



## Frances C. Arnolfo

September 13, 1920 - July 6, 2021

Frances C. Arnolfo of Fort Collins, Colo., who died July 6, 2021 at age 100, was renowned for her authentic Italian food (especially her homemade raviolis), which were the foundation for what she lived and loved: bringing family and friends together to laugh, talk, tell jokes, and just indulge. Her motto: “If food is there, people will be there.”

Her culinary legend lives on, along with her reputation as a knitter of extravagant, designer-level dresses, tops, hats, and more. While raising daughter Nancy and son John – now Fort Collins residents – the Arnolfo house in California was the neighborhood hangout. And she loved it. “We always had a fridge full of homemade food,” John said. “She was the master of the 30-minute homemade meal, even when eight hungry kids popped in.”

Born Sept. 13, 1920 in Stockton, Calif. to Italian immigrants, she married John Arnolfo, Sr., in 1941. Over the years they owned several grocery stores in the San Francisco area, including Pick-‘n-Pay Market for 17 years, which was famous for its Italian deli and 25¢ sandwiches.

John Sr. and Frances taught their children the power of entrepreneurship. Today, daughter Nancy is President of The Idea Group Interior Design in Fort Collins, and son John owns Silver Grill Cafe in Fort Collins. In fact, the Silver Grill’s famous 1930 Model A “mascot” is the same vehicle John Sr. drove on

his first date with Frances. In recent decades, Frances was Silver Grill's ambassador, riding in the Model A during local parades and warmly greeting guests each weekend.

Frances was preceded in death by her husband, John Arnolfo, Sr.; father and mother, Frank and Mary Basti; and twin sister Mary Castellano. She is survived by daughter Nancy Ottino and husband William; son John Arnolfo, Jr.; and grandsons Zach and Sam Arnolfo, all of Fort Collins.

A party in her honor is planned for Thursday, September 16 from 5-8 pm at Silver Grill Cafe, 218 Walnut St. Just as she would want, the appetizers and drinks will flow in the same manner as the entertaining conversations she always loved.

The family requests that instead of sending flowers, please donate to Pathways, which provided incredibly compassionate hospice care to Frances. Send donations to Pathways, 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525, or visit [www.pathways-care.org](http://www.pathways-care.org).

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ *Sending prayers to your family. May your hearts be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.*

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**Julia Crawmer** - July 13, 2021 at 03:22 PM

SR

“ *My mom, Erna, met Frances at Terry Lake & grew to love her. We all did. Visiting you were always greeted by Frances. We never saw her upset or unhappy. Always happy! Mom was very upset when she passed. She told me that Frances was the glue that held Terry Lake together. She is greatly missed. Prayers & comfort to the family.*

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**Sharon & Kevin Reilly** - July 12, 2021 at 06:45 PM

TC

“ *Your mother was quite a wonderful lady. I was one of the fortunate ones to have a private lesson on how to make raviolis. When I tried to roll out the dough she quickly took the rolling pin away from me and showed me how to get them rolled out. What a fun time I had with her. We all loved to have her come knit with us. She had the knitting group 2 or three times to her home and served us a wonderful lunch. We had many happy times and memories. She was a special friend. Tedi Cox*

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**Tedi Cox** - July 12, 2021 at 11:45 AM



“ *Frances was great fun and a wonderful friend to my mom (Helen) at Terry Lake. Thank you and God Bless. Susan & Alan Krcmarik*

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**Susan Krcmarik** - July 11, 2021 at 12:19 PM