



Helene F. Cragolin(Lil)

March 9, 2012

Mrs. Helene F. Cragolin (Lil), of New Hartford, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, March 9, 2012. Her passing occurred at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center with her loving family by her side.

Born and raised in Utica, Lil was the daughter of the late Salvatore and Vincenza (Caleo) Farina. She graduated from T.R. Proctor High School, and later studied modeling and fashion at Trap Hagen, and Barbizon. On August 31, 1950 in Historic Old St. John's Church she married Charles V. Cragolin. They shared a union of 61 years of marriage.

Having acquired a great talent for sewing from her paternal grandmother, Lil successfully ran a local drapery business, and was the main supplier to many area decorators. She later managed the operation of The Rutger Restaurant, a family venture which she co-owned with her husband and son, specializing in Northern Italian and Sicilian cuisine. She was a lady of elegance, class and sophistication. Lil, expressed her zest for life, love of family, and eagerness to connect with great enthusiasm. She was a gracious host, an explicit storyteller, and a woman who was very proud of her ancestry. She maintained her beauty and character throughout her life, and her personality was filled with grace and style. "Diamond Lil", as she was affectionately known, was one of the greatest dancers, especially when she tripped the light fantastic to the song "New York, New York". A 'one-of-a-kind', Lil will be remembered for her sharp wit and loved to entertain. She was a parishioner of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Lil is survived by her husband, Charles V.; and her son and daughter-in-law, Charles D. and Rebecca Cagnolin of Sauquoit. She also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, sister-in-law, Alvira "Jeri" Cagnolin; and her dear friend, Martha Bologna, who was a like a sister. She was predeceased by her brother, Matthew Farina; her in-laws, Alsace and Cecelia Cagnolin, Regina and Dr. Joseph Novek, Walter and Peggy Cagnolin, and LeRoy Cagnolin; and lifelong childhood friend, Jane Derminio and her husband Dick.

Visitation will be held Monday from 4:00-8:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Lil's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Tuesday morning at 10:00 from the funeral home and at 11:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. James Cesta. Interment will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

601 Arthur Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-8588

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 12. 4:00 PM - 8:00 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>

Service

MAR 13. 10:00 AM (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>

Service

MAR 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482
<https://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Helene F. Cragnolin(Lil)



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - March 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Chuck, my mom and I had many memorable experiences at The Rutger. Lil and you always treated us in a loving and caring manner. My sincere condolences to you and your family. Lil was very special and i know that those who knew her will never let her memory fade from our hearts. Thank you once again for remembering my mom, it meant a lot. God bless you



Nicholas Barbushack-Denver

Colorado.<http://storage.lifetributes.com/Candles/new/candle-10.png>

Nick Barbushack - March 25, 2012 at 05:11 PM



“ Becky, I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers go to you and your family. JoAnn Whitaker



JoAnn Whitaker - March 12, 2012 at 07:47 PM

SC

“ Chuck, so sorry to hear about Lil. She certainly could light up a room. Take care and God Bless. We shared many good times at Jane and Dick's with you. Peter and Stephanie Caroli

Stephanie Caroli - March 12, 2012 at 05:03 PM



“ Lil, you definitely left your mark in this world and on my heart. I have so many wonderful memories of talking, dancing and spending time with you. There will never be another like you! I am so sorry for your loss Chuck Sr., and Chuck and Becky.



Melissa Salerno - March 12, 2012 at 11:34 AM



“ Lil, you will be so missed. This is truly a sad day for the Di Iorio family. Some of my greatest childhood memories were spent with you. Even the simple moments of sitting around Grandma Jane's table sharing a cup of tea were memorable. After Grandpa Doc passed away, Grandma would look forward to your visits because you would make her laugh so hard. When you pulled up in front of Taber road I knew it was going to be a fun afternoon. You would light up a room like nobody I have ever known. I spoke with Chuckie yesterday and so much of you lives inside of him. He's so funny, just like you. I will forever miss you, although knowing you are in the precious arms of Jesus, and with all that have passed before you is what gives us all comfort. Until we meet again! Love you Lil!

Tessa Iorio Ambrose - March 11, 2012 at 11:21 AM

TS

“ My heart goes out to you at this time and in the days ahead.

Thomas J Saladino - March 11, 2012 at 10:52 AM

DG

“ Donna M. Gatto lit a candle in memory of Helene F. Cragnolin(Lil)



Donna M. Gatto - March 11, 2012 at 07:22 AM

DG

“ I have so many great memories of Lil and all of them so special. She was a great lady who made me feel like family. I will treasure every moment from listening to all her stories that I never got tired of hearing to our dart games. I will miss you my friend.



Donna Gatto

Donna M. Gatto - March 11, 2012 at 07:21 AM

LN

“ A beautiful woman with a very loving heart. Always greeted us with a hug & kiss & made us feel like part of the family. You will be missed.

Lori North - March 10, 2012 at 05:48 PM

RN

“ We'll always remember and treasure our time with you. Listening to the stories at the restaurant and sharing your special cappuccino. You will be missed.

Rob North - March 10, 2012 at 05:42 PM

RN

“ Rob & Lori North lit a candle in memory of Helene F. Cragnolin(Lil)



Rob & Lori North - March 10, 2012 at 05:39 PM

RP

“ Ralph Pastorelli lit a candle in memory of Helene F. Cragnolin(Lil)



Ralph Pastorelli - March 10, 2012 at 12:59 PM

RP

Chuck i'm sorry to hear about the loss of Lil, she was a saint and a friend growing up in East Utica. I loved eating and having drinks at the restaurant and listening to her stories. She will be missed by me! R.I.P Lil

Ralph Pastorelli - March 10, 2012 at 01:02 PM