



Suchita R. Dighe

June 22, 1945 - May 4, 2022

On May 4th, a beautiful, brave woman peacefully passed away at home in Annapolis, MD due to complications associated with Parkinson's disease. Known as Rani (queen) to Ramesh, her devoted husband of 52 years; Mom to her son, Atul, and daughter-in-law, Annikki, and her daughter, Sonal, and son-in-law, James; Aaji to her five grandkids: Maya, Sonja, Jayna, Niam, and Nevin; Viju to all her family and friends in India; and Suchita to all her friends in the US, her loss is deeply felt around the world.

According to Indian tradition, Suchita was born in her mother's home village of Akola to Vasudev and Pushpalata Kulkarni. The oldest of six, Suchita lived and grew up with her parents, 3 younger sisters, and 2 younger brothers in Dadar, the cultural hub of Mumbai. During her school years, Suchita was the captain of her school's "kho-kho" team (a traditional ancient Indian sports game—think tag meets dodgeball) and demonstrated her artistic talents from a young age, earning several prizes for her painting, handiwork, and dancing.

Defying custom, during high school, Suchita began to date Ramesh (the older brother of one of her best friends, whose family lived one floor above in their Dadar apartment building.) After completing his undergraduate engineering degree, Ramesh was accepted to a graduate engineering program in the USA. Prior to his departure to New York, Suchita and Ramesh were engaged on February 17, 1968. On July 26, 1969, Suchita arrived in America and she and Ramesh celebrated their wedding on August 2, 1969 in LeFrak City, Queens, NY.

Over the next 7 years, Suchita acclimated to life in America, experiencing many firsts:

- shopping in a department store—Macy's on 5th Avenue in Midtown NYC, of course!
- enduring her first snow and winter temperatures (much different from tropical Mumbai!)
- welcoming many other immigrant friends from India
- enhancing her English by watching classic TV shows like "I Love Lucy" and "Perry Mason," and taking classes at the local junior college
- traveling around the East Coast, visiting Niagara Falls, Boston, Maine, Philadelphia, and Montreal
- learning to drive
- buying a car and a house in the suburbs
- and starting a family (Atul was born in Queens, NY and Sonal in New Brunswick, NJ)

The next stage of life for the Dighe family included a series of geographic moves as Ramesh's engineering career took them from the NYC metro area to Miami, FL (2.5 years), Columbus, OH (1.5 years), Pueblo, CO (2 years), and Barstow, CA (2 years). At each stop, Suchita quickly became an integral part of their neighborhood and kids' schools. She picked up new hobbies (disco dancing, macramé, painting, bowling) and more importantly, new friends. Suchita had the gift of making fast friendships with anyone she met (from neighbors to fellow parents to the clerk at the grocery store). A natural networker, it was common for Suchita to already have an established friend group within weeks of arriving in a new city. When the Dighe family moved to Miami, FL in late 1970s, Suchita was asked to lead and choreograph a troop of Indian dancers. Her group was awarded first prize at the 1979 South Florida International Cultural Dance competition.

In January of 1985, the Dighe family moved to Texas, where Ramesh and Suchita would live for the next thirty-one years, initially in Houston and later in Austin. In Houston, Suchita continued to be an active presence in her

children's schools as a PTA volunteer. In 1986, Suchita launched her own business as an Avon representative. Her clients became her trusted friends as she served more in an advisory capacity than only an "Avon Lady." Over the next 15 years, Suchita earned top salesperson performance recognition and was awarded the coveted President's Club Albee Award each year.

In 1990, Suchita was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. During her treatments, including an aggressive series of chemotherapy, Suchita continued to make friends with nurses and other patients, always displaying her distinguishing smile and positive attitude. In 1992 she was declared cancer-free, and she proudly wore the moniker of cancer- survivor for the rest of her life.

In 2000, with their move to Austin, Suchita once again created a strong and dynamic friend circle. Over the next ten years, the couple traveled extensively to visit friends and family around the world. Trips to India intermixed with travel to visit their young granddaughters and occasional business travel for Ramesh, kept Suchita on the go.

Unfortunately, it was during a trip to India in 2012 that Suchita was first diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. The diagnosis brought clarity as it explained several of her health symptoms which were previously misdiagnosed, and it launched Suchita into another new group of friends. Suchita and Ramesh became active in the Austin Parkinson's network, regularly attending dance and movement classes, and social/educational events and conferences. As with everything in life, Suchita took on the challenge of Parkinson's with a smile and positive attitude.

In 2016 with the arrival of their first grandson, Suchita and Ramesh left Texas and moved to Annapolis, MD to live with Sonal, her husband James, and eventually their two grandsons, Niam and Nevin. Suchita relished her role as a hands-on Aaji, and enjoyed spending time playing with the boys and teaching them her favorite Marathi children's songs. Suchita and Ramesh again developed another peer community at the Annapolis Senior Center and local Parkinson's group, participating in classes while connecting with people.

In 2019, Suchita and Ramesh celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Joined by her three sisters and their husbands visiting from India, as well as their kids and grandkids, the couple visited Niagara Falls and NYC to fondly remember the life they had created for themselves and their impact on their family and friends.

