



# Mary Tortorici

April 16, 2022

May she rest in eternal peace

# Tribute Wall

AL

“ From Elana Leichman Alpert:

*When I think about Mary and all of our time spent together, I remember her as a whole instead of isolated events. Mary was a greeting from the yard or the window, a contagious laugh, a patient and kind adult, a friend we visited at her super cool job. She was a safe place, petting Tux, playing with birds, always offering snacks and drinks. Mary was a constant, a guardian, a neighbor, someone who loved me and someone who I loved. It was a pleasure and an honor to have Mary in my life as I did, and her memory will continue on with me.*

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**Abby Leichman** - May 04 at 12:52 AM

AL

“ We all loved Mary so much and felt privileged to live next door for 20 years.

*I will never forget how tenderly she put newborn Elana on the bird scale to weigh her when she was a few days old, how she helped KJ dress up like a clown for Purim, how she taught Joey how to care for Mario the parakeet (and helped retrieve Mario when he escaped his cage), how she enlivened any occasion in the Leichman family.*

*Before KJ and I went to Israel in 1997, she brought me a gift of a sunhat and sunglasses, earrings and other goodies packed in a Bloomie's beach bag that I use to this day. She was always thoughtful and had a sixth sense for choosing the right gift.*

*Mary wrote me the most beautiful letter when my father passed away, and a beautiful letter to Joey when Mario died. She was warm, caring, intelligent, fun and funny.*

*It is so hard to imagine Richie without Mary. We are sending lots of love and sympathy, and wish we could be with you at this heartbreaking time.*

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**Abby Leichman** - May 03 at 02:04 PM

AL

“ From KJ Leichman:

*We were so sad to hear about Mary's passing. "Richie & Mary" was such an integral part of my childhood experience, and the thought of Mary no longer being in the white house next to 207 Cherry Lane is too hard for me to wrap my head around.*

*I think my most vivid memory of Mary is her laugh. The kind of infectious, jovial, powerful laughter that's hard to miss and equally hard to forget.*

*Aside from that, I remember two specific stories from Mary. The first one was when she stopped by in our backyard as I was practicing batting. I don't remember if I was lobbing the ball to myself or if Joey was pitching, but my guess is the former. I must have been ten or eleven years old. She saw how I was hitting and commented, very matter-of-factly, that I was making an extra unnecessary motion that was impairing my batting. I think it was some kind of squatting motion. Her constructive criticism must have hit the right chords if I still remember it to this day.*

*The other memory is probably from when I was a little younger. It was Shabbat, and Richie was outside working on some project. I'm a little hazy on the details, but what I do remember is that I came over, as I often did, and wanted to help out with whatever Richie was working on. But before I could, Mary chimed in, again very matter-of-factly: "You can't do that." She was right, and I'm still impressed by the level of awareness that she had.*

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Abby Leichman - May 03 at 01:51 PM

AL

“ Richie,

*We all loved Aunt Mary very much. She treated us like family and I'd like to think we made her feel the same way. We spent many nights on the back patio, where Mary was quick to make a joke or offer us wisdom. More important, she inspired the "yes dear" philosophy, didn't mind football in the backyard, and was a good sport about having 3 little neighbors running around the house.*

*We miss her and are grateful for the many memories we have.*

*Love,  
Joey*

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Abby Leichman - May 03 at 01:50 PM

AL

“ From Steve Leichman: It's hard to believe that we've known each other for 35 years. It's also so hard to express how blessed we were to have both of you as neighbors for 20 years. Among all the stories, there's one that stands out-- Joey shooting water on Mary through the kitchen window. In hindsight, I think that most neighbors would have charged out of the house yelling at the annoying kid. But what happened? It was a story that has been retold over and over again, each time with a bigger laugh. And what a laugh Mary had. And, of course, 99% of the time she laughed at some exploit of KJ, Joey, or Elana. It was a special laugh that I think was reserved for them. We'll miss that laugh. We'll miss Mary. And we'll treasure the memories.




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Abby Leichman - May 03 at 01:49 PM

JJ

“ Mary was a special person. When my kids were little she would dress up like Jesse the clown. The kids waited for her on their birthday..so nice. Also I remember she painted a manger set so beautifully that I still put it under my Christmas tree every year for many years. The kids would help me set it up before Christmas day. She was very talented and we will miss her.  
JoAnn & Tony

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Joann Just - April 21 at 10:32 AM