



Florence Weber Calovi  
1921-2019



*A Bay Gal Artist*

Greetings!

Each of us knows people from his own experiences with them. And for me Florence Weber Calovi was part of what author and journalist Tom Brokaw referred to as the *Greatest Generation*, those born between 1910 and 1924. They are those who grew up during the great Depression and experienced the horrors of WWII. In America many of these people were second generation Americans like Florence, whose parents emigrated here from Northern Italy like my husband's family. And that is how I knew Florence, from my in-laws Peter and Enes Galetto. . They were partners in business and enjoyed one another's company socially. All of these second-generation Italians had the "right stuff" that came from living through tough times.. Through hard work they ultimately achieved what is commonly called the American Dream: success

I knew Florence as a kind person who took an interest in people's families. She was politely inquisitive and had a cute Brooklyn accent. She dressed to the nines and loved painting scenes from nature. I never knew that her love for art was suppressed for much of her life until reading her obituary. When I knew her later on she was one of The Bay Gals, painting local landscapes dear to me. I also did not know that she was part of the WWII war effort, like so many women of that day who worked in factories supporting the cause.

Above all else Florence focused on her family. And her daughters represent her and her husband's ability to raise women who reflect their work ethic and gracious nature, all of them having developed these same attributes.

Florence and her husband Randy were generous supporters of CU and to this day their company, Dunrite Sand and Gravel, is continually helpful to our mission.

I enjoyed reading her biography and was sad to have been out of town for her services. It never ceases to amaze me that in memorializing a person I learn so much about the individual from other people's knowledge and perspectives, which are different for each of us.

Please take a moment to read the short biographic sketch in Florence's obituary below, and know that she was a very special lady.

We offer our condolences to the Calovi Family may great memories sustain Florence's spirit.

Sincerely,

Jane Morton Galetto  
Board President

## **Obituary**

### **Florence Weber Calovi 1921-2019**

Vineland - Florence Weber Calovi, 97, of Vineland, passed away on February 2, 2019 at Genesis Millville Center, after a long and full life. She was born in 1921 in Lafferty, Ohio. Her parents, Alberto and Celestina Weber, were immigrants from the Tyrol in northern Italy. The family moved to Brooklyn, New York when Florence was four years old. Her father died when she was just nine years old, leaving a widow with three young daughters. Florence, the eldest, graduated from Girls Commercial High School. She wanted to take the art curriculum but her mother insisted she take the more practical business courses.

She worked for Sherry Gyroscope during WWII painting fluorescent dials for military planes. On Christmas Eve, 1944, she married Randy Calovi, a bomb site instructor in the Army Air Corps. They eventually moved from New York City to Vineland, New Jersey where she raised four daughters and turned her creative talents to sewing. She sewed drapes, slipcovers, and much of the family's clothing.

Once the girls were grown, she finally had the time to pursue her childhood dream - to become an artist. She enrolled in art classes at Vineland High School and began a creative journey that would span fifty years. She won numerous local and state prizes for her watercolors and had several one-woman art shows at local establishments. One of her

greatest joys was being one of "The Bay Gals", a group of artