



Donatella Giovanna Emilia Maria Martinelli

April 2, 1922 - May 22, 2015

Donatella Giovanna Emilia Maria Martinelli (1922 - 2015) lived a full and rewarding 93 years. A spirited, intelligent, cultured, sophisticated, stylish, and very gifted artist, she loved having friends and family close.

Donatella was born and raised in Rome, Italy enjoying the company of her mother, Giorgina Ceas; her father, Gustavo Martinelli. She was preceded in death by her elder brothers, Adriano and Valerio and her beloved grandson, Francisco Miguel Escalera. She attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome and received her M.A. in Art History just before WWII, after which she departed, newly married to Istvan Nadas, and headed for America, stopping in Venezuela for what turned out to be seven years until they obtained visas to establish themselves in New Orleans, LA. Her three children, John Nadas, Giorgina Nadas, and Diana Nadas were all born in Caracas.

After arriving in New Orleans, Donatella commenced her many years as an art teacher, teaching privately at her home studio, as well as at St. Leo the Great and Ursuline Academy. She also taught Italian language at Tulane University and the University of New Orleans. She was well-read, fluent in several languages, and a marvelous cook who loved to entertain. Her great passions were art, archeology, anthropology, and world geography. As gifted as Donatella was, above all, she was a loving and loyal mother and a good friend.

Donatella is survived by her children John, Giorgina, and Diana; and grandchildren, Sandro and Marisa Nadas. She is also loved and adored by

her nieces and nephews, Alessandra, Luca, Flaminia, Fabbio, Simone and Nicola; and her sisters-in-law, Titti and Tea, all residing in Rome, Italy.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Memorial Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 631 State St., New Orleans on Saturday, June 6, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Visitation at the church from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Arrangements by L. A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
631 State Street
New Orleans, LA 70118

Memorial Mass

JUN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
631 State Street
New Orleans, LA 70118

Tribute Wall



“ *Donatella Giovanna Emilia Maria Martinelli*

October 15, 2023 at 09:39 PM



“ *Love you ANGEL!!!!*

RICHELLE WILSON - June 10, 2015 at 10:12 AM



“ *Donatella's lively, loving, youthful spirit will remain with me and us always. She remains one to inspire us as we go forward. My thoughts are with you, Dianetta, your brother, your sister and all of your family. She had a beautiful and full life.*

*With much love,
Giovanna Lenzi-Sandusky*

Giovanna Lenzi-Sandusky - June 04, 2015 at 02:23 PM



“ *Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of Donatella Giovanna Emilia Maria Martinelli.*



June 03, 2015 at 09:12 PM

LL

“ I have so many wonderful memories of being with Donatella that it's hard to choose just one, but I guess a couple stand out in my mind: the image of her in the kitchen of her via lima apartment with that beautiful view of rome outside the window below. it was the summer of 1971.

as I watched her cooking so effortlessly - the only person, btw, who could ever make liver so appetizing (red wine, lots of onions, sage) - she was teaching me the etymology of certain Italian words that I was interested in. Donatella was a natural teacher. very animated, informative, making learning fun and anecdotal, just the way I like it.

after lunch she told me how to get to the american express office where I could pick up my mail and where my husband, tim, was going to meet me. she was in her element: cooking, teaching, entertaining her daughters' friends, and with a little tour guide thrown in for good measure.

and even though the first thing people usually noticed when they met Donatella was her physical beauty, her charming personality quickly seduced you into adoring her. everything she did she did with style and elegance.

and she was so proud of Diana, my new friend, who was attending the conservatory at the time. in all of my memories Donatella is always smiling. I never saw her scowl and I never heard her say anything negative about anyone. even her voice was lilting, happy, and, for lack of a better word, musical. she had such a special, flirty kind of voice. when I think of her, I can still hear that special voice saying something interesting, something unusual, and always, utterly charming.

Donatella Martinelli will be missed.

Leeeeeeeeeeeeeeeesa

Lisa Lawrence - June 03, 2015 at 01:30 PM

SA

“ *Dear Diana, Giorgina, and Yanci, thank you for allowing me to spend the last few weeks of your mom's life with her and her wonderful family (that's you!) as her hospice nurse and your friend. I feel honored to have gotten to know such a brave lady with such courage, persevering through much discomfort with so much grace (and still being able to make her needs known in no uncertain terms!) She was one of the lucky patients who has family that steps up to the plate and takes care of their loved one 24/7 because they know that Mama really wants to be in her own home rather than in a facility. She soaked it all in, your attention and love, and the beauty of her surroundings that she had created over so many years. And I soaked it in ,too, being surrounded by people who cared and gave it their all. I know grieving over the loss of a mother is never easy, and I hope you take your time and are extra good to yourselves. And I hope you reach out for support to family and friends. Be assured that my thoughts and prayers are with you. I can see your mom having taken her wings and ,as a true artist and free spirit, is probably painting and creating something beautiful somewhere else now. With hugs and lots of love,
Stephanie*

Stephanie Abbott - May 28, 2015 at 04:57 PM

BM

“ Dear Diana, Giorgina, and Yanci,
my and Suzanne's heartfelt sympathies to you all.
For 93 years, you mom gave the world a dear and loving heart.
We were blessed to know her. i still proudly have a gorgeous
sweater
she knitted for me some 35 years ago.
God bless you in your time of loss and remembrance.
Love,
Brendan and Suzanne

Brendan Marinan - May 28, 2015 at 08:54 AM

CM

May God's peace be with you and your family. Thank you for sharing her life's journey with us she was an amazing women. Love ya

consuellalumas monie - May 28, 2015 at 11:54 PM

DL

“ Diana and family: I was sadden to hear about the loss of your mother. After reading the obituary, I realized how talented and gifted she was. I know that you were very close to your mother and also know how difficult it will be for you in the future not to have her near. Please know that we are thinking about you and your family at this time and offer our prayers of comfort and peace.
Much Love from Iowa,
Dawn and Scott

dawn larson - May 27, 2015 at 06:58 PM