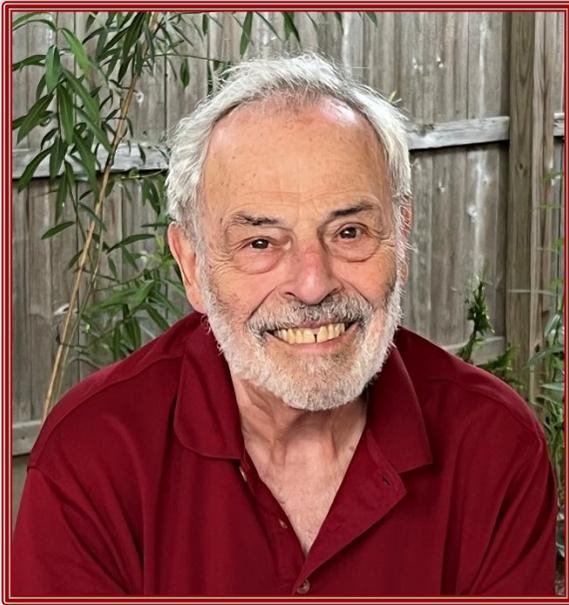


Meet Lou Monaco – Bass 1



Tell us about yourself.

I was born July 29, 1935, in Ozone Park, Borough of Queens, NY. The third child in the Monaco family. My sister, Catherine, was 8 years older, and my brother Joseph was 7 years older. Our

apartment was located close to a delicatessen. This allowed my mom to teach me, at a very early age, how to run errands for her. The learning experience came in handy after I started elementary school.

When I turned 4 years of age, I told my mom I wanted to start school. She told me I was too young. After much pestering, Mom gave in and signed me up to start school in the fall of 1939 at a catholic elementary school. My kindergarten started at 9 AM and ended at 3 PM. My brother was responsible for taking me to and from school. I enjoyed being at school and making friends with a whole new group of boys and girls.



Lou - 1936

At the end of the school year, I was told that I would stay in kindergarten for the next year as I wouldn't turn 6 years old until 1941. The nun who ran the kindergarten told me that I would be her assistant, in charge of putting away the many things that kept us busy throughout the school day. This worked out fine with me.

1941 turned out to be very exciting: Joseph graduated to high school, my

parents bought our first house, and I was to start first grade in the fall. My parents also surprised me by offering to enroll me in the Wurlitzer School of Music, where I could learn to play a musical instrument. Mom took me to an interview at the music studio. The man we met was to determine what instrument I would take up. I said I would like to play guitar. The man told Mom that my fingers were too small for a guitar. He suggested that I take up accordion instead. Mom agreed with the man, and I got my first accordion, a 12 key bass. Lessons were once per week after school. I enjoyed being in first grade and the music lessons.



Lou - 1940



Lou and Mom - 1946

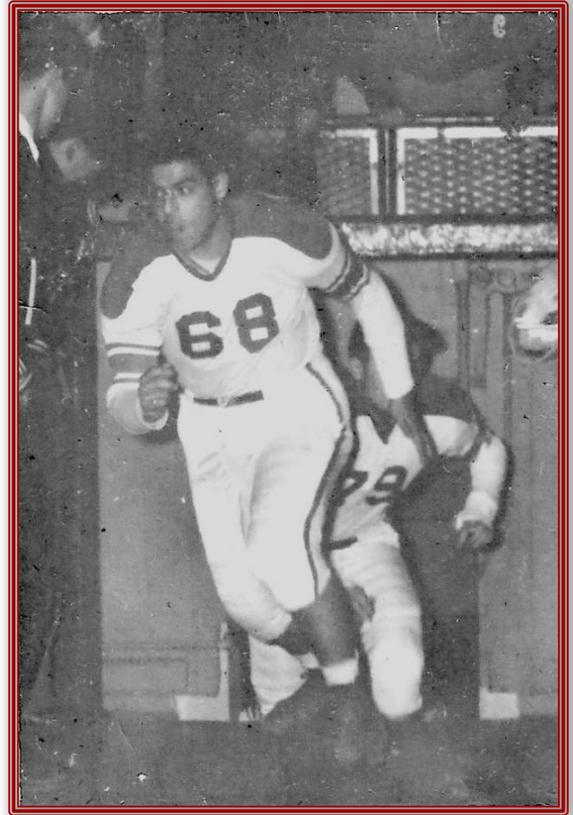
After my first year of lessons, I traded in my 12 bass for a 120 bass accordion. The music instructor would conduct two concerts per year. Each student was expected to solo a musical number at each concert, as well as be part of an orchestral piece. I also got to perform in a number of school plays. I took music lessons until I graduated from elementary school.

One important lesson I learned from my music instructor was when he asked me what I wanted to do after all my schooling was done, I replied, "Be an electrician." His response was, "Why not strive to be an electrical engineer?" Advice well given.

When I started second grade, the principal asked if I would like to take over some of the responsibilities that my brother had. I said yes and was now in charge of ringing the various school day bells. Later that year, the principal asked if I would take on doing errands. I agreed, and now I would be responsible for all the activities my brother used to handle.

I joined the boys' choir in 1942 at my school and was the lead soprano until my voice cracked at age 12 during a church service. I continued in the choir as an alto until I entered high school.

I applied for and was accepted to Brooklyn Technical High School, and I joined the school's football team and played for four years. I played guard on offense and defense.



Lou - 1951



Wedding

In 1951, I met Joan Weber, and we married in 1957. We had two children, Jeanne and Louis Jr.

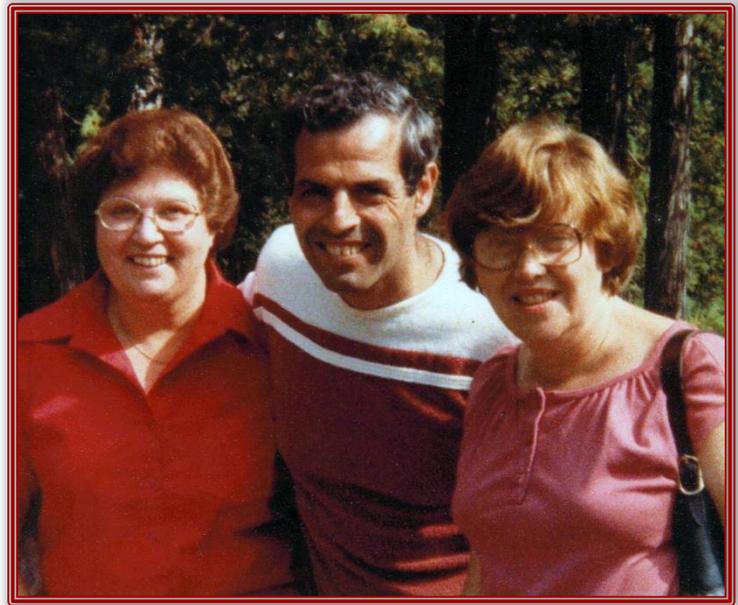




I started working for AT&T Long Lines in 1953 and transferred to Bell Labs in 1989. Retired in 1996 and joined IBM Global Services, then retired from IBM in 2000.

I graduated from the University of

Maryland in 1970 and from Stevens Institute of Technology in 1996. After graduating from Maryland, I started teaching myself to play the guitar. By 1971, I started managing, as well as playing and singing in folk groups for Sunday and other special masses. While living in Pennsylvania, I also played and sang with an Italian folk group, I Paesani.



Joan, Lou, & Jean

What song brings back childhood memories?

There are so many songs that I have sung and played throughout the years. My favorite, from a religious point of view, would be “How Great Thou Art”. And from a secular point of view, I prefer “Over the Rainbow”.

What started your interest in music and singing?

As far back as I can remember, my dad would listen to Opera every Saturday. My sister had a beautiful soprano voice and sang with our women's church choir. So, I guess that both of them influenced my interest in singing. My brother, on the other hand, was a star athlete in football and basketball in high school. That gave me an interest in playing competitive sports.

When did you become involved with the WVC?

I joined the WVC in January 2022, and have also sung and played guitar with the Prince of Peace Church choir and Our Lady of Lourdes choir since 2008. I like the challenge of performing classical church music, as well as other classical music.

Who is your favorite composer(s), and why?

From a classical point of view, my favorite composer would be Bach. Otherwise, they would be Andrew Lloyd Webber and John Williams.

