



Frances Amanna

February 27, 2019

Frances Amanna died on February 27, 2019. The cause was lymphoma. Fran was born in Brooklyn, NY, and always held fond memories of those years growing up in her favorite borough. She graduated from Fontbonne Hall Academy in Brooklyn's Fort Hamilton neighborhood, and then Columbia University. Fran was an accomplished curator and framer of fine art and for many years worked at galleries in northern New Jersey. She was a volunteer at the Women's Rights Information Center in Englewood, becoming one of its key members beginning in its formative years in the 1970s. Fran also was among a group of friends who worked to revive Flat Rock Brook Nature Center – among other things, organizing fund raisers and on a few occasions arranging for the wonderful Pete Seeger to perform for audiences that filled to overflowing and especially thrilled the children.

Fran was born an avid reader with wide-ranging interests, including art, history, music, novels, mysteries, and more. She had a remarkable ability to recall what she had read even long ago. She had a love of theater, film, ballet, opera, and – with an assist from her son – became a jazz fan with a deep appreciation of that music's best players.

Fran also was an extraordinary cook. She had the skill and grace to present a meal as if it were something she had just whipped up. She was a most gracious hostess.

Early on, Fran showed a talent for friendship that lasted until her final days. Her friends were devoted to her as she was to them. "I am blessed," she would say so many times, "to have such dear and wonderful friends."

She was modest, loving, generous, loyal, with a sense of humor and a natural kind of elegance that came easily. She also had a courage that got her through some of life's most difficult moments.

She was goodness personified, always with thoughts of others first, even to the end, concealing her sickness as long as she could in order "not to burden my family and friends."

The outpouring of love for her is a great comfort to her family. Still, this attempt to sum up the essence of our dearest Fran is bound to come up short. There is simply no way to describe adequately this very special person.

Fran is survived by her husband, Bill, her son Billy and daughter-in-law Jenny (whom she thought of more as her daughter than her daughter-in-law,) and her sister, Barbara Griner.

There will be a funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 9, at St. Cecilia Church, Englewood, NJ. In lieu of flowers, Fran's family asks that donations be made to The Carmelite Missions, whose priests and other workers live among and serve the poor in areas where help is most needed. The address: The Carmelite Missions, c/o St. Cecilia Church, 55 West Demarest Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631.

Previous Events

Memorial Funeral Mass

MAR 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Cecilia Church
55 West Demarest Avenue
Englewood, NJ 07631

Tribute Wall

JN

“ RIP Fran. I just learned of your and Bill's passing today. So sorry you suffered. You were so much the lady the way you spoke and carried yourself. I remember you and my dad had a joke about cooking. I will always how wonderful those family gatherings were. I remember you and young Billy visiting me upstate NY when both he and my daughter were very young. The last time we spoke was when Aunt Gilda passed. Time waits for no one.
Love Jeanne

Jean Nickolls - September 04, 2023 at 01:54 PM

MW


“ I'm so sorry to hear from Elizabeth Weiner that Fran is no longer with us. She had great wit and was always kind to me. I'm in Kansas City since 1994.

Michael Warko - March 09, 2019 at 01:45 PM

JJ

“ Dearest Bill, Billy and Jenny,
There is no way to express our grief... just no way.... Fran has been our bright star ... our family is heart broken and in disbelief... For me, Janet... Fran was my first glimpse of sophistication and possibility and I would not be who I am now if not for Fran she is embedded in my heart forever..... For Dorothy, Fran was another daughter to her and Fran's generous nature made her comfortable in her later years when Fran and Bill lived in Bristol she loved her dearly.... And Bill Jacklin.... he has not stopped drying his eyes since he heard of Fran's passing... he loved her dearly and her appreciation and understanding of him as an artist was a most important part of his relationship with Fran...
Jasmine will be heartbroken when she knows as she is in school in Italy and will know in the spring... it is too much of a loss for her ...
With all our love Janet Bill Dorothy and Jasmine

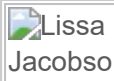
Janet Russo Jacklin - March 09, 2019 at 12:51 PM

 Lissa
Jacobson

“ Lissa Jacobson lit a candle in memory of Frances Amanna



Lissa Jacobson - March 09, 2019 at 09:06 AM



I'm sorry for your loss, Bill, and that I cannot attend with Benjamin. Rest In Peace, Frannie, and thank you for all you did for Ben in his childhood.

Lissa Jacobson - March 09, 2019 at 09:09 AM

EB

“ *I'm the niece of Francis. My family and I wanted to pay our respects to a wonderful aunt who will be dearly missed. I will always remember the time you met my children in New Jersey. And how well everyone got along. It was a very happy experience. I wish we could be there to send our support to Bill, Billy, and Jenny. Just know we will be thinking of you all.*

Ellen Boylan - March 08, 2019 at 08:38 PM

EB

“ *Ellen Boylan lit a candle in memory of Frances Amanna*



Ellen Boylan - March 08, 2019 at 08:29 PM

IC

“ *When I think of Fran it's a dazzling presence ethereal beauty, graceful and elegant and how much she enjoyed those kitty videos I sent! I will miss her ❤️ Lana*

ILIANA CARADIMAS - March 08, 2019 at 04:56 PM

GR

“ *Dear Bill Billy & Jenny*
We were s o sorry for your loss. Fran was a very special woman and friend. Here in our house we have several reminders of her gift for framing art. They give us joy.
A special memory is the bridal shower she so graciously gave when David and I were getting married. There were many times when we would just sit and chat as our children were growing up in Englewood.
We wish you the comfort of your happy memories. She will always be in our hearts and memory. Reisman
With Love
Gwen & David Reisman

Gwen Reisman - March 08, 2019 at 12:04 PM

TF

“ *The Tamaro Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Frances Amanna.*



The Tamaro Family - March 06, 2019 at 04:37 PM

JN

“ *Frances is my beloved aunt - my mother , Jane , was her sister . My heart holds so many precious memories of growing up with an amazing and talented person , always ready to share music , stories and time . Recently we headed to Maine - Fran and her sister , Barbara, Bill, and my sister , Janie and I . I hold this time dear as it was a time for family memories , amusing anecdotes and just getting the opportunity to hug one more time . We spent 4 precious days and promised to do so again . Unfortunately, we don't always know what the future has in store . I will miss you , dearest aunt. Love , Jerilynn Boylan Strohschein*

Jerilynn Boylan Strohschein - niece - March 05, 2019 at 07:49 PM