



# Leela Cruz

JAN 27, 1949 - JUL 29, 2022



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## Leela Cruz

JAN 27, 1949 - JUL 29, 2022

# L eela Cruz

Sunrise: Thursday, January 27, 1949 ... Sunset: Friday, July 29, 2022

CRUZ (nee Madoo), LEELA - passed-away peacefully at home in Cutler Bay, Florida on Friday, July 29, 2022, after a courageous and inspirational battle with pancreatic cancer, diagnosed only a few months ago. Formerly of Maraval, Trinidad and Tobago, and St Croix, USVI, Leela also worked for many years in the Library of the University of Miami at Coral Gables, retiring in 2020. Beloved and devoted wife of Nelson Xavier Cruz, and mother of Rajeev (Teresa), Ravi (Peta) and Roma (Reinier). Adoring grandmother of Isabella, Nelson Jr, Michael ('Mikey'), Dominic, Cristian and Luna. Daughter of the late Radhica ('Dolly') & Lutchman Madoo of Trinidad. Sister of the late Basanty (Emlyn) Geeban, Krishna and Sharma Madoo; and of Cushela (Denase) Gosein, Bharat Madoo, Chandra ('Sarge') Sooknanan, Anganie (Chandru) Chatlani and Radica (Michael) Dolsingh.

Sister-in-law of the late Gloria and Felix Cruz; and of Anita Romero, Hilda Cruz, Bedelia Cruz, Nivia

Casas and Victorina Cruz; and of Linda Madoo. For decades Leela was also a surrogate counsellor to many of her children's 'friends-from-young', including Griff, Dan, Nari, Manny, Gabbie, Tanya, Rubina, Alex & Jenny, among others. Dearly loved Aunt of Vidya, Mitra & Indira Geeban; Sally Lakhan, Debbie Harripersad & Bindra Madoo; Kishore & Asha Gosein; Anjalie Rampersad & Avita

Sooknanan; Aneeta Villani & Anjana Chatlani; and Leandra & the late Matthew Dolsingh.

Leela taught us about sacrifice through her selfless dedication to her husband and children. She also cared deeply for her wider circle of family and friends. She was a 'stickler for detail'; but, even in remaining characteristically resolute she would be cheerful and positive, including at those times when Life's challenges would have been difficult if not overwhelming. She was a pillar of strength when the family needed to rebuild their lives and home after Hurricane Andrew in 1992. And still, when she was ready, she could 'let her hair down', even 'baila' at a birthday



## Obituary

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celebration or other happy occasion. Her three children were her joy, her commitment; and she would generously extend that joy and commitment to her treasured husband of fifty-one years, to those six promising grandchildren of Nelson's and hers, to her siblings and nieces and nephews and others within her wide circle of family and friends. A family icon has passed-on. Much too young. She had so much more to do. To celebrate, and to be grateful for. Our Leela, 'My Coolie Woman', 'Mammie', 'Granny', 'Auntie', 'Girlfriend'. 'Leels': you are irreplaceable. You set the bar high. You will be sorely, deeply missed.

A Farewell Service and Blessing will be held on Friday, August 5, 2022 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at Branam Funeral Home, 809 North Krome Avenue, Homestead, FL 33030, according to Hindu rites and to be officiated by Pundit Sarve. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made in Leela's name to the research body 'Stand Up For Cancer' - either through <https://standuptocancer.org/donate/> or by mail to Stand Up For Cancer, P O Box 843721, Los Angeles, CA 90084-3721.





# Events

**Leela Cruz**

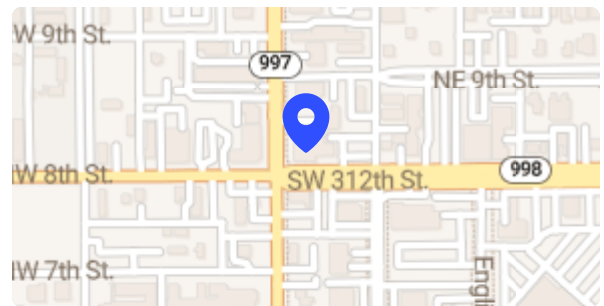
JAN 27, 1949 - JUL 29, 2022

## Funeral Service

 **Friday**, August 5, 2022

 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

 **Memorial Plan Branam Funeral Home**  
809 North Krome Avenue, Homestead FL 33030





# Tribute Wall

**Leela Cruz**

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**Memorial Plan San Jose - Ferdinand Funeral Home** shared a **Webcast Video**.



July 30 at 1:41 PM



**Sharnel** August 5 at 7:36 AM

Our deepest condolences goes out to your family at this very difficult time. Sending everyone lots of love and divine light.Love,Margaret, Sheldon, Sharnel and family



**Margo Mayes** August 5 at 7:33 AM

Condolences to all Leela's family. Rest in peace Leela, no longer in pain. You can now be the guardian angel to your family and look after them from above.Beautiful service although sad saying goodbye. Lots of love Margo and Colin Mayes



**Avita S** August 4 at 5:58 PM

Aunty Leela...your lovely laugh, sweetness and encouragement will forever be missed...thank you for being the most thoughtful aunt who always provided the best insight and advice when needed most...You will always have a special place in my heart and I take strength from your courageous course in life...Much love and hugs to Buelo, Jeevi, Ravi, Roma and fam always and especially during this difficult time of grief.Love,Avita



**Yvonne Ramcharitar** August 4 at 5:23 AM

Deepest condolences to the Madoo, Cruz and immediate family Nelson, Rajeev, Ravi , Roma and their family Leela has been a very dear person to myself and family whom we held very close to our hearts a beautiful lady inside and out My heart is broken continue to rest in eternal peace my friend Nelson and family we love you folksStay strong Yvonne Ramcharitar (St Croix)



**Daisy Cruz Christian** August 2 at 4:42 PM

Que tristeza tiene mi corazón no por tu partida sino por el vacío que dejas. Gracias por los momentos compartidos, donde tú paz, sencillez y tu sonrisa llenaba cualquier vacío que podía tener el alma al compartir momentos que nunca voy al olvidar. A Dios le doy las gracias por darme la oportunidad de tener en mi familia y en mi vida una mujer la cual llamaba Tía Leela. No le digo un adiós le digo hasta pronto 😞❤️. Y aunque no esté en cuerpo presente mis pensamientos desde Vieques, PR están con mi segundo padre Nelson, prim@s y familia. Los amo.



