



## JANE (MEROLA) RUDARI

February 19, 1932 - August 3, 2020

Jane Merola Rudari was a devoted and loving Wife, Mother, Daughter, Aunt, Friend, Neighbor, and Child of God. The greatest gifts of her life were Reno and their long and happy marriage. She was shy and eschewed the spotlight, but she was dedicated to making lives better. As she fulfilled others' dreams, she fulfilled her own. She loved Music, especially singing, Opera, Musicals, Choral, and Orchestral Music.

After eight years residence at the Centers at St. Camillus, Jane was stricken and taken to Crouse Hospital, where, with her Son, David and adopted Son Marc Wildman, she joined Reno on Monday 3 August 2020. Jane was the younger daughter of Frank and Josephine Graziano "Pip" Merola, born 19 February 1932.

She resided for twenty-one years on the North Side, and she was educated in the Syracuse City Schools. A graduate of North "Nort" High School, Class of 1950, Jane was likely part of the generation that walked uphill both ways on Pond Street on school days. She completed her High School Diploma with Secretarial Courses, worked in the School Office, and sang in Choral Ensembles. She attended and earned certification from the Syracuse Comptometer School.

Jane was an employee of the Hathaway Bakery, where she served as a Switchboard Operator and Office Worker. From 1950 to 1953, she worked in the Business Office of the Easy Washing Machine Company, where she met "the Mailman," the love of her life, Reno J. Rudari in 1950. They married on 18

April 1953.

Jane was a member of Pompeiiian Players' Italian Variety Show Troupes, under the direction of Msgr. Charles Borgognoni. She was a featured soloist in the 1950 show. "Father Charles" had 78-RPM recordings made of different acts, including Chiribiribin with the Chorus, Mario deSantis and his Orchestra. Jane was their Soprano Soloist. This treasured record is a source of great pride and inspiration for David even though Jane politely cringed when he played it.

After their Marriage, Jane and Reno and dear friends, Jim and Anne Sheridan, courtesy of the U.S. Army, had what was for Jane an adventure of a lifetime. Their first stay was Camp Atterbury in Edinburg, Indiana, and their second, and most memorable was Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. Jane and Anne stayed home while Reno and Jim soldiered.

Jane rejoined the Syracuse workforce in 1955 as a Stenographer at Employers Insurance of Wausau, "Down City" and at both James Street locations. She enjoyed her work and progressed, along with the Company through every new technological innovation from pencils and pad, manual typewriters, and carbon paper to Dictaphones, computers, and the Xerox machine. She enjoyed her work. She loved her colleagues, and she kept in touch as they left to raise families, retired, or moved into other positions. She hosted a party or two, and she and Reno danced at every wedding! When Reno retired from GE, Jane decided to hang up her Railroad Hat and head home. Times were changing, and Jane didn't want to drive to Seventh North Street for work, so she announced her retirement in 1991. She may have been one of the last of the original employees left from the Downtown days. After Colorado, Jane and Reno lived on Butternut Street. They saved their money, and in 1957, purchased land in Howlett Hill, or, the other side of the Universe, and started "the House." Jane worked side by side with Reno, bringing a home up out of the landscape. As the house was sealed up, Jane moved from Chief Rock-picker to insulation finisher, to caulk, to clean-up crew, and, finally, interior designer. She helped cut the sizeable lawn every summer

with push lawnmowers and eventually graduated to a rider, and even once or twice, the tractor. The house bears her signature from top to bottom. She and Reno were happy there, and they treasured all our neighbors, especially Rena and Bob.

David's fondest memories include Music. From the day he came home from the hospital, the FM radio was on in his room. Saturdays, Jane cleaned the house without Puccini's Madama Butterfly on the turntable. David remembers hearing her sing along with the record – even the high notes, without effort. She would act out the Chorus parts, too. Her voice was clear and true. “My parents made singing the norm. It was a part of our daily lives. Now, so many years later, I don't know what I would do without it.”

