



Jacqueline Kalfon Damato

April 19, 1926 - October 27, 2015

Jacqueline Kalfon Damato, 89, of Bonita Springs, died Tuesday, October 27, 2015. Formerly of Cleveland, OH and New York City, she had been a Bonita resident since 1998. She was born April 19, 1926 in Saint Denis de Sig, Algeria.

Jacqueline was the third of four daughters born to Esther and Joseph Kalfon. Jacqueline grew up in Oran, Algeria, where the family endured prejudice and hardships under Vichy rule in WWII until liberation by the Allies in Nov 1942. After the war Jacqueline married Charles Bensaïd (deceased) and moved to Paris where she began her acting career. She studied Acting in France with Rene Simon. She performed in French Classical and French Modern Theatre as well as a French Film in Paris. In 1950 she crossed the Atlantic (on the Queen Mary) and rejoined her mother and sisters in Cleveland, Ohio, where she married Charles H Barnett (deceased) and raised their two children, Bill and Mimi.

In 1970 Jacqueline moved to New York City to resume her acting career. She studied with Wynn Handman, Jim Tuttle and Catherine Gaffigan and voice speech with Marian Rich. In addition she studied Singing with Mrs. Elin. Jacqueline performed roles in many off-Broadway and off off- Broadway productions and summer stock including: "Tea And Sympathy", "Seagull", "After The Fall", "The Autumn Garden", "Middle Of The Night", "Les

Abandonnes”, “No Exit”, “The Cherry Orchard”, “Madam Ravigscaya”, “40 Carats”, “Nude with Violin”, “Gethsemane Springs”, “Private Lives”, “Matushka Barynya” and “Acrobatics”. She met her partner and soul mate of four decades plus, Robert Damato (her beloved Bob), in an acting class in 1972. They lived together in New York where she continued acting throughout the 70’s and 80’s. She was a lovely actress and a joy to see on stage. Jacqueline also worked for the Girl Scouts of America at their New York Headquarters. In 1998 Bob and Jacqueline (his “Babe”) married and moved to Bonita Springs, Florida.

Jacqueline was considered by all who knew her to be one of the world’s great gourmet cooks. There was nothing too complicated or elaborate for her to pull off with panache and style. She could be funny and was fiercely loyal. She was also an elegant beauty who lit up any room, and a liberal hearted supporter of the underdog.

Jacqueline was a very gracious person who responded to kindness, gentleness and caring from others. She had an infectious smile and sweetness about her. Other attributes included dignity, personal courage and compassion. The world has lost a most beautiful person in Jacqueline.

She is survived and will be terribly missed by her loving husband, Robert V. Damato (Bob); her beloved children, Charles William (Bill) Barnett of Eugene, OR and Mimi Elizabeth Braiman of Santa Fe, NM; her sisters, Paulette Volk and Simone Samuels, both of Cleveland, OH; and two cherished grandchildren, Anna Simone Barnett of Yarmouth, ME and Tyrone Kelly Barnett of Queens, NY.

A personal note from her loving daughter Mimi follows:

My Mom had a deeply loyal, loving and true heart. She was a true friend to

those close to her, always standing by them through thick and thin. She gave encouragement, and supported their endeavors in every way that she could, with an untiring, natural generosity.

Mom had a deep appreciation for beauty in nature, people and art. She was a fabulous gourmet cook, and derived immense pleasure from entertaining and preparing extraordinary feasts for her family and friends, with the help of her loving husband, my step-dad, Bob. Mom was also very aesthetically sophisticated, with an innate sense of style in all areas of life.

Besides her charm and great beauty, my Mom was brave, and kept her poise and dignity through challenging times. She had a sweet and pretty singing voice. It was gentle like a songbird's. I will always greatly miss my mom, love and cherish her memory.

Services were private and held at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements were handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jacqueline Kalfon Damato*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM