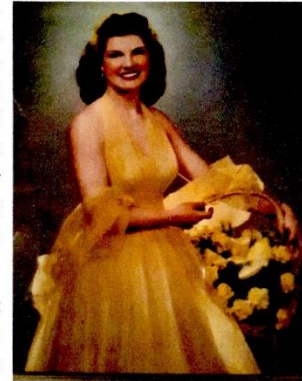


#### JANET LAMURAGLIA STRECKER

Born to first generation Italian parents, John & Annunziata Lamuraglia, on March 19, 1934, Janet is one of five sisters who grew up and attended school in Seneca Falls. She moved from 'city' life to a farm in the country, halfway between Cayuga and Union Springs when she married Walter Strecker, the son of a German farmer who expected that Walter would take over the farm, which was not Walter's plan. Still, they lived and worked on the farm in those early years until they built their own house in a swamp adjacent to the farm. When Janet and Walter purchased their property, the seller, after closing the deal said to Walter, "this deal is done, but it includes a gentleman's agreement that you will not sell the land to an Italian, a Democrat, or a Catholic". Walter pointed to Janet and told the seller. "Too late. She's all three".



Janet's stories of her early life in Seneca Falls represent an era in which immigrant communities were rich in their own traditions. The picture above was taken at a wedding in which Janet was a bride's maid. The photographer asked Janet to pose for a picture alone and mounted it for display at her shop. Janet was surprised to walk up the stairs in the shop to see herself looking back at her. Janet's mother saved the contributions Janet shared from her first job after high school. She purchased Janet's wedding dress directly from Italy. As teenagers, Janet and her sisters signed up to be farm workers, picking beans in King Ferry, cherries in Geneva, and berries in Penn Yan. Despite those experiences, farm life on east side of the lake was a lot more difficult than Janet expected. Her mother had a washing machine, for example. There was no such appliance of the farm. Her in-laws had only a basic subsistence lifestyle. Although the father in-law spoke and read seven European languages, he was not a particularly handy man as most farmers can be. The young couple lived on the upper floor of the farmhouse until they purchased a swamp behind the farm on the lake from a neighbor

and built their home there. She hauled gravel, blocks and railroad ties working alongside her husband to build the house in which she still lives. Janet worked outside the home throughout her lifetime, partly in her sister's, the Big M market in Union Springs and in a manufacturing job in Auburn. Most of the physical challenges of her later years are a well-earned result of those labors. Even those pains cement her attachment to the place she lives.

Janet, like her mother before her, was widowed in her forties. Neither remarried. Janet and her sisters continue to have close relationships with four of the five pictured below. Her sister Mary, now passed, was well known in Union Springs as the owner and operated the Big M Midstate Market downtown for many years. Janet is especially close to her two daughters who check on her daily and come for a family visit every Sunday. Janet in turn checks daily on at least two other friends about whom she worries and keeps tabs on. She is also close to her granddaughter. Growing up in Seneca Falls, she was particularly aware of the history of the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. She says the number 19 seems to have played a special place in her life, often associated with important events in her history. Janet named Eleanor Roosevelt as one of her role models and especially recalls something that Eleanor said: "Do what you fear the most!" Upon reflection, Janet supposes that idea framed her approach to life and work. She confesses that as a childhood fan of the comic books that were traded among the neighborhood children, Janet's favorite was Wonder Woman, "because she could do anything". Those who know Janet can see those two role models in Janet herself.



Janet is as an avid reader and stays up on national and world affairs. She is determined to maintain her independent lifestyle living in the house she and her husband built and where her daughters grew up. When asked what she would most like to be known or remembered for, Janet paused and referred to a recent conversation with one of her daughters. Janet choked up as she repeats the words: "Mom, you are my best friend and one of the smartest people I know. Your mind is like a sponge".