



Mr. Louis J. D'Amelio, Jr.

March 20, 1930 - October 15, 2019

UTICA - On Tuesday October 15, 2019, our beloved Uncle Lou passed away peacefully as he sat in a favorite recliner and looked out his window at the lovely brick walkway. He had no regrets only joy in his heart as he left this life. He loved his friends and family and all in return loved him.

Louie was born in Utica on March 20, 1930, son of Louis and Mary (Nucito) D'Amelio. He was born into one of many Italian immigrant families that settled in Central New York in the early 20th century. He grew up with his siblings, cousins, and his two amigos, Jay and Tony. As a child, he loved working on his Uncle's farm, the D'Amelio Dairy, and going to the movies. He loved garage sales, book sales, and the Chinese buffet. He loved Judy Garland and told her so from the audience at a concert in NYC. He enjoyed many adventures and travels to NYC to see Broadway Shows, California, New Jersey, Florida, Europe, and many a NYS country road. He never missed a birthday or special occasion. He loved to go out and eat. He cherished his privacy, yet had time for everyone. He enjoyed his life.

Uncle Lou is survived by his nieces Karen VanKeuren, Linda Schuyler, Julie Surace, Diane Chmel; nephews David (and Melissa) D'Amelio; great-nieces Lisa VanKeuren, Chelsea Chmel, Corinne Chmel, Alexandra D'Amelio, Jessica D'Amelio; great-nephews David VanKeuren, Michael D'Amelio and Connor Chmel; many cousins including Angela Demma, Jack Demma, Donna Rauscher, Maria D'Amelio, DeAnna D'Amelio, Louisa D'Amelio; and good friends Richard Dawes, Antanietta Loreti and the Loreti family, Mary Rose

Lupis, Frank Damiano, and Paul and Judy Pawlikowski. He was predeceased by his parents, sister and brother-in-law Angela and Rocco Surace, brother and sister-in-law Anthony and Carmella D'Amelio, and his life-long friends Jay (Mr. Jay) Trisolino and Anthony Loreti.

He was educated at Mt. Carmel Grammar School, and Proctor High School (Class of 1948). He attended Utica College on the G.I. Bill, graduating in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Relations. He served with the U.S. Army between June 19, 1951 and June 18, 1953, earning a Good Conduct Medal. Lou worked briefly with General Electric and for a year with the Social Security Administration.

In March 1959, he purchased The Rome Record Shop and turned it into a legend. The Shop was famous for late night literary discussions, long talks with Rome's youth of the 1960s, writing sessions on his typewriter that continued when he arrived home -- on his other typewriter, and copious amounts of his beloved coffee.

Lou very much enjoyed the 33 years he ran the Record Shop, making many life-long friends. He always felt great fondness for the hospitality of so many of Rome's citizens. He retired in 1992 and decided to take his love of people to the ARC of Oneida and Lewis Counties and worked as a residence manager and counselor until 2008. He also served as a job coach for Madison County ARC. In addition to a long and rewarding professional life, Uncle Lou served as a volunteer with Friends of the Utica Public Library, Literacy Volunteers of America, and the Stanley Theater.

Lou had a lifelong passion for theatre, creative writing, films, and music. He won many writing awards, including two John Gassner Memorial Playwriting Awards for his plays "Nobody Dances Here" and "The Private Prop. Of Rosco Pointer". Other plays he wrote won the Utica College Play Writing Contest eight times. He co-wrote the book, for the musical, "Fiesta", which was commissioned by Utica College, and the book for the musical, "The Lester and Lorraine Show", was performed many times at the Beeches in Rome. He also wrote five novels, several short stories, and book reviews for the

Observer-Dispatch and several national publications.

Uncle Lou was an influential member of the Mt. Carmel Community Theatre from 1967 to 1980, during which he directed many plays, most notably "Life with Father", Noel Coward's "Fallen Angels", Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler", and a mid-night production of "Dracula" in 1980 on the Hanna Park stage. Over the years, the Players, Utica College, Mt. Carmel, and the Rome Community Theatre performed local productions of Lou's plays. Between 2001 and 2010, Uncle Lou "immensely" enjoyed his affiliation with the RSVP Senior Theatre. He directed many of the group's plays, which have been performed in local libraries, senior centers, among other venues. Lou was also an active member of the Utica Writers' Club between 1968 and 2010. He served as president and historian of the group and worked on the Judging Committee of many of its creative writing contests.

Lou lived a long, healthy, productive life filled with loving family, friends, and community. He lived life quietly as a passionate individual who realized his dreams through his many accomplishments and life-long relationships.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Uncle Lou's Celebration of Life which will commence on Sunday evening, October 27th at 5:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the service. Those wishing to express an act of kindness in honor of Uncle Lou's love of animals may make a donation to a Humane Society of their choice. Entombment will take place in Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum at Holy Trinity Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

This Obituary was written by Uncle Lou sprinkled with a few flowery notes by his niece, Karen VanKeuren.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum at the convenience of the family

1500 Champlin Avenue
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT 27. 5:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Tribute Wall

GT

“ I would like to send my condolences to Lou's family.

I was the youngest from a family of 7(six boys and one girl) in Rome, NY. All of the family members went to Lou's Record Shop at one time or another. He got to know us all well.

The elder 2 going to the Dominick St. location and the rest of us the North James St. location. I got to know Lou very well as my vinyl collection started growing. I used to deliver the Rome

Sentinel(1982-85) in the afternoons. New music releases day I would cut my route short just to ride my bike up to the shop(across town) to get music and then come back and deliver the rest of my papers to my customers. He kept us all in the loop and as always imparted his knowledge and wisdom. If I remember our conversations correctly he said that he opened the store in 1959 and closed in 1992. I had moved away to Syracuse but I got back in touch with him over the past 15 years. I would call him twice a year and we would have long conversations. He still remembered my family and wanted to know how everyone was doing. We spoke about the state of the music and everything else in between. I kept telling him that he should have written a book with all the info and people that he crossed paths with. He was proud of us. I

appreciated it but always looked at it as being extremely privileged to have been able to get into meaningful conversations with someone who has seen it all and to still, years later be able pick right up and continue was a total blessing and something I will never forget. I last spoke to him in the spring. We talked about all the military people from Griffiss Air Force Base that used to come in droves to get music. I had many friends who used to always try to get the new stuff first so it was like a competition.

Alex Haley's name came up along with Diane Grieco and George Sims. It felt like being in history class. I can only imagine that he probably has a treasure trove full of things that should be displayed in a museum for all to see.

He will no doubt be missed.

Thank You Lou for being a part of my maturation process.

Greg Turner

I still have the records that i bought from him over 40 years ago.

Greg Turner - October 26, 2019 at 12:32 AM

LA

“ *My sincerest condolences to Lou's family.*

I knew Lou only briefly. What I did know, was he was a wonderful and kind spirit.

He always spoke so fondly of his family. I could see he was very proud of you all. God bless.

Linda Aderman

Linda Aderman - October 22, 2019 at 05:50 PM

LA

“ I first met Lou 60 years ago when he bought "The Record Shop" from Conse Vecchio of Rome, NY.

I was a precocious teenager, and he was a patient, intelligent, personable man, who seemed to know how to listen to, and handle us kids.

Popular music was my life then----and still is today. I am a record "savant". I have been collecting those little 45 r.p.m.s for over 60 years now, and still going strong.

*I owe much of this to my buddy, Lou.
He loved music, theatre, film, & The Arts in general.*

I got to meet Author Alex Haley ('Autobiography of Malcom X", "Roots") in Lou's back room. Alex liked Lou and used to "hang out" there before his inter-national fame & success.

*Lou was quite a writer in his own right.
For the last 4-5 years, I spoke with Lou, on the phone, once or twice a week. We would talk for an hour or so, discussing religion, politics, food, our up-bringing, films, books, mutual friends & "The Good Old Days".*

*I shall greatly miss "our conversations".
I am a better, richer person for having known him so well.*

*Paul Aderman
Utica, NY*

Linda Aderman - October 22, 2019 at 05:40 PM

JU

Thank You so much, he spoke kindly of you both and I am so grateful he had so many wonderful and caring friends. Yes he sure could listen and gave the best advice!

Julie - October 23, 2019 at 09:07 AM

JS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Julie Surace - October 21, 2019 at 11:00 AM

JS

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Julie Surace - October 19, 2019 at 06:04 PM

JS

The NJ days when Babby and I would camp out on Jewet Place, up all night talking, he was my biggest fan! Life just will never be the same without him, so fortunate that Uncle Lou was in my life from the day I was born.

Julie Surace - October 19, 2019 at 06:17 PM

LC

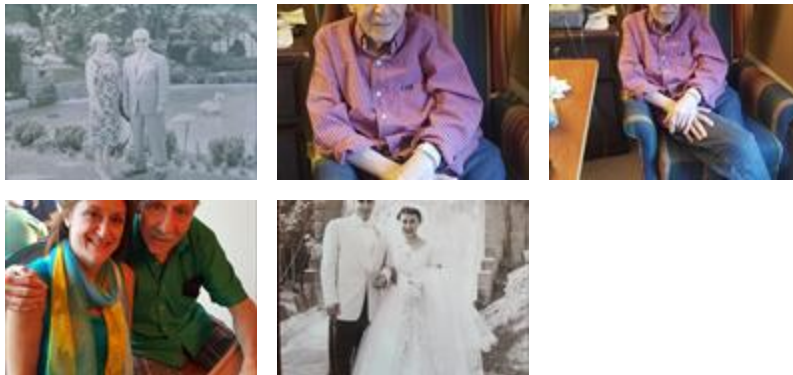
“ I first met Lou at his record shop in Rome in the early 1980s when I used to drive my step father to work. When I moved to Utica in 1993 he helped me to get to know the city and surrounding area. Was a knowledgeable and resourceful in many fields. A great friend who I'll miss dearly. Lyman Compo



