



Mary Spinnato Mazzacane

November 25, 1922 - June 17, 2020

Mary Spinnato Mazzacane, age 97, of Hamden passed away at Branford, Connecticut on June 17, 2020. Born Nov. 25, 1922 in New Haven, CT. She was the daughter of Lorenzo and Vincenzina Giangarra Spinnato.. She was the wife of the beloved late Joseph B. Mazzacane, Jr. for 60 years. Loving mother of Loren Mazzacane , professionally known as Loren Connors, (Suzanne) of Brooklyn, New York, Gail (Richard) Dalby of Branford and Roy Mazzacane (Peter Buccetti) of Hamden . Also survived by her cherished grandson, Jamie Connors of New York and several loving neices and nephews. She was predeceased by her siblings, Angelina Spinnato Cestaro of Hamden, Paul Spinnato of Branford, and Josephine Spinnato Kowalski of Cheshire. She was a 1940 Hillhouse High School graduate and graduated from the Whitney Business College, followed by secretarial positions at H.B. Ives Co and the A.C. Gilbert Co. She was a graduate of the Yale University School of Music, B.M. 1947 where she received the Charles R. Ditson Scholarship, the Benjamin Jepson Memorial Prize, the Clifton Brewer Scholarship and a Senior Year Scholarship. She studied for 2 years at the Yale University School of Drama while at the Music School. She attended the University of Bridgeport for Music Education Courses and graduated from the Southern Conn. State University, M.S. 1976. She studied Voice for several years with Maestro Francesco and Hilda Riggio, Artistic Directors of the Connecticut Experimental Theatre. She was a member of the CT Experimental Theatre and sang several leading roles in Opera such as

Madame Butterfly, Cavalleria Rusticana, La Boheme, Otello, Tosca, The Consul, The Old Maid and the Thief, Amahl and the Night Visitors among several others. She has presented many song recitals throughout New England and performed on radio and television. She later became the Co-Artistic Director of the CET Opera Theatre and the Theatre continued with the presentation of several complete operas. She was a teacher of Voice and Music Theory at the Neighborhood School of Music and in her home studio, Music Teacher at the West Haven Nursery School, Teacher of Music, Drama, Oral Recitation and Speech Improvement at the Lorraine D. Foster Day School K-8 for 10 years. Also, Music Teacher at the Fair Haven Middle School and Betsy Ross Middle School in New Haven for 13 years. In addition, she taught music at the South Central Community College in New Haven and the Foote School. For many years, Mary was a Girl Scout Leader and was a soloist and member of the New Haven Woman's Choral Society. She was a soloist and Choir Director at the Grand Ave. Congregational Church in New Haven for many years and then was soloist and Choir Director at St. Rita Roman Catholic Church in Hamden for 33 years. Later, she was Choir Director at Grace and St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hamden. She was soloist in several area churches for many years. She was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Italian American Historical Society in 1994 and also received an award from S.C.S.U. for her work in Music Education –"Innovative Teaching of Music". After retiring from teaching Mary began a career in puppetry. She was very active in the world of Puppetry working well into her nineties. She was an Adjunct Instructor of Puppetry at S.C.S.U.; became a member of the CT Guild of Puppetry and was a past president for 3 years. She was a member of the Puppeteers of America. She has performed extensively throughout the area with puppets for all ages in schools, libraries, churches, birthday parties, fairs, corporations, clubs, festivals, convalescent and retirement homes. She has also presented numerous in-service puppet workshops for teachers and also puppet workshops for children which included construction, manipulation,

improvisation and performance. In addition, she presented a puppet workshop on "Puppetry in Education" at the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Puppet Festival. She has presented many lectures and demonstrations throughout Connecticut dealing with her book "Music Education Through Puppetry" including a televised demonstration on WTNH. A chapter on "Music Education Through Puppetry" also appears in the book "Puppetry in Education" by Bernier and O'Hare. Mary practiced Transcendental Meditation since 1979.

Graveside services were held privately at St. Lawrence Cemetery. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers contributions to the American Parkinson Disease 135 Parkinson Ave. Staten Island, NY 10305 or to the BSF Foundation (World Peace Fund) 1100 N. 4th St. Suite 124, Fairfield, Iowa 52556 and is a 501C3 non-profit, contributions are tax deductible. Sisk Brothers Funeral Home 3103 Whitney Ave. Hamden in care of arrangements. To leave an online condolence please visit www.siskbrothers.com

Tribute Wall

TC

“ Our thoughts are with you Loren and Suzanne. Condolences to your family.
Such an active life.
The thirty tree years that Mary sang at St. Rita's covered my entire childhood. What a voice and what huge contributions to the world.
Without knowing her directly she helped shape families. Thank you.

Tim and Polina Crotty - June 23, 2020 at 04:06 PM

GW

“ What an amazing, amazing woman. My sincere condolences to her family and friends, what a beautiful vision she had of the world and because of that she made it a much more beautiful place. Thank you Mary Mazzacane.

Gary Wedow - June 23, 2020 at 03:27 PM

RM

Thank you so much Gary, you thoughts truly warm our hearts.

Roy Mazzacane - July 11, 2020 at 10:49 AM

TB

“ We are so sad at the passing of our beloved friend Mary. She was a beautiful soul, a gifted singer and a woman of so many accomplishments. She will truly be missed. Our family gatherings will never quite be the same without her presence. She gave us one of our most treasured memories when we went to the Metropolitan Opera with her and Roy. The expression of pure joy on her face is forever imprinted in our memories. She was one of those special people who when ever her name was mentioned someone would inevitably say, “she is such a nice person”. Rest in peace. Anthony & Toni Buccetti

Toni & Anthony Buccetti - June 20, 2020 at 02:26 PM

RM

She loved the both of you so much, “make sure Anthony gets the Opera News” still rings in my ears! We love you!

Roy Mazzacane - July 11, 2020 at 10:53 AM

PS

“ Mary was a good friend to my mother, Blanche Porto, and my aunt, Rose Lucibelli. What a wonderfully rich life she had! May God Bless Her and May she Rest In Peace. Sincerely, Paula Porto Santagata

Paula Santagata - June 20, 2020 at 09:39 AM

RM

Thank you so much, it is truly appreciated.

Roy Mazzacane - July 11, 2020 at 10:52 AM

JL

“ ROY SO SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR MOMS PASSING. WHAT A WONDERFUL, BEAUTIFUL AND FULL LIFE SHE HAD. GOD BLESS HER, YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. YOU MUST HAVE SO MANY BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES. TAKE CARE

JOANNE LAMBERT - June 19, 2020 at 11:22 PM

RM

Thank you so much Joanne, your words give us great comfort.

Roy Mazzacane - July 11, 2020 at 10:51 AM

AT

I have just learned of Mary's death. Today is anniversary of my father's passing... I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I felt lucky to be acquainted, and hugely grateful when she rescued an old puppet I had by sorting out the tangled strings. My sincere sympathy for your loss.

Ann at Gallery 4 in Hamden,no email tem - May 05, 2021 at 11:12 AM