**Farida R Rautaharju** August 2 at 10:01 AM

Dearest family I got to know Leela through Radica. What a calm peaceful angel she is. I have fond memories of visiting her and will always remember her indelible mark on me of her kindness and peaceful nature. May she Rest In Peace // Farida Razack Rautaharju



**Concel Beharrylal-Maharaj** August 2 at 9:13 AM



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Condolences to the Madoo family and Leela's immediate family too. May God give you all the strength and courage to cope with this great loss. I had known Leela to be a quiet person with a smile at all times on her face. May her soul go to its rightful place.



**Chandra Sooknanan** August 2 at 9:03 AM

My Dear Sister Leela. We little knew that day, God was going to call your name, in life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone. For part of us went with you, the day called you home. You left us beautiful memories, your love is still our guide, and though we cannot see you, you are always by our side. Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same, but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again. Leela you were a beautiful soul and cared and helped everyone in the family regardless of your challenges. You will be missed dearly and we love you. Your sister Chandra and Brother-in-Law Sarge Sooknanan and family



**Doulat Chandiramani** August 2 at 8:48 AM

Our deepest condolences to the family. Be strong!!! Doulat & Hema



**Pamela Giuliani Lee** August 2 at 8:23 AM

Deepest sympathy and love to all of Leela's family. ❤️



**Jim Persaud** August 2 at 7:28 AM

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to all the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Jimmy, Pat, Darryn and Tyler



**Raul Rufat** posted:

Leela, you are one of those people that comes one in a million. Your kindness, calm demeanor, loving and responsible nature defined you as a person. Although, you have been taken away too early, you have left your imprint in the fabric that makes up your family. We see you in your children. Your kindness extended to Nelson's friends as well. Each year, I was fortunate to help Nelson spread your love to our work friends during the holidays with your wonderful curry chicken. We also enjoyed spending time with you when we would go to the annual holiday party together. Those were precious times. We will miss you. Eternal peace to you and condolences to the family. Love, Raul and Soraya

August 5 at 3:21 PM



**Stacie Morris Madoo** posted:

Aunties have no wands or wings they work with Love, Wisdom, & Kindness, how lucky I've been blessed to know & have you as my Auntie Leela you'll be missed

August 5 at 10:32 AM



## Tribute Wall

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RS

**Rajkumari Sawh** posted:

Condolences to the family of Leela May the good Lord look over you and give you strength during this difficult time

August 5 at 7:12 AM

IG

**Indira Geeban** posted:

I have so many wonderful memories of Auntie Leela, all of them full of joy and happiness. Her kindness knew no bounds. She had a quiet strength that was grounded in her faith and her love for her family, both immediate and extended, was unwavering. One of my fondest memories is her dancing at a Christmas parang lime by me in Trinidad a few years ago. Happy times. I pray that she has found peace now and is dancing in heaven with her parents and siblings who have passed. I love you and miss you. You will always be in our hearts. Indira

August 5 at 4:13 AM

CG

**Cushela Gosein** posted:

Leela, I will miss you, but I know wherever you are, you are at peace. I will always hold you dear in my heart. You were a great Sister, Wife, Mother Grandmother, Aunt and Friend. Sisters are different flowers from the same garden. There are no better friend than a sister. Nothing can replace the love of a sister. Leela I will miss you but I know wherever you are, you are free from pain. Rest in Peace Leela ! Your pain has gone forever. Love You Forever !Cushela and Denase Gosein

August 4 at 8:11 PM

PN

**Prabie Lutchman Nexar** August 5 at 6:52 AM

Condolences to her family and loved ones may she rest in peace from prabie and family in maraval

SC

**Sona Charles** August 5 at 5:54 AM

My condolences to her Family and friends may her soul have eternal peace OM Sadgati 🙏🙏

□



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RM

**Rubina Mejias** posted:

A second mom to me, Leela Cruz a beautiful woman who woke up every day to love and serve her family in all their needs no matter how she felt, she loved to donate to her community, and she loved to encourage all that she met in her path. She had patience and compassion to others no matter what season she was in she was always smiling or serving a meal to her children and their friends and family that would come by. To know her was a piece of love on this Earth. My Condolences and Blessings to her family. Numbers 6:24-26

August 2 at 8:32 PM

AG

**Asha Gosein** posted:

My deepest condolences to Aunt Leela's family. She was a caring and wonderful person! While I will miss our conversations every weekend, she is still in my thoughts and I will not forget her. To her immediate family, I wish you peace and love as you deal with this. Just know she was a fabulous individual who positively touched everyone's heart and thinking of her brings a smile to my face. Love, Asha Gosein

August 2 at 2:19 PM

JP

**Jacquelyn Pugh** lit a candle in honor of Leela.

My deepest condolences to the family... May you find daily comfort in the wonderful memories and legacy she left behind.

August 2 at 6:29 AM





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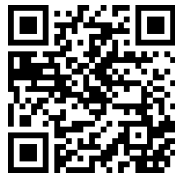
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## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Leela by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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