



## Phyllis Poe Kinney

November 4, 1922 - June 24, 2022

The remarkable Phyllis Poe Kinney, also known as Mimi, left her physical body, Friday, June 24th, passing comfortably at home. Having been born in the first quarter of the last century and living a long and fulfilling life, she has left a powerful and enduring impression on us all. Her essential spirit—strong, proud, hard-working, unimpressed with conventional marks of status and full of common sense and good humor—never changed.

She was born in Shelby Michigan to pianist Ruth Elizabeth Poe and violinist/entertainer Carmine Barrille.

She married Irvin Wayne Kinney, and soon after moved to Laramie Wyoming. where she spent most of her adult life. She was a mother to seven children in eleven years. She taught Spanish in the Junior High School in Laramie before she earned a doctorate in Psychology from the University of Wyoming when her children were aged from 9 - 21 years old. For years she served her community and its families as an author, mental health counselor, and loving friend.

She was full of humor and wit, engaging in deep conversations about anything at all, counseling, listening and truly understanding and consoling the human spirit.

She inherited an ear for music, enjoyed playing chess and card games, and blazed through crossword puzzles and word games. Those who were fortunate enough to meet her always felt important and loved. She really "mothered" everyone she met. She always supported and protected the "underdog", genuinely, and sincerely. She was a firm believer in human rights, women's rights, and nothing surprised or offended her.

She will be remembered forever by her seven children, nineteen grandchildren, five Fitzgerald step-grandchildren and an ever growing number of great-grandchildren. Dr. Kinney was preceded in passing from this life by her two children, Wayne Kinney, III, and Eloise Kinney. She is survived by children, Majel Gardzelewski (Allen,) Lisa Kinney (Rod Lang,) Bob Kinney, Todd Kinney (Cindy,) Laramie Kinney (AKA Little Flippy.) (Mathew Harmon) Claudia Huber, Jennifer Marvin. Brother, Reverend Carl Poe and his wife, Pat, two nieces and their families and their friends.

Thank you, God, for gifting her to us. She was a jewel, a treasure and a true saint. Granddaughter's thoughts below; "Rest in peace my favorite little lady, lover of all food, best humor around, curiosity that was never ending, an incredible witty and open mind, and the most inquisitive and giving heart, mind and soul."

"A memorial service will be held at 1847 Michael Lane, Fort Collins, at 11:00 on Thursday, July 28. RSVP please: to [majelgard@yahoo.com](mailto:majelgard@yahoo.com)"

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL **28**. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (MT)

Private Residence  
2113 North Shields Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

# Tribute Wall

KP

“ 9 files added to the album 1976-2000



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**Karen S Pasewark** - July 02, 2022 at 07:36 PM

KP

“*Phyllis became a friend during my years in the clinical psych graduate program at the University of Wyoming, in the mid-1970's. I was working under her longtime partner, BJ Fitzgerald, and she and BJ and another student and I would frequently play bridge together. I was one of those people for whom she became a local “mother”, as well as a close friend; I so appreciated her great cooking, emotional support, and ability to see the humor in any situation. I even went camping with her and the Fitzgerald crew a couple of times. After I finished my degree, I worked with Phyllis for many years at the SE Wyoming Mental Health Center, and my husband Richard became our fourth at bridge. Phyllis and I were usually partners, which avoided a lot of arguing, and much to their chagrin, the men usually lost. When my husband retired and we moved to Washington State, Phyllis and BJ were our first visitors from Wyoming, and we maintained our friendship over the years, getting together in Laramie and Oak Harbor and even Tucson.*

*Phyllis had not had an easy life, but she was always positive, loving, and loyal. She related well to the toughest clients at the Mental Health Center, always treating them (and everyone!) with respect and high expectations. No one ever wanted to disappoint Phyllis, and she inspired others to do their best, including her clients. She was a fighter and could be stubborn, but always in a good cause, and when things didn't go the way she wanted or hoped, she didn't hold a grudge but moved on. She was a wonderful mentor and a great role model, to her friends, colleagues, and family. She loved and was loved in return!*

*Karen Pasewark*

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**Karen S Pasewark** - July 02, 2022 at 04:52 PM

SP

“ Sorry for your loss. I met Mimi many years ago when Eloise Family was my neighbor on Poplar Dr.



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Schanna Preuit - June 30, 2022 at 05:27 PM

CH

“ Lisa, Rod and Family,

*I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. Phyllis was one of the first people I met when I moved to Laramie and started at Laramie Jr. High School. She was a Mental Health counselor at that time. As you said in your beautiful obituary, she made me feel protected and mentored. She was a wonderful, free-spirited lady. We are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Carolyn, Bob, and Ryan Helling*

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Carolyn Helling - June 30, 2022 at 02:03 PM