In January of 2020, Ramesh and Suchita took what would be their final trip together to India to attend two family weddings. The Covid-19 pandemic, along with a broken rib from a fall, and later a heart attack kept Suchita homebound from that point forward.

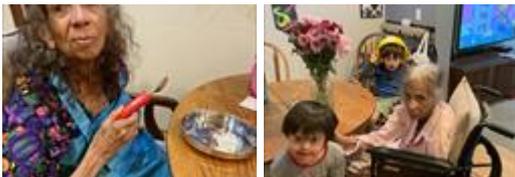
Suchita entered hospice care in the fall of 2021 and on the evening of May 4, 2022 her spirit left her body.

This valiant, beautiful woman with many names deeply impacted our lives in a strong and significant way. Suchita's smile, her positive attitude, her adventurous spirit, her generosity, and her hospitality will live forever in our hearts.

Tribute Wall

ST

2 files added to the album Memories Album



Sonal Tankersley - June 22 at 09:10 PM
RD

1 file added to the album Dighe Family Celebrations





RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 22 at 10:04 AM
RD

1 file added to the tribute wall



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 22 at 09:33 AM
RD

Dear Rani

Very Happy Birthday. I miss you a lot. At times, I am totally at loss - do not know what to do to express my emotions. I just close my eyes, and you are there next to me - and open my eyes, and I am alone.



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 22 at 09:30 AM
PT

Vijutai

Pradeep R Tipnis - June 06 at 11:00 AM
JT

My

Jayashree Tipnis - June 06 at 10:55 AM
JT

My

Jayashree Tipnis - June 06 at 10:03 AM
JT

My

Jayashree Tipnis - June 06 at 05:31 AM
RD

Our beloved sister was a unique personality whose extreme positivity helped to beat a very serious disease like cancer at midway stage of her life. She was like our second mother who was supportive in every problem and crisis. We were very proud of the fact that she lived in America and it was because of her that we were able to visit the U.S When we visited her in America she was overjoyed and showed us many places She was very fortunate to get a life partner like Ramesh and she too was very proud of the fact. Ramesh loved and cared for her till the last moment of her life. Her death has created a void in our lives which can never be filled. She will remain in our memories. May God rest her soul in peace.
Jayashree and Pradeep Tipnis

RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 12 at 05:34 PM

JT

My

Jayashree Tipnis - June 06 at 12:13 AM

RD

RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE is following this tribute.

RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 05 at 08:43 PM

RS

2 files added to the album Memories Album



Ruth Stierna - June 04 at 10:14 PM

RS

2 files added to the album Memories Album



Ruth Stierna - June 04 at 10:10 PM

SD

Atul & Sonal,

Thanks a lot for arranging this wonderful tribute session.

Until now , i really thought I knew Kaki quite well , but believe me after today's presentation , I got introduced to many more qualities of KAKI.

She will always be remembered for the fighting spirit she has displayed

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Sameer

Sameer Dighe - June 04 at 12:44 PM

PD

On 28th Jan 2020, Kaki, & kaka stayed at Borivali for the first time with us. We had great time, Still remember Ramesh kaka calling her "DARLING "she use to immediately respond to kaka. She was loving, caring, & joyful in nature . We will missing you kaki . Its a huge loss for entire Dighe's, My condolence to Atul, Anikki, their daughters, Sonal, James & their sons. May the almighty give strength to all for huge loss . Her memories will always be cherished with us during her India visits and her frequent calls to us. Kaka take care .

PARAG DIGHE .

PARAG PURUSHOTTAM DIGHE - June 04 at 10:54 AM

SH

I have come to say bye-bye to you and I thank you for your many many years of friendship I will miss you and love you
Shah Bapat

shahsultan - June 04 at 09:34 AM
MA

This is on behalf of my mom Nisha .. Viju maushi's close friend since school days. Though my Aai couldn't keep in touch with her due to her health issues.. Viju maushi kept their friendship eternal by visiting her in Pune on her every India trip or called her from US regularly on friday's at 8 o'clock. In fact friday's, 8.00 p.m. were & will always remain as Viju maushi's time for us.



Manjiri - June 04 at 08:23 AM
PD

1 file added to the tribute wall



Prachi Dighe - June 04 at 06:49 AM
RD

1 file added to the tribute wall



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 04 at 12:00 AM
RD

1 file added to the tribute wall



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 11:57 PM
RD

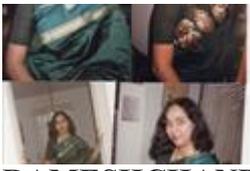
1 file added to the tribute wall



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 11:55 PM
RD

1 file added to the tribute wall





RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 11:52 PM
RD

1 file added to the tribute wall



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 11:48 PM
RD

1 file added to the tribute wall



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 11:36 PM
RD

1 file added to the tribute wall



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RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 10:35 PM
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1 file added to the tribute wall





RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 06:56 PM
RD

1 file added to the tribute wall



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 06:54 PM
RD

1 file added to the tribute wall



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 06:52 PM
RD

1 file added to the tribute wall



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 06:47 PM
RD

1 file added to the tribute wall



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 06:46 PM
RD

3 files added to the tribute wall



RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 06:42 PM
PM

Dear Mami,
You lived life 'queen' size, akin to your name :) .
You'll live in our memories forever.





