

92 Things We Love About Ralph

With Love from Us All, Just Because

Barbara, Rachel, Diane, Toni, Leah, Matthew, Linda, José,

Alessandro, Craig, Jenny, Robert and Joseph

1) For making the person you are conversing with feel that they are the most interesting person in the world. 2) For the joy shining in your face when you are around people. 3) For dancing with and charming Linda's mom Rose Marie at Matthew and Linda's wedding. 4) For marking life events by always sending Matthew and Linda birthday and anniversary cards every year even though they never write. 5) For the silver Christmas bells you send the Hart kids each year—a tradition we continue and will pass on to our children. It makes us so happy to display them every December. 6) For never being done with your goals and objectives. 7) For embracing online teaching long before it became a regular thing and long after most people would have retired. 8) Because you continue to teach, learn and grow through nine decades of life—so inspiring to us all. 9) Because we love to hear about your travels and experiences. 10) For your artwork and aesthetic. 11) Because of your Bostonian accent. 12) For the fact that you still consider Matthew to be a “twitch.” 13) Because you're genuinely and wholeheartedly always there for others. 14) For the sparkle in your eye. 15) Because of your acceptance and interest in others. 16) For your intelligence, integrity, and generosity. 17) For the protective lighthearted joyous sibling love we've experienced between you and Barbara. It is wonderful to see your childhood selves when you banter with each other. 18) For you and Joseph sending the Medusa head (statuary) to Alessandro and Luca after they loved playing with it in your backyard. 19) For sending Obi gifts. 20) For sending all the birthday cards and gifts, always wrapped in a way that made everyone feel special. 21) For sending greeting cards to everyone, for every occasion (but the Christmas cards were often a bit late, as you always joked). 22) For taking the Rios boys to the Higgins museum with cool knights and medieval things. 23) For taking the Hart kids as children and Rios boys to the colonial era Sturbridge Village for memorable experiences. 24) For finding things “acceptable.” 25) For chatting up every single person you encounter and being the life of the party wherever you go. 26) For your painting at the end of the hall that sort of scared the Hart kids when they were young. 27) For that swooshy, impossible-to-read but oh-so-fashionable cursive handwriting. 28) For being the Godfather of the Parente family. 29) For the Italian cookies you love that Rachel is now obsessed with. 30) For your intricate, hand-cut paper art cele-

brating weddings and babies. 31) For knowing how to rock a stylish scarf. 32) For your great taste in ties. 33) For your -isms, like, “Let me tell you.” 34) The names you chose for your dogs. Especially, “Star.” 35) For Velvet, Candy, Rufus, Savannah and Mandy. 36) For painting your dogs' nails at the groomer and showing Jenny and all of us you can never love your dog too much. 37) For always being well coiffed. 38) For the Volkswagen bug you had in the 70s. Craig and Rachel fondly remember having the opportunity to be a passenger in it as a child. 39) For the cool artsy Woody Allen glasses you had then, too. 40) For David's fabulous plaid Christmas suit. 41) For being Rachel's North Star and inspiration for style, artistry, letter writing, card-sending, etiquette, grace and so much more. 42) For the impeccably tasteful engraved gifts, even though you did spell Rachel's name as “Rachael” once or twice. 43) For the beautiful silver pie server you gave Jenny for her wedding (every time she uses it she thinks of you). 44) For being happy when Barbara was born—unexpectedly. 45) For being Barbara's big brother and best brother. 46) Encouraging Barbara to do things she thought she could not do. 47) For the yellow roses for Barbara's birthday. 48) For the origami birds you made on your visit with Vincent and Barbara for their first Christmas tree (1964) in Spokane, Washington. 49) For taking care of so much family “business.” 50) For always being there for Barbara and her family with your generosity and kindness. 51) For your sense of style and fashion and for trying to teach Barbara. 52) For the many pieces of your artwork that adorn Barbara and Vincent's home. 53) For the love and compassion you show and showed your siblings, notably Pina and Veega, and Barbara. 54) For your warmth and loving nature that are genuine qualities—they will always be embedded in Sally Krow's heart. 55) For the wonderful art supplies you would send the Hart kids when we were young that inspired beauty in life, careers, and happiness. 56) For encouraging appreciation of art of all sorts. 57) For Manhattans, martinis, gin and tonics and daily happy hours with Joseph, with conversations and scintillating details of our family history. 58) For bringing Joseph and his dry wit, thoughtfulness, art—and beautiful cakes!!—into our lives. 59) For the little luxuries in silver Scharfman's boxes. 60) For being an inspiration for all things artistic for Rachel and making her feel like she was normal because of her creative pursuits. 60) For still calling Barbara “my darling baby sister” and getting misty-eyed every time you say goodbye to her. 62) For always celebrating the ones you love for reasons big and small. 63) For telling Jenny the best way to know if an antique piece is good is to smell the wood. 64) For never complaining about how much stuff Joseph had in the cellar or garage. 65) For the houses in Maine. 66) For taking family members out to eat for birthdays, anniversaries and just because. 67) For all the cakes you made for family celebrations that Joseph would decorate so perfectly. 68) For Diane's 70th birthday party at the New England Steakhouse, Rachel's 50th, Jose and Rachel's wedding rehearsal dinner, and so many more events you so generously hosted. 69) For your 90th birthday party, when so many of the cousins were able to get together. 70) Because we all know how much you love to have parties. 71) For that white standard poodle stuffed animal Diane gave you for Christmas years ago; she was so happy you liked it so much. 72) For giving Diane a necklace with a paw print and Nicki's name when she went over the Rainbow Bridge. 73) For sending Alex a card for his birthday and taking interest in talking with him. 74) For still calling your parents mama and papa. 75) For the “catch up” calls that Diane loves so much. 76) For the fun trips Toni Ellen remembers when you came to Niantic when she was a little girl. 77) For being the inspiration for Toni to be an artist. 78) For visiting your brother Tony with Pina and Freddie when he was in assisted living, and the get-together you organized for him in Milford. 79) For being the classiest uncle, ever. 80) For all the times spent together in Wisconsin with Toni and Barbara's families. 81) For your sense of humor. 82) For your sharp wit and clarity of thought that is full of wisdom so we hang on every word. 83) For the fabulous window displays you did for the electric company. You were so *Mad Men*, ahead of your time. 84) For taking Craig out to lunch on his 21st birthday. 85) For your beautifully natural smile that reaches from ear to ear. 86) For leaving Joseph a card on the breakfast table for every single holiday of the year. 87) For baking apple pies every fall. 88) For always saying, “Just buy it!” when Joseph looked at something. 89) For never getting the jokes when you and Joseph are watching “South Park” or “The Office.” 90) Because you are the definition of a true gentleman. 91) For letting Joseph know every day how much you loved him. 92) For just being you.