



## Mrs. Mary Jane A. (Lucarelli) Bello

December 29, 1935 - October 4, 2024

UTICA – Mrs. Mary Jane A. (Lucarelli) Bello, age 88, passed away on Friday, October 4, 2024, with her loving family by her side.

As per her wishes, and extremely funny sense of humor, Mary Jane requested her obituary simply read the following: “Mary Jane A. (Lucarelli) Bello, “SHE’S DEAD!” as she laughed out loud. She also stated, “I WANT A CLOSED CASKET BECAUSE I DON’T WANT ANYBODY STARING AT ME WHEN I’M DEAD!”

Born in Canastota, NY on December 29, 1935, Mary Jane was the daughter of the late Emilio J. and Rose (DeFazio) Lucarelli. She was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1954.

In 1958, Mary Jane was joined in marriage to John A. Bello. They shared many years together prior to John’s passing on December 23, 2019.

Mary Jane served as a reading aide at the former Roosevelt Grade School where she enjoyed many special relationships with her students and the faculty. Subsequently, she served as an underwriter at Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. (now MetLife). Mary Jane also held several part-time positions while working full-time with the former Learners Department Store, Barbara Moss, and as a waitress at a local Catering Service. Mary Jane enjoyed

volunteering at the Boilermaker Road Race with the Met Life water station, even after her retirement. She also enjoyed many laughs with one of her former coworkers, Arlene "Cockroach" alias "Little Cock" Daccursio and her husband Richard alias "Tweety" Daccursio. Lastly, she served part-time as an office assistant at Watson Williams Grade School where she also enjoyed many more special relationships with the students and faculty.

Mary Jane was a loving woman of deep catholic faith and loved the Lord Jesus Christ with all her heart. Formally a member of the Blessed Sacrament and Saint Mary of Mount Carmel churches, she was appointed a role as a eucharistic minister for people that were too ill to make it to church. She was a strong woman who worked tirelessly to support her family and friends and for that matter anyone in need. She had a soft heart for animals and had many cats and dogs as pets over the years. She especially adored her canine companion Kiwi, her beloved Shar Pei.

An active woman, Mary Jane was a member of the Fun and Fitness Exercise Center at the former Riverside Mall. In her earlier years, you could find her out dancing with many of her special friends including but not limited to, Linda Williams, Rosa Priore, Mary Jane Sicilianno, and the late Sharon McEwen at the former Ramada Inn on Burrstone Road and various other clubs in the Utica area. She enjoyed being outside and spent many years with her family at the former Power Dam Recreation Area and multiple other lakes and waterways in Central NY. She especially enjoyed sailing and picnicking on Oneida Lake with her beloved late sister, Rosalie and husband Thomas Mahar, and many other family members.

Mary Jane's cooking was legendary, especially her famous meatballs and sauce which she freely shared with the entire neighborhood, and every automotive facility in which her son John worked over the years. Every Monday around break time, there would be a waiting line at his work to

distribute the meatballs. Entertaining arguments frequently broke out as to who was getting them and how many. Her meatballs were also legendary at the former Pin-O-Rama Bowling Center where her son also frequently brought them to distribute to his friends and teammates during league bowling.

Nearly every Friday night in her children's younger years and beyond, Mary Jane would make homemade pizza which was also legendary in the neighborhood and surrounding areas. Subsequently, it was not uncommon to have a house full of people and her children's classmates and sometimes complete strangers over to partake in the delicious pizza.

Mary Jane certainly treasured cooking and times at the table, cherishing the company of her families on both sides of her marriage, most notably during the holidays, especially Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. On Christmas Eve her sister, Rosalie, would always prepare the traditional Italian seven fishes and all the accoutrements that went along with them. On these holidays, Mary Jane, and her sister, Rosalie, and sometimes their father, Emilio, would frequently prepare homemade gnocchi, ravioli, and/or the entire gamut of stuffed and unstuffed pastas, meatballs, and sauce. Often duck, turkey, and ham were also prepared along with numerous homemade pies, cakes, and other delicious deserts. The holidays were always a true celebration of family and food.