Jane was a wonderful cook who loved to entertain. Polenta dinners and post-bowling suppers for the Neighbors and the Family became feasts for his College Friends and especially Marc. A lot of good food, laughter, conversation, and music took place over that table, and in that living room. Reno and Nonna made the Polenta, Jane took care of the Chicken and Gravy, and made phenomenal sauteed Mushrooms.

Jane, Reno, and Nonna never missed a concert in Syracuse, or a weekend performance in Fredonia. They got to see him sing in opera productions, sing duets with his friends and conduct Choral Music on Fraternity Concerts in King Concert Hall. They were front and center for his Senior Recital. They met his friends, and after performances, the Rudaris, the friends, and the families that were in town for the performance, had a date at Pizza Hut where they would celebrate the evening's festivities. It was a large, and loud table with Nick Sack, Julie Newell, Jim Mohny, Grace Marra, and others that would close the restaurant. These were Jane and Reno's treasured memories, and extensions of their table at home.

When David went to Wyoming, Jane and Reno were excited that someone was going back to the West. They tried to make the trip back to see him

perform, but work schedules didn't allow it. He sent recordings and video to bridge the miles. They were able to meet and form a lasting friendship with David's Conducting teacher, Carlyle Weiss, who was a frequent guest in Howlett Hill.

When David began teaching at South Jefferson, Jane took great relish in calling David at 5.00 am. to inform him that he had a snow day and would call and say when the trend was over. When asked why, Jane explained that she wanted him to know he could sleep in, and when it was over, if she had to be up, so did everyone else. Reno and Jane never missed a concert, and they loved his colleagues, especially the Gamets, Badours, and LaClairs, and the camaraderie they shared. Jane remembered ten years of great concerts, musicals, and especially the Recitals with Rick Badour, David, and Steve Uhl in David's classroom that raised money for Scholarships.

In 1989, Jane and Reno met David's colleague, David Dragicevich, an enthusiastic member of the Social Studies area from Poughkeepsie. "The Other David" was a whirlwind, who kept Jane and Reno on their toes. Eventually, he married, and his wife Melissa was kindred spirit for Jane, especially when the "boys" got a rambunctious in their storytelling. Then came Devin, their son, David's Godson who folded right into the family mix, too. Jane loved their time together.

After South Jeff, Jane and Reno slowed down. David was in West Virginia, and the trips there, while infrequent, were memorable. Jane never ceased to be amazed to meet the artists who called David a friend and colleague. She especially loved Jim Benner, David's Voice Coach. She was grateful for the friendship of Michael Mihalyo, Tom Lunsford, Kenn and Judy Morgan, and Wally and Sandy Neel, who saw David through some very rough times. She loved the time spent at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, where she saw David's groups in concert, and she beamed as he walked the Stage at WVU to receive his Doctorate. After David came home from West Virginia, Jane and Reno saw a few performances together when David and his OCC students, and especially his colleagues and friends, Selma and Kevin Moore visited

“Shady Pines.”

Jane was a communicant of The Church of St. Michael/St. Peter. She was a member of the Church Choir at St. Peter’s, and the Altar and Rosary Society. She was a member the Howlett Hill Fire Department Auxiliary, the Solvay Tyrol Club Auxiliary, and the Happy Roamers. She enjoyed bowling, especially with the Howlett Hill Fire Department Auxiliary and the Syracuse Bowling Center Mixed and Women’s Leagues.

David is grateful to the staff at St. Camillus, and, particularly the Baker Unit teams, who cared for her for nearly eight tough years. They became easier when Reno became a resident, and her roommate in 2017. They were the King and Queen of the Prom. They sat close, and they always held hands. The Staff was dedicated to Jane’s needs. “My Mother was gentle and wished no ill upon anyone. But if she hurt or she was mad, you knew it. You worked with me every step of the way to try to find ways to make her comfortable. You brought her through so many rough patches. You were her advocate when other Staff members were not so willing. You should be proud of your work, and your dedicated caring. Thank you, all!”

