**EULOGY**

**WRITTEN FOR**

**PAM CRESPO**

Hello everyone. Today we mourn the loss and acknowledge the passing of my mother, Doris Feinberg. Hers was a life of challenge and response.... tragedy and action... devotion, discipline, and participation. She was a loving wife and partner to my father, David, a dedicated mother to my brothers Lenny and Jeffry, and a completely devoted grandmother to my children, Mika and Sarah.

I once heard a quote... "Have you ever noticed how your mother knows exactly how to push all of your buttons? That's because she installed them." (**Do you want to say this a little ironically and wait for the laugh?**) Having Doris Feinberg as my mother truly provided the education of a lifetime. Her perspective was singular and her principles were unwavering. She had a style that was unique to her existence. Although she found herself more often than not having to deal with crisis and tragedy in her life and the lives of those closest to her, somehow she found a way to do whatever she could to overcome the challenges and curveballs thrown her way. Although both of my older brothers, Lenny and Jeffry were taken from us way too soon... a double loss that no parent should ever have to sustain, my mother and my father found the way and the means to honor my brothers' lives through activism and philanthropy. AIDS practically annihilated a generation of talented, brilliant people back in the 1980's and my family was devastated by the loss of both of my brothers. Before he passed, my brother Jeffry founded an organization called The Body Positive Resource Center. Based on the belief that "AIDS is not only a 'gay' disease," it became a significant source of information, outreach, and resolution and was a vital worldwide resource center that was so desperately needed as the chaos wreaked by this awful disease spread. My mother was at the vanguard of maintaining the message and sustaining the work done by this organization well beyond the passing of both of my brothers. Her tireless work and philanthropy were indelible tributes to the memory of Lenny and Jeffry and to all of those loved ones lost in that war. Thanks in part to the efforts my parents put forth on behalf of Body Positive, AIDS is no longer the death sentence it once was. Through medical research, critical information sharing, and community involvement such as the initiatives led by my mother, people affected by AIDS are living longer, healthier, functioning lives. Doris Feinberg dedicated her life and was a beacon of support to a community that needed light shed on every aspect of dealing with this disease and both she and my father (**? Please adjust if your father did not receive the awards as well**) were generously recognized for their efforts. They received many humanitarian awards and were graciously acknowledged by the City of Miami for their constant contributions to the cause.

My mother Doris has left a legacy to two very important people, my wonderful son MIka and my beautiful daughter Sarah.... As a single mother, I was and will always be thankful to have had the support of both my parents and it is so gratifying to see the relationship my kids had with their grandmother and grandfather. Mika and Sarah mean the world to all of us... you can imagine... when Mika was born..."Hakuna Matata " probably doesn't sound like Yiddish, but to Doris And David Feinberg... **a STAR was born!!!** We had our very own "Lion King!!" And when Sarah came along.... she brought new depth and sparkle to the term "Princess."

My mother's partner in life has been my wonderful, devoted, generous and kind father, David. They were married for fifty-eight years... theirs was a union of give and take, stability forged from chaos, and shifting moments of strength and reliance. They lived in the same house in Miami for twenty eight years... and although we will all have to search for a new normal now that she's gone, she has shown us tenacity, endurance, and strength.

The author, Joyce Carol Oates once said, "The relationship between parents and children, but especially between mothers and daughters, is tremendously powerful, scarcely to be comprehended in any rational way." My mother was a very complex human being. She loved carefully and fought for her principles diligently. She staunchly maintained her point of view.... no matter what... and observing her struggles and actions instilled a "unique" sense of strength, purpose, and appreciation in me. In honor of her memory, and in observance of our Jewish traditions, I have done whatever I am able to do to ensure her soul makes a safe and seamless transit to the "next plane." May she be reunited with those she lost too soon and may she find new depths of peace that may have eluded her in this life.

I will always be thankful for the dedication my mother demonstrated to those that mean the most to me. Life will go on, but one thing is for sure, Doris Feinberg left her mark on this world and we are stronger, different, more giving and aware because of her impact.

Thank you.