



Frances Marie Weir Strachan

December 31, 1922 - November 2, 2011

Frances Marie Weir Strachan, age 88, of Loudonville, a woman of notable warmth, curiosity and generosity moved on to eternal life on November 2. Fran was born December 31, 1922 in South Bend, Indiana to the late David Andrew Weir and Marie Broussard Weir. Fran graduated from The Ursuline School in New Rochelle, NY and from The College of New Rochelle in 1945. She received two of the highest awards from the College of New Rochelle, the Angela Merici Medal and the Ursula Laurus Award. She earned a Masters Degree in Education from Columbia University in 1950.

It is impossible to summarize a life so full of varied interests.

She married her beloved husband John R Strachan on June 14, 1952 and moved to the Albany area in 1953, when her husband John partnered with her brother David Weir and purchased the Pepsi-Cola Albany Bottling Company.

Devoutly Roman Catholic, Fran was an active member of the parish of St Pius X for 58 years. She took great pride in overseeing the church's literature display, and participated in all aspects of parish life.

She hummed incessantly around the house. Committed to exposing her children and grand-children to the music and dance she so loved, she dragged them (willing or not) to countless ballets, symphonies and operas at SPAC and other regional venues. Painful as these events may have been to

her youthful companions, they learned what she thought they should. Fran continued to patronize the arts up to the very end.

Never one to be typecast, she was a long-time member of the ladies nine-holers at Schuyler Meadows Country Club and took up bowling when in her 60s. She loved to chat with everyone she met, and having a chance to meet her was a memorable experience for thousands of people struck by her warmth. In later years, she was universally regarded as adorable.

Fran served her community through countless charitable organizations including the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Knights of Malta, the Junior League of Albany, Teresian House, the Albany Symphony Orchestra and Gilda's Club. She was an active member of the Fort Orange Garden Club, the Junior Friday Morning Group and Schuyler Meadows Country Club. For over a decade, she wrote the Sustainers' column for the Albany Junior League newsletter. Her contributions were notable for their matter-of-fact descriptions of people and events, and their unintended humor. She had an unquenchable thirst for learning, and enjoyed traveling extensively throughout her life.

Fran is survived by her husband John Robert Strachan, daughters Mary Jo Strachan and husband Nicholas Ward of Scituate Massachusetts, Patricia O'Keeffe and husband Thomas O'Keeffe of Loudonville, Ellen Pappas and husband Michael Pappas of Menands, and Angela Strachan, and her son John Strachan, Jr, and wife Janie Strachan of Williamstown, Massachusetts. She was "Fifi" to her 16 beloved grandchildren. Fran was predeceased by her brother David Andrew Weir, Jr.

Funeral services Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 10:00 am St. Pius X Church, Loudonville where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated.

Relatives and friends are invited and may call Monday, November 7, 2011

4:00 to 7:00 pm in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street Albany.

Interment St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Little Sisters of the Poor, 1 Jeanne Jugan Lane, Latham, NY 12110 or www.littlesistersofthepoorlatham.org or the Double H Ranch, 97 Hidden Valley Rd. Lake Luzerne, NY 12846.

To leave the family a special message on their guest book, obtain a prayer card or directions, or share a photo or E-card with them, please visit www.McVeighFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Service

NOV 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Pius X Church
23 Crumitie Road
Loudonville, NY

Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Frances Marie Weir Strachan*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - November 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Frances Marie Weir Strachan*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *Dear Strachans,*

Your Mom was such a very kind and wonderful woman. She is at the center of many fond and silly memories of growing up in Loudonville, including the Nutcracker at SPAC, ballroom dancing lessons and that Resucitation Annie CPR doll.

I'll always remember her for being such a warm hearted person, always full of sunny thoughts and fabulous compliments. So fabulous, that others' compliments have just seemed to be an insult to complimenting. All of us Smiths will be thinking of you all this Christmas.##imported-begin##Susanne Smith##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 08:38 PM



“ Please keep thrwonig these posts up they help tons.##imported-begin##Alexavia##imported-end##

November 20, 2011 at 03:28 AM



“ The Merkert Family would like to send our condolences to the Strachan Family at this difficult time of loss. Our friendship goes back to 1954 and we will dearly miss her. We credit John and Fran with two of our grandsons attending the US Naval Academy...Many years of Army Navy games were enjoyed together. Thanks for the memories.

Pat and Gene Merkert##imported-begin##Gene Merkert Family##imported-end##

November 18, 2011 at 08:18 PM



“ Dear John and Family,

Having known you, Fran, and family for all these years at St. Pius, we will certainly miss Fran's most gracious pleasant smile.

Our condolences and prayers are with with you.