Mary Jane also enjoyed many special times and holidays with her in-laws, the late "Poppie" Joseph and "Nonie" Lena Bello, Uncle Tony Sorace, Judy and the late Philip Rolchigo, the late Mamie Bello and Joe Bello, the late Mary and Nicholas Curri, and multiple nieces, nephews, and other cherished family members and friends. Most notably, the entire families of everyone going to eat Nonie's signature traditional marinated pork meat after midnight mass on Christmas Eve. These celebrations would frequently last until 2 to 3 o'clock in

the morning and beyond only to wake up Christmas day and do it all over again.

Mary Jane is survived by her daughter, Laurey Bello; and son and daughter-in-law, John A., Jr., and Naomi Bello. She treasured the memory of her late daughter, Diane Marie Bello, who passed away in 1973. She leaves her grandson, Joshua McKinney with whom she shared a special bond in their earlier years together. She fondly remembered her siblings who preceded her Rosalie, and Charles Lucarelli. She will further be remembered by her nieces and nephews, David and Lisa Mahar, Jeffrey and Linda Mahar; and her great-nieces and great-nephews, especially Madison Mahar, with whom she also shared a special bond, and Gregory, Courtney, and Bradley Mahar. She also leaves her in-laws, Juliet Rolchigo and the late Phillip Rolchigo, Joseph A. "Joe" Bello, and the late Mamie M. Loiacano Bello; additional nieces and nephews, Michael, and Lisa Rolchigo, Tyler and Marina, Phillip and Judy Rolchigo, Matthew and Bella, Patricia Cote, Terri Bello Vecchio and Michael C. Vecchio, Michael Vecchio, Joseph and Karen Bello, David M. and Pamela Bello, Carlene and Donald Zumpano, and Robert, and Cynthia Curri. Mary Jane also enjoyed the company and friendship of the late Rose Emma, her neighbor when she lived on Brinckerhoff Ave in Utica. If anyone has been left out, please know that it wasn't on purpose as this has been a very stressful time for the family.

The family especially wishes to extend their gratitude to "Paw" Thumbelina Bello who was known as Mary Jane's and her late husband John's unofficial adopted daughter. Her devoted friendship, kindness, love, and endless care was instrumental in the life and the final days of both Mary Jane and John's lives and will never be forgotten!

The family would like to mention Mary Jane's special friend, Sharon McEwen and her son Ryan McEwen and their family with whom she shared many

years of treasured friendship before Sharon's passing.

The family would also like to especially mention Howard and Kelly Britton, and Howard Britton, Jr. who called her "Grandma," for their unending help, support, and love extended to Mary Jane. She shared a very special friendship and bond with their family, especially Howard Jr. who she adored.

Mary Jane was predeceased by her father-in-law and mother-in-law Joseph, and Lena (Sorace) Bello; and in-laws, Mary and Nicholas J. Curri.

The family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude to the entire staff at Sunset Nursing and Rehab Center where Mary Jane resided prior to her passing. Mary Jane's family also sends their sincerest thank you and gratitude to the staff of the ER, and ICU Trauma Units at Upstate University Hospital for their valiant efforts to save her life and dignity and make her as comfortable as possible before her passing. The efforts and care of the above named facilities will never be forgotten!

Visitation will be held on Monday, October 14, 2024, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Mary Jane's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence at 5:00 p.m. at the funeral home. For those unable to attend, you may be present virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83852526504>. Memorial contributions in Mary Jane's honor may be made to Spring Farm CARES online at <https://www.springfarmcares.org/get-involved/donate/>. Envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

This obituary was lovingly written by Mary Jane's family.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 735-2727

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 14. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

OCT 14. 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

CG

“ I was so sorry to hear of Mary Jane's passing. What a beautiful person.... I met her when I worked for MetLife many years ago....we became quick friends. I called her "Lady Jane." :) She was a true angel. Please accept my sincere condolences.  
Connie Giordano

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**Connie Giordano** - October 30, 2024 at 09:05 AM

NH

“ I am so sorry to hear about MJ's passing. My sincere condolences to the Bello family. I worked with her years ago at MetLife. She was such a sweet person and very funny lady. She always made us smile and laugh. My you rest in peace MJ.