Do you have a hobby?

I have been a Model Train hobbyist since 1945.

What's the best thing you've read in the last five years?

The Idea Factory, a book by Jon Gertner is my favorite book. It is the story about Bell Labs and the Great Age of American Innovation.



Lou - 2015

What is your favorite movie of all time?

*The movie that impressed me the most was **Doctor Zhivago**.*

What is the best concert you have ever been to?

One of the best concerts I ever attended was on the 4th of July in Boston, MA. It was the Boston Pops Orchestra, directed by John Williams. It was Mr. Williams's last concert before leaving for Hollywood and his career of composing for the movies.

What would you sing at Karaoke night?

John Denver's "West Virginia" would be one of my Karaoke songs another would be Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline."

What is on your bucket list?

I think I've pretty much completed my bucket list. My first wife and I traveled to 46 of the 50 states, as well as parts of Mexico, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. My second wife and I sailed around the Mediterranean several times and the British Isles.



Cork, Ireland

What are you most thankful for?

I'm very happy that my children married wonderful partners and have raised very wonderful, loving grandchildren and that my extended family has stayed in touch with me.



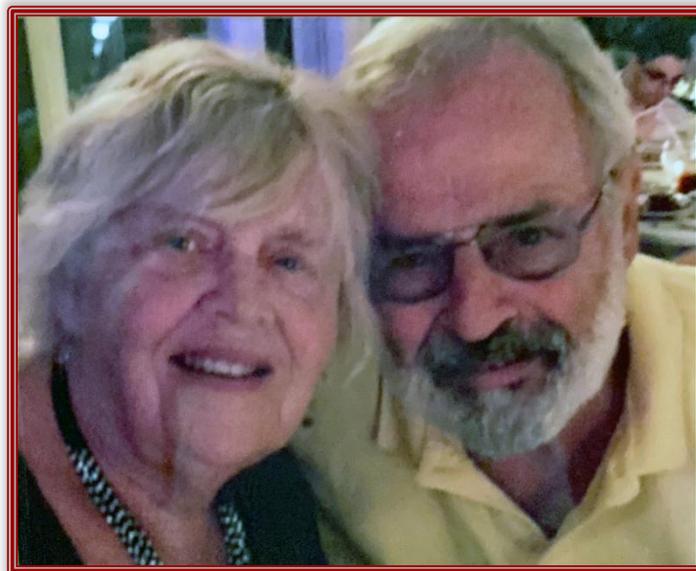
Grandkids - 2022

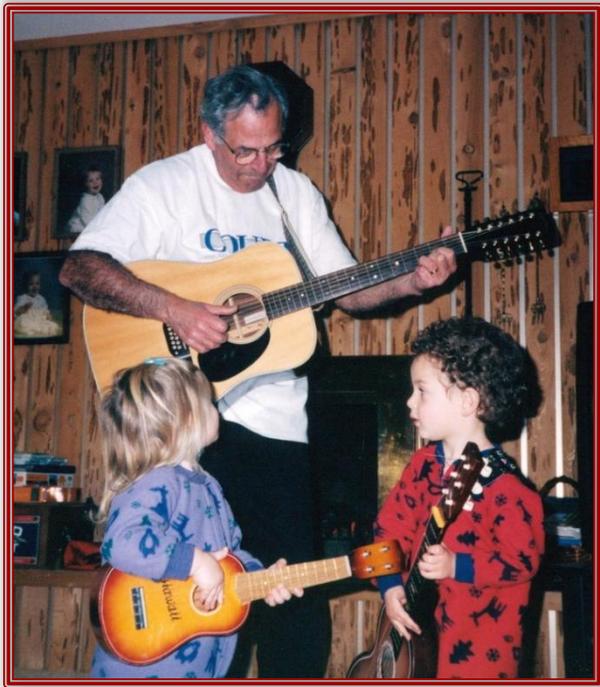


Family - 2007

What is something people would never guess just by looking at you?

Most people don't know about my involvement, over the years, in the development and deployment of voice and data telecommunications technology.





Guitar Lesson - 1998

What are you most proud of yourself for?

One thing that I was able to do, aside from my work activities, was to be able to give my grandchildren an interest in music and the encouragement to learn and play multiple instruments.



Birthday 2022