Cassie & Mel Kelsey##imported-begin##Cassie & Mel Kelsey##imported-end##

November 09, 2011 at 01:14 PM



“ *The Junior Friday Morning Club of Albany wishes to send our condolences on the death of our dear friend and fellow member, Fran Strachan. A few memories are shared below.*

From Adele Everett--I mostly remember the long talks we had, and the stories she always had of her family and friends - in New Rochelle where she grew up, in Texas where her family came from, and here where she has lived so long with her scintillating husband, John, bringing up her five interesting children, followed by her grandchildren, just as interesting. What a family! We remember sitting out on the terrace overlooking their "Pepsi pool". (The pool has a large cheerful Pepsi logo at the bottom!) and discussing the world, its arts, and all manner of things; often with her Valerie, who cared for her and became such a close friend. Fran had an incredible memory, and always asked after each member of one's family. We have so much to miss her for. It's hard for us left behind, but it was a very peaceful ending of a happy and distinguished life. With love to her and all her family, from so many of us.

From Ellen deBeer-- Fran and I became friends in 1962 when we moved to Ross Court in Loudonville, and they lived across the street. We each had three little girls at the time and a very friendly neighborhood with lots of jolly times. We soon discovered that we both really loved the Albany Symphony Orchestra and the New York City Ballet and shared thoughts about both. For years I have cut out articles about dance from the NY Times and mailed them regularly to Fran. I will still think about her when I read them in the future and miss that connection!

From Susan Buse--It is with great sadness I tell you of Fran Strachan's passing on Tuesday of this week. She was a sparkling presence in the Junior Friday Morning Club for 20 years. Her genuine interest in people, the arts, service, and her many acts of kindness are memorable. I never left Fran without a chuckle and a hug. She had a knack of finding the humor in even the most mundane things. Many of you will remember her paper on the non-

artist life of Norman Rockwell that kept us all guffawing. She will be mightily missed.##imported-begin##Jean Gerbini for the Junior Friday Morning Club of Albany##imported-end##

November 08, 2011 at 04:22 PM



“ Fran was a lovely lady who made me feel most welcome as a new member of the Junior Friday Morning Club. When I became an officer, she would tell me how much she enjoyed receiving my summer announcements "from the Cape". With all the members of the JFMC I extend my sympathy to her family. I will miss her.##imported-begin##eva carlson##imported-end##

November 07, 2011 at 05:34 PM



“ I always enjoyed discussing The College of New Rochelle and our experiences with Fran. She was a wonderful lady. I am sorry for your loss

Nancy Carey Cassidy, Loudonville NY##imported-begin##Nancy Carey Cassidy##imported-end##

November 07, 2011 at 04:56 PM



“ To the Strachan/Weir Families, My deepest Sympathy to all of you, Our Prayers are with you all during this difficult time.. God Bless.. Pepsi-Utica##imported-begin##Carla Mondy Kolwaite##imported-end##

November 07, 2011 at 11:49 AM



“ To the family of Mrs.Strachan. I wanted to offer my deepest sympathy at this time .Although I met Mrs. Strachan only a few times.I always found her to a gracious and very caring person.Mrs.Strachan is in heaven now with the angels. . Again my deepest condolences.Harold Townsend.##imported-begin##Harold Townsend##imported-end##

November 07, 2011 at 09:58 AM



“ Truly a kind, generous and beautiful woman and outstanding Dame of Malta...my prayers for Frances and her loving family##imported-begin##Brian G. O'Loughlin KM##imported-end##

November 07, 2011 at 06:31 AM



“ Many, many years ago our Mother and Fran were great friends at St. Pius. Whenever our Mother talked about St. Pius Fran's name was sure to come up. In the years since our Mother had passed away and yet Fran would ask for her when we saw her at Mass. She said our Mother was a great person but Fran was of the same vintage. Even in recent years her wit was greatly admired. If there is a nice ending they will now renew thier friendships in heaven. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family.##imported-begin##The Buff Family##imported-end##

November 05, 2011 at 08:33 PM



“ Hello, I am just writing to say that I remember Fran as a wonderful giving person. As a child, I always enjoyed the big Easter parties and found her to be one of the adults who knew how to speak to children in a way that left me feeling special. I enjoyed knowing that my mom, Bunny, and she remained friends after all of us kids were grown up, and I know that my mom really enjoyed her friendship. I am sure you have amny happy memories to carry forward with you.##imported-begin##Jenny deBeer Charno##imported-end##

November 04, 2011 at 11:47 PM



“ Such a rich, rich life to all of us. My mother and father were great admirers of Fran (and John) for almost 30 years. She has left many empty shoes in Albany's life for others to fill. Fran, may you with Lazarus once dead, have eternal life.##imported-begin##Rev. Joel MacCollam##imported-end##

November 04, 2011 at 12:12 PM