



Florence Lucia Samperi

April 2, 1929 - November 4, 2025

Dear friends, family and cherished colleagues, today, we gather not in the shadow of loss, but in the enduring light Florence Samperi cast upon our community. The youngest of five children of a Sicilian immigrant family - she came from humble beginnings and high aspirations. At age 11, those aspirations were challenged by the untimely death of her father. Early, she learned that despite limited resources whatever there was, was to be shared. This ethos, carried her through the rest of her life. While the family struggled, Florence prevailed - she continued living their hardships while committing her to education beyond the family's expectations and means. Florence never forgot that it was her mother, who made her higher education dream possible by cashing in the mother's thousand dollar life insurance policy. Uncharacteristically, Florence who never accepted, accepted her mother's gift. As she advanced professionally and over her lifetime Florence found many ways to repay her mother's gift.

Florence's love extended beyond her immediate family - to the families of Lorraine Ahto with whom she shared a long friendship. The two, were aunts and godparents and strongly influenced the lives of multiple nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends who all hold very fond memories; she was aunt Florence to many. They have countless stories and memories of shared adventures with aunt Florence - trips to Cape Cod, to Puerto Rico, to Europe, the theater and the opera.

Florence was a graduate of Boston University and went on to the doctoral program at the Columbia University School of Social Work; She became more than a therapist, a Milan trained family clinician, an adjunction professor at the Hunter School of Social Work and a brilliant theoretician. Florence trained and mentored generations of therapists who have gone on to positions of distinction of their own. In her role as co-director of Henry Street's Community Consultation, Florence was a quiet but dynamic force of transformation – a bridge between need and hope for countless lives on the Lower East Side. With Lorraine as Director, she turned the settlement's mission into lived reality, offering counsel, compassion, and clarity to those navigating the storms of daily struggle.

Florence embodied the spirit of Henry Street's founder, Lillian Wald: A healer's heart and a reformer's hands. She listened deeply, acted decisively, and believed fiercely that every voice deserved to be heard, every dream given wings. Through her immigrant's found footing, families mended fractures and youth glimpsed brighter tomorrows. Her legacy isn't in grand monuments, but in the quiet victories- the job secured, the crisis averted, the spark of resilience ignited.

Florence reminds us that "the work continues because the people endure". And so it will, through the programs she championed and the souls she uplifted. We mourn the woman who wove our community tighter but we celebrate the eternal thread she leaves behind.

Rest now, Florence, in the peace you so generously gave. The doors of opportunity remain wide opened.

With deepest gratitude,

Rest in Peace and Power!

In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation to Henry Street Settlement (<https://support.henrystreet.org/campaign/631913/donate>) and/or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (<https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>) in memory of Florence.

Cemetery Details

Brookside Cemetery

425 Engle Street
Englewood, NJ 07631

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 8. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
789 Teaneck Road
Teaneck, NJ 07666
info@volkleber.com
<http://www.volkleber.com>

Prayer Service

NOV 8. 12:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
789 Teaneck Road
Teaneck, NJ 07666
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Tribute Wall



“ Volk Leber Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Florence Lucia Samperi



Volk Leber Funeral Home - November 06, 2025 at 01:28 PM

AB

*I had the pleasure and the honor to work with Florence, she was one of my bosses, very caring to her employees, friends and clients. Florence will always be remembered as a very soft woman, and very pleasant to all. As for me she will forever live in a special part of my heart. Rest in peace siñora. May God grant you eternal peace in heaven paradise 📖🙏🙏 I will like to extend my most deepest and sincere condolences to the Samperi family and closest friends for the irreparable loss of a greatest human being that she was while serving in earth. My apologies for not being able to attend to the funeral. R.I.P. Florence 🌹🌸🙏
Aurora Bazo Zanutelli*

Aurora Bazo - November 08, 2025 at 12:00 PM

KH

“ At the cemetery. Could not have been a more colourful and glorious day for Florence



Kristin Hertel - November 15, 2025 at 08:55 PM

TS

“ 1 file added to the album FluFlu



Todd Squitieri - November 08, 2025 at 01:48 PM

TS

“ 1 file added to the album FluFlu



Todd Squitieri - November 08, 2025 at 01:46 PM

DC

“ I had the pleasure of working with Florence for many years at Henry Street Settlement, where her remarkable qualities shone through in everything she did. Florence was not only dedicated and hardworking but also had a genuine warmth that set her apart. Her loving and caring nature touched the lives of everyone she interacted with, whether it was colleagues, clients, or community members. She was always ready to lend a listening ear, offer support, or share a moment of joy, making her an invaluable presence in our workplace. Her compassion and commitment to helping others were truly inspiring, and I feel fortunate to have shared so many meaningful experiences with her during our time together. Rest In Eternal Peace, My Friend.

Debbie Cox - November 07, 2025 at 05:28 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Florence Lucia Samperi.



November 07, 2025 at 02:48 PM

AM

“ Florence was our absolutely fabulous neighbor for many years. Talking to Florence was always a learning experience, her amazing career as a social worker, trained family therapist/clinician always fascinated us. Florence was a mentor to many and as fellow psychiatric clinicians we morning the loss of a true leader in our field but even more we morn the loss of our wonderful neighbor. Abbey Martinez, LCSW, Dora Cardenas, M.D., NYSPI/ Columbia University

Abigail Martinez - November 06, 2025 at 07:40 PM

AE

“ We were fortunate to have Florence as our neighbor for many years. She was an inspiration to my daughters and was always invested in their progress in school.

Art Elmers - November 06, 2025 at 01:49 PM