



Andrea Lee (LaClair) Aurigema

April 9, 1944 - May 7, 2026

NEW HARTFORD – Andrea Lee (LaClair) Aurigema, surrounded by her loving family, went home to the Lord on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at the age of 82.

Born in Ellenburg, NY on April 9, 1944, Andrea was the daughter of the late Maynard W. and Eva M. (Harris) LaClair. Andrea was raised in Ellenburg before relocating with her family to Utica at the age of 12, where they have since resided. She attended St. Francis DeSales and Wetmore Schools, later graduating from T.R. Proctor High School. She furthered her studies and became certified as an electrolysis technician.

On June 22, 1974, Andrea was united in marriage with Francis A. “Frank” “Sham” Aurigema. Together, the couple shared more than 36 years of marriage prior to Frank’s passing on May 18, 2010.

Andrea was fondly remembered for the many relationships she formed during her years as a dedicated waitress at the original Grimaldi’s Restaurant on Bleecker Street. She also worked at other local eateries including Big Al’s, The Aylesbury, and The Alpine. Later, she helped operate the family business, Valley Graphics, Inc., located on Broad Street. She later worked at MVCC in the faculty room for lunches until her retirement.

Andrea’s passing has left an immeasurable void in the hearts of those who

loved her most. To her children, she was far more than a mother — she was their daily confidante, their safe place, and their forever “go to.” She shared uniquely special bonds with each of her children, teaching them to speak openly about life and never hesitate to ask questions. Andrea openly shared her own life stories, allowing her children to truly know her heart, her experiences, and the woman she was. Her love for her family was constant, selfless, and at the center of everything she did.

Known for her strength, dignity, empathy, and human compassion, Andrea had a rare gift for making others feel safe and understood. Family and friends were naturally drawn to her gentle wisdom and comforting presence, often turning to her with their deepest troubles and trusting her as a keeper of secrets. She always seemed to know the right advice to give and offered her support effortlessly and without judgment. Her children will forever cherish the countless phone calls, conversations, and quiet moments spent by her side, treasures that became the foundation of lifelong memories and enduring love.

Andrea was also known as an excellent cook who welcomed everyone to her table. She always made certain nobody left hungry. She was always willing to pass on to others her recipes and guidance that she learned while in the kitchen.

Deeply spiritual, Andrea was a devoted member of St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church. She enjoyed Bible study and found great joy in inspiring children as a religious educator.

Andrea is survived by her daughters, Michelle Hollingshead and her husband Mark, and Maria Aurigema; son, Frank A. “Gootie” Aurigema, Jr.; grandchildren, Nicholas, and Natalie Hollingshead; Joseph, and Nina Aurigema; and Emily, and Ryan Wehrle; and sisters and brothers-in-law, Jacklyn and Patrick “Pat” Gurdo, Karen Arrigo (the late Frank Arrigo, Sr.), and

Christine and Gary Artessa. She cherished the memory of her siblings who preceded her, Bolita (LaClair) Schorer, and Maynard R. "Rick" LaClair, Sr. She also leaves behind her brother-in-law, Gary K. Schorer; sister-in-law, Linda Sue (Malek) LaClair; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; in-laws, Diane Perillo (the late Julius Perillo), and Marie Palumbo (the late Anthony Palumbo); and extended family members, especially her best friend, Joan Ritz. She was additionally predeceased by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Anthony and Frances (Terranova) Aurigema; and brother-in-law, John Aurigema.

The family wishes to thank the staff of the Sitrin Health Care Center Mulberry House, especially Donna, Lexi, Kelly, Cassandra, Karen, and Tempest for their care and compassion.

Visitation will be held on Friday, May 15, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Andrea's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. from the funeral home and at 10:00 a.m. at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church, 422 Tilden Ave. Interment will follow in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frankfort.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery - Frankfort

Elizabeth Street
Frankfort, NY 13340

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 16. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church
422 Tilden Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-1177
<https://www.stanthonystagnes.com/>

Tribute Wall

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“ Diverse S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrea Lee (LaClair) Aurigema.

Diverse S. - 1 hour ago