-Higgins, Robin (Jimmy) Lehovitis and Lisa Laplace (Matthew) Smith and a proud and doting grandmother of Jennifer, Athina, Alex, Lauren, and Sofia. Her relationship to her best friend, Hilda Solworth, was as a "sister." She was pre-deceased by her treasured parents, Agnes and Adam Poplar and son-in-law, Jean Claude Higgins.

Dorothy was born in Millersville, Maryland and came to New York City, where she studied ballet with George Balanchine and worked professionally as a dancer and model. She first set foot on a Broadway stage as a chorus girl in George Abbott's 1939 musical "Too Many Girls" with Desi Arnaz. Then came a mosaic of other chorus girl roles, including ones in Abbott's "Pal Joey" with Gene Kelly and Richard Rogers' musicals "By Jupiter" and "A Connecticut Yankee." She also danced as a Rockette at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City. After her performance days, she remained a lover and supporter of the arts.

We will remember Dorothy's larger-than-life personality, generosity of spirit, and love for her family. She will be in our hearts forever. Relatives and friends are invited to a memorial service on Monday, April 2, 2018 at 10:00am at Mount Carmel Church, 10 County Road, Tenafly, New Jersey 07670. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to: Interlochen Center for the Arts, Attention: Advancement/Interlochen Annual Fund, P.O. Box 199, Interlochen, Michigan 49643, tel: 231-276-7623.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

APR 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Carmel RC Church
10 County Road
Tenafly, NJ 07670

Tribute Wall

CL

“ I went to elementary school with Karen in Tenafly and to this day I remember both Karen and her mom, Mrs. Dorothy LaPlace. My deepest sympathy to Karen and all the family. My memory of Mrs. Laplace was making a big picnic basket full of delicious chicken that she shared on a class trip. I was in awe of her- she was glamorous and warm and so fun to be with. I remember her beauty and special qualities and was always in awe of both Karen who was so smart and admired her mom.
Claudia Loewenstein



claudia loewenstein - June 16, 2022 at 05:39 PM

RL

Thank you Claudia. Injust saw this. Its Robin. I hope you are well. Xo

Robin Lehovitis - May 13, 2024 at 09:01 PM

TS

Dear Robin,
I grew up log ago under your family's roof. Shared what I learned and never forgot the value of truthful and innocent love. We all contributed to that script. Your mom played her part by expressing her affection for all of us. Broadway and perhaps even Gene Kelly made Dorothy the vivacious and magnanimous soul she was to become. She squeezed the daylight out of you kids so you would never forget the depth her affection. Your mom held a special place in all our hearts.
What I gained has served me well over the years, sharing a long and happy marriage with my wife and three adoring sons and three grandchildren.
I wish you all well, especially the one who walked me to her door at age fifteen and touched my life briefly yet forever.
We all face the challenges of our genealogy. I extend my humanity to you and yours.
TNS

Ted Surgan - January 15, 2025 at 08:20 AM

LB

“ Dear Lisa, Karen and Robyn,
Our deepest sympathy is with you at this difficult time.
We always enjoyed seeing Your mother! She was charming, witty, a
wonderful story teller and fun to be with - a beautiful person both
inside and out.
Rest In Peace Dorothy.
Love,
Bill and Lois Brodsky

lois and bill brodsky - March 28, 2018 at 04:48 PM

RL

Thank you for your warm memorable words. This is Robin. I just saw
this. Thank you very much.

Robin Lehovitis - May 13, 2024 at 09:03 PM