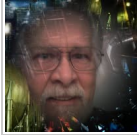
Lyman Compo - October 19, 2019 at 02:34 PM

DI

“ 17 files added to the album Uncle Lou



Diane - October 19, 2019 at 01:36 PM



“ Lou, you have always been one of the 'founding fathers' of my career as a dj, radio host and music promoter. When I was just a green kid wanting to be 'in the biz,' you carefully helped to make me a little more aware of reality and helped a wild kid aim a little more toward the seriousness I would need in life. Yet, you did this while always being a friend and always being there to help me, even to letting me 'borrow' records for my dances! Hopefully, I helped you sell a few. Without you, I could never have done them and, without you, I might not have succeeded in getting into radio and having a career. More than that, though, without you, I would have missed a dear friend. God bless you, Lou.

David Bowers - October 19, 2019 at 01:16 PM

JS

Thank You David, he was the best

Julie Surace - October 19, 2019 at 06:18 PM

NS

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album

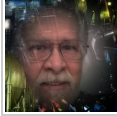


Nick Strange - October 18, 2019 at 10:04 PM

JG

Thank you Nick for sharing pictures. Romans loved Lou, talking & bought most of our records from The Record Shop. God bless Lou-- you were loved by many

Joanne George - October 18, 2019 at 10:49 PM



Thank you so much Nick for having and sharing these! I just found out and miss him already. Regrettably, I hadn't talked with him in several months. He was a big part of my life, helping me when I got into being a 'dj' and ultimately into radio. He will never be forgotten.

David Bowers - October 19, 2019 at 01:13 PM

JS

Thank you all so much for the beautiful pictures of my beloved Uncle Lou. I loved him so much and will miss him everyday.

Julie Surace - October 19, 2019 at 06:00 PM

FC

Beautiful photos; fond memories.

Frank Calaprice - October 20, 2019 at 09:25 PM

JG

“ *Lou's family and friends...
I only knew one side of Lou. That of a soft spoken, quiet man with a smile. Reading this beautiful obituary I learned what a truly exceptional man he was. Sending prayers and condolences to all.*

*Jody Guarnieri
Former Manager of The Brook Apts.*

Jody Guarnieri - October 18, 2019 at 07:35 PM

JU

Thank You Jody he thought you were the greatest!

julie - October 21, 2019 at 09:50 AM

JB

“ *Joni Bartlow lit a candle in memory of Mr. Louis J. D'Amelio, Jr.*



Joni Bartlow - October 18, 2019 at 04:06 PM

FC

“ *As a record collector, I spent many years at the Record Shop in Rome. I would drive from Utica to Rome because Lou always had the most current music. I was always amazed at how he could fit so much music in a place that was the size of my bathroom! But whatever you were looking for, he had it. Oftentimes I would go there to buy one record and I would end up spending over an hour in there just talking to Lou about music. He was a wonderful man and a true gentleman. He knew I was crushed when he closed the Record Shop, just a friendly and warm place to do business. My sincerest condolences to Lou's family. We have lost someone special.*

Frank Calaprice - October 18, 2019 at 03:51 PM

TL

“ I met Lou over the phone several weeks ago when I told him I'd be directing and playing in his "The Private Property of Roscoe Pointer" for Rome Community Theater's "Evening of One-Acts" at Rome's Polish Home, October 18 & 19, 7:30 P.M. We had an absolutely lovely 50-minute conversation, during which he could barely contain his emotion that 'Roscoe' would come alive again some 40 years after he wrote it. When friend Mike Donnelly emailed me this morning that Lou passed away on Tuesday, I reacted with such sadness that Lou couldn't be there to see it. Then, I thought, "No, Lou is watching over us, though we can't see him, with the best seat in the house!" We premiere tonight and dedicate our performance to this superb playwright. This one's for you, Lou.

Ted Lenio - October 18, 2019 at 02:23 PM

JS

Thank you Ted he told us all about it and it sure made him feel great.

Julie Surace - October 19, 2019 at 06:22 PM



“ *I would like to take this opportunity, to express my deepest sympathies, and admiration of Lou.*

For as long as I can remember, music has been a mainstay in my life.

I cannot begin to express how many days I rode my bike from Stanwix Heights, to Rome, to spend a day in Lou's store, perusing the albums, and spinning racks of 45's.

Always had the unique stuff no one else had, and was always great with cutting a deal...he gave me a stack of Beatles magazines he had, one day, and I still have them, as I am a Beatles collector, of sorts.

His smile, his graciousness, his knowledge of music..just amazing.

He will always remain as a major influence in my musical adventures, as he would play something just so I could hear it, and most of the time, I left the store with the album.

My deepest love, and condolences to all of you, and I just want you know , just how much this man meant to me, and my musical tastes, and my upbringing.

RIP, Lou...and , Thank you.....you will never be forgotten by this old soul, I can assure you.

-Charlie Martina, Westmoreland, NY

Charlie Martina - October 18, 2019 at 02:22 PM

JD

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Jessica D'Amelio - October 18, 2019 at 11:02 AM