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**Natalie H.** - October 28, 2024 at 03:39 PM

ML

“ Johnny, your Mom was my reading tutor at Roosevelt. I remember walking to the room on the first floor where she would have the lessons set up. We would read different words and she would also have them on a screen.

*I got my love of reading right there.*

*I loved coming over your place on Brinkerhoff for pizza. It was always good and it kept us outta mischief for a minute. By design :)  
:)*

*Thanks for climbed bald mountain with me when I was home this summer great climb with a great buddy.*

*You took me flying this summer, just one word. Cool Beans!  
Double hi 5...*

*Great steak and potatoes/corn over your house. Hit the spot.*

*Best wishes as you turn this next page...  
Give your Mom a smile for me. Tell her I have to donate a lot of books...*

*Much love Brother,  
Martin  
"Chief"*

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**Martin Lazore** - October 14, 2024 at 03:43 PM

PP

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of your Mom my sister Elaine was a friend of her's. She passed away on Oct. 4th 2019. May they see each other again in Heaven

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**Phyllis Padula** - October 13, 2024 at 01:12 PM

BB

“ *What an incredible tribute to a beautiful woman!!! God rest her soul. With our love, Barbara Barkett and the Applewood Community xoxo*

Barbara Barkett - October 11, 2024 at 02:14 PM

FM

“ *Family of ROSE EMMA and MARY JANE MALARA purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Mrs. Mary Jane A. (Lucarelli) Bello.*



Family of ROSE EMMA and MARY JANE MALARA - October 11, 2024 at 01:31 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Jane A. (Lucarelli) Bello.*



October 10, 2024 at 10:55 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Jane A. (Lucarelli) Bello.*



October 09, 2024 at 09:11 PM

LM

“ Love, Greg, Brad, and Courtney Mahar planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Mary Jane A. (Lucarelli) Bello.

Love, Greg, Brad, and Courtney Mahar - October 09, 2024 at 09:11 PM

DB

“ I remember her from Roosevelt school and I lived on Dudley Ave just around the corner from her and the smell of her kitchen my mom would go over and try to make her dishes not always the same you let me with só many great memories of my childhood fly with the angels here on earth you had a angle equality about yourself praying for the family at this time keep your head to the sky

Denise Brown - October 09, 2024 at 08:48 AM

DB

“ Denise Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Mary Jane A. (Lucarelli) Bello



Denise Brown - October 09, 2024 at 08:43 AM

PF

“ Paw& Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Mary Jane A. (Lucarelli) Bello.

Paw& Family - October 08, 2024 at 08:13 PM

PF

“ Paw& Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mrs. Mary Jane A. (Lucarelli) Bello.



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**Paw& Family** - October 08, 2024 at 08:13 PM

DB

“ Denise Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Mary Jane A. (Lucarelli) Bello



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**Denise Brown** - October 08, 2024 at 09:45 AM

CA

“ John & Naomi & family,  
I'm so very sorry about your Mom. She was a wonderful woman. But I didn't get any of those meatballs at the bowling alley. So, Momma Bello I hope you taught John how to make them. May you rest in peace.

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**Carlene** - October 07, 2024 at 09:50 PM

KB

“ Sending my deepest condolences to John and The Family. Your mom touched so many hearts through the years. She was a “one of a kind” woman with her sense of humor!! May you find comfort in the Lord during this difficult time.

*Kerry Baldwin-Garcia*

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**Kerry Baldwin** - October 07, 2024 at 08:20 PM

LM

“ I am saddened to be reading of Mrs. Bello’s passing. I grew up with her daughter Laurey as we were classmates all through Grammer school and high school. Mrs. Bello was such a wonderful person. This is so sad. R.I.P. Mrs. Bello. With Deepest Sympathy, Lorrie Moyer

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**Lorrie Moyer** - October 07, 2024 at 07:19 PM