Jane’s final hours and were spent in the Emergency Room at Crouse. How fitting that Jane would draw her last breath in the Hospital where David drew his first. David is grateful beyond measure to Dr. Steinman, the ER staff, and to Mrs. Cheryl Abrams for their Skills, Honesty, Compassion, and Respect that were shown to his Mother from the minute of her arrival to the moment of her last breath. He is grateful to Rev. Kate Lufkin Day for her Spiritual care, and to Fr. Robert Hyde, who attended Jane and gave her the Last Rites of the Church with great compassion and fervor. Dr. Ring and Deanna from Palliative Care intervened in March and provided Jane and her caregivers options to maintain a good quality of life, (in spite of COVID-19). And, David is grateful beyond measure to Mrs. Sally Dulcich-Bloom, RN who supported us in prayer, and who stayed with Jane after she passed to be sure she was prepared and properly attended as she made her journey forward.

Jane was predeceased by her Husband of sixty-six years, Reno, three Sons, who died at birth, her Parents, her Sister and Brother-in-Law Rosemarie and Rosario Pullano, and several Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins. She is survived by, her Son, Dr. David J. Rudari of Howlett Hill, two Nephews, four Great-Nieces and two Great-Nephews, Cousins, and dear friends, especially her neighbors, the Kelsey-Goddards, the Simmons', the Slocums, the Farrells and the DelCostellos, who looked in, helped out, and made sure she and Reno were okay.

Jane loved to see others excel. In that spirit, David respectfully requests that one might, in lieu of flowers, direct one's generosity and consider a contribution in Jane's honor to The Church of St. Michael/St. Peter, the Onondaga Community College Foundation for Vocal Music Scholarships, or the Centers at St. Camillus. There are links at the bottom of this page. Jane's final arrangements are entrusted to the care of BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME, Solvay.

A calling hour will be held at The Church of St. Michael/St. Peter, Onondaga Hill on 9 September 2020, at 5 p.m., followed by a Memorial Mass at 6 p.m. Burial in the Howlett Hill Cemetery will be private. There is a direction link at the bottom of this page for friends to find directions to the Church.

Please note that the Church of St. Michael/St. Peter is handicap accessible. The Pastoral Staff requires facial coverings of all visitors, and New York State guidelines on gatherings will be observed.

#### DIRECTIONS TO ST. MICHAEL/ST. PETER PARISH:

4791 W. Seneca Turnpike

Syracuse, NY 13215

<https://stmichaelchurch.webs.com/directions>

THOSE WHO WISH TO SHARE WITH OTHERS IN HONOR OF JANE  
MIGHT CHOOSE:

The Church of St. Michael/St. Peter  
4782 W. Seneca Turnpike  
Syracuse, NY 13215  
<https://www.stmichael-stpeter.org/>

Onondaga Community College Foundation for Vocal Music Scholarships  
4585 W. Seneca Turnpike  
Syracuse, NY 13215  
<http://www.sunyocc.edu/index.aspx?menu=924&id=33943>

The Centers at St. Camillus:  
813 Fay Road  
Syracuse, NY 13219  
<https://www.st-camillus.org/support-st-camillus/online-giving/>

# Cemetery Details

## HOWLETT HILL CEMETERY - PRIVATE COMMITTAL

ONONDAGA HILL  
SYRACUSE, NY 13215

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

SEP 9. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

The Church of St. Michael and St. Peter  
4782 W. Seneca Turnpike  
Syracuse, NY 13215

## Memorial Mass

SEP 9. 6:00 PM (ET)

The Church of St. Michael and St. Peter  
4782 W. Seneca Turnpike  
Syracuse, NY 13215

# Tribute Wall



“ JANE (MEROLA) RUDARI

January 21, 2023 at 02:11 PM



“ Professor,

*You continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. As a devoted son, you so unconditionally and so generously gave such love, comfort and support to both your mom and dad. They certainly were very special people because they raised such a caring and loving son. And talented too!*