Paresh Mahulkar - June 03 at 01:55 PM
PM

Friends in this world, and now friends in heaven !



Paresh Mahulkar - June 03 at 01:48 PM
SH

4 files added to the tribute wall



Shekhar - June 03 at 09:58 AM
RS

Suchita has been a much loved member of our family circle. She adopted me as a Hindu family mother during the preparations for Atul and Annikki's wedding. She has often given me beautifully crafted items from India. Her Indian cooking skills live on within our family. I treasure her gracious and loving presence in our life.

Ruth Stierna - June 03 at 08:55 AM



It was really shocking and very hard to digest the sad news of Kaki's demise. You were a very jolly person and use to mix with people of any age. You will be always remembered by all of us. Love you Kaki

Nilesh Rane - June 03 at 02:44 AM



Sharing some old photos of Suchita kaki and family during their Pune, India trip long back which I have found.



Nilesh Rane - June 03 at 02:29 AM



Suchita Kaki's visit to our Pune house 2 years back... Both Kaki and Kaka spent a very good afternoon with us for lunch. We had met after almost 5 years. We just can't imagine it was her last

trip. She was a very lovely person in our family.



Nilesh Rane - June 03 at 01:53 AM
RV

Dear Viju /Sucheta, We will miss your smiling face! I still fondly remember my visits to Lefrak City Apartments and your hospitality. And then after many years we meet in Houston and then Austin!

Baba, our heartfelt condolences, may God give you and the family courage and solace.

Ramesh Vora - June 01 at 09:12 PM
RD

Dera Viju
I always remember you! You both were there to make me feel at home away from my family.
Thanks for all those happy moments in Lefrak City, Fords, Houston and Austin.
Love
Anjali

Rameshchandra G. Dighe - June 01 at 01:20 PM
ST

4 files added to the album Memories Album



Sonal Tankersley - May 31 at 11:54 PM
SD

1 file added to the album Dighe Family Celebrations



Sameer Dighe - May 31 at 03:47 AM



This photo is really precious...something to really preserve

Nilesh Rane - June 03 at 02:39 AM
RD

Dighe brothers and their sister and their family together - a very unique opportunity for a very special picture

RAMESHCHANDRA DIGHE - June 03 at 10:29 PM
SD

Kaki, Its so difficult to fathom the fact that you are not amongst us any more. We have always known you as a Very Happy Person and Full of Life... Always Smiling and Cheerful Even during your testing times you have always greeted us with the same Smile & Energy. HATS Off to your Fighting Spirit Kaki . Will miss you forever Kaki, Rest In Peace.

Sameer Dighe - May 31 at 03:36 AM

SD

8 files added to the album Dighe Family Celebrations



Sameer Dighe - May 31 at 03:15 AM

ST

1 file added to the tribute wall



Sonal Tankersley - May 30 at 07:47 PM

RD

Picture was taken at the Mumbai Airport when Ramesh left India to come to USA - Viju (Rani) was both anxious and happy. Anxious as to what would be coming in the future and when would she unite with Ramesh. Happy for the beginning of next step in life together and anxious for the unknowns that she will be facing alone in India.

Rameshchandra G. Digfhe - June 01 at 01:23 PM

ST

1 file added to the tribute wall



Sonal Tankersley - May 30 at 07:40 PM

ST

2 files added to the album Memories Album



Sonal Tankersley - May 30 at 07:29 PM

RD

First picture was the only photo Ramesh carried with him when he came to the USA. But he did not need the picture as he could see her face anytime just by closing his eyes.

Rameshchandra G. Digfhe - June 01 at 01:30 PM

JO

I have known Suchita and Ramesh for only a few years, but I always think of Suchita's beautiful smiles and Ramesh's comfortable friendliness. Thank you both for enriching my life.

I am a european who teaches yoga at Anne Arundel County Senior Centers. One day I checked the roster for an upcoming class and saw the name Rameshchandra, and I thought "Oh, oh! I've finally met my match." I know that Ramesh has a much deeper understanding of yoga than I can ever find, but he has been a gentleman in sharing with me. We have shared several yoga sessions, just the two of us, and it has always been fulfilling. Thank you, Ramesh.

As Suchita's Parkinson disease worsened, I could see the strain in Ramesh as he worried and cared for the woman he loved and cherished. We all know that the end of life is death, but it is never easy to observe it coming, especially for a cherished friend.

Bon voyage, Suchita! Thank you for your beautiful smiles, positive outlook, and friendship. We will miss you and appreciate you for the rest of our lives.

John Cochran

john - May 30 at 12:38 PM
SN

Kaki you will always be in our hearts. We have always seen you jolly and full of zest. Rest in peace.

Supriya Navsarikar - May 30 at 05:53 AM
SE

I loved holding hands with Suchita and grapevine across the dance floor. Just about every dance class pre-covid she would come in and give me a hug. She also liked the Macarena. She will forever be in my heart. Serene

Serene - May 27 at 07:17 PM