



Obituary: Lorenzo “Larry” Malanga



File photo

Lorenzo “Larry” Malanga, of Montclair, died on April 28, 2018.

Mr. Malanga was born on Jan. 9, 1936, in Materdomini, Italy and met his wife Antoinette Iannuzzi from the neighboring town of Caposele. They married and then immigrated to the United States, where they initially settled in Newark near St. Lucy’s Church. They then moved to their first home in Montclair where they lived for the next 50 years, raising their three children and becoming long-standing members of St. Cassian’s Church.

Mr. Malanga worked in Montclair as a barber for nearly 50 years where he purchased and owned his own barbershop. Larry’s Barber Shop became a well-known establishment in Montclair for decades. It was there that he cut the hair of thousands of men (and a few women) and many young boys - many of whom received their first haircuts from him hoping for their post-haircut reward of a gumball (or two) and lollipop. Over time, many of these boys refused to get their haircuts from anyone else but Larry, even as they became fathers bringing in their own boys for their first haircuts. His ability to handle a squirming, crying child as well as being a receptive ear for the stories of his more mature clients was admired by all. He continued working at this barber shop into his late 70s, even after selling it to help care for his wife.

Mr. Malanga enjoyed cooking meals for his family, playing cards with his Italian friend at “The Club;” long walks along the boardwalk at Sea Girt; trips to Italy to visit his friends and family (as the well-beloved Zio Lorenzo) and working on his much admired tulip garden in the front of his home on Mount Hebron Road.

He is survived by his children Gerry and Carrie, Anthony and Patti, and Rita and Dave and his grandchildren Matthew, Tara, Patrick, Kelly, Grace, Luke, Michael, Kyle, John, Enzo, and Isabelle. Mr. Malanga is predeceased by his wife Antoinette.

Visitation is today, Tuesday, May 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at Hugh M. Moriarty Funeral Home, 76 Park St., Montclair. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Wednesday, May 2, from 10 to 11 a.m., at St. Cassian Church, 187 Bellevue Ave., Upper Montclair. Interment will follow at Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donate to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org or The Comboni Missionaries at combonimissionaries.org.