*May their beautiful life together and the many precious memories you have continue to bring you peace and strength.*

XO  
Sue Tormey

Susan Tormey - August 25, 2020 at 04:59 PM



*Mrs. T! You are an incredible friend and colleague. Your kindness to me today, and every day has been more of a boost than you could ever realize.*

David - August 28, 2020 at 02:31 PM

DR

“ 16 files added to the album Memories Album



---

**David Rudari** - August 21, 2020 at 10:21 AM

AD

*Dear David, I was so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. I enjoyed working with her. She was always so pleasant. Your mom and dad made a beautiful/handsome couple. May they be at peace.*

---

**Alice DiNicola** - August 23, 2020 at 05:25 PM

DA

*Alice... Thank you for your note. You were one of the people that made Wausau fun, and your work enabled Mom to grow with the Company. She was anxious around change, as well you know. You saw her through so much of it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.*

---

**David** - August 23, 2020 at 08:47 PM

RF

“ Dear David, Your mother has now joined your father in Heaven. May they both enjoy that new wonderful life. Thank you for your kind words about our father. Your father was a good friend of ours, and they enjoyed making polenta together at the Tyrol Club.

May the memories you have of your mother and father be cherished always.

*The Rudy Capella family*

---

**Rudy Capella family** - August 15, 2020 at 08:48 PM

DA

*This means so much. Thank you!!*

---

**David** - August 17, 2020 at 12:38 AM

SB

“ Hi David, so sorry to hear about your Mom. I remember you saying that she was not well when your Dad died but it doesn't make it any easier. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family.

*Sally and Dave*



---

**Sally Bailey** - August 11, 2020 at 07:56 PM

DA

*Thank you, so Much, Sally and David. She was hanging in pretty well, and we had a good routine going. This snuck up on us on the left side. It's very sad. But she is in a better place, now. Thank you!!!*

---

**David** - August 12, 2020 at 11:37 AM

CZ

“ I worked with Jane at Wausau Insurance. She was always so nice. I remember when I started there how helpful she was to me (my first real job) She always was smiling and had comforting words in tough times. She was so proud of you, David! Sending prayers and hugs.

-----  
**Cindy (Tassone) Zajac** - August 10, 2020 at 05:30 PM

DA

She thought the world of you, Cindy! You were a great colleague and a wonderful supervisor. You always encouraged her to achieve, even when she was reluctant. I hope you and yours are well! All the best!

-----  
**David** - August 11, 2020 at 08:25 AM

JF

“ My sincere condolences on the recent passing of your mother. I lost my mother at age 94 on May 19th to Covid 19.

Our next door neighbors for many years in Rome, New York were Joseph Merola and his son Joe.

Prayerfully,

John Flaver

-----  
**John Flaver** - August 09, 2020 at 07:56 PM

DA

John! Thank you so much for your note! I had no idea that your Mother had passed, and from Covid-19. That's terrible. Mom's branch of the Merola family was very disconnected. No MD's or Lawyers, and no one from out East!

I hope that you are doing well, in spite of your terrible loss. Please take care, and I will see you soon!

-----  
**David** - August 10, 2020 at 10:55 AM

SW

“ Sharon Williams lit a candle in memory of  
JANE (MEROLA) RUDARI



---

**Sharon Williams** - August 09, 2020 at 06:00 PM

MT

“ I enjoyed many wonderful years working with Jane at Wausau  
Insurance Co. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this  
time.

*Mary Jane Train*

---

**Mary Jane Train** - August 09, 2020 at 05:37 PM

DA

*Mary Jane... My mother always spoke fondly of you and your work at  
Wausau. Thank you for your friendship and all that you did for her  
through the years. I hope my note finds you well and safe in these  
trying times.*

---

**David** - August 10, 2020 at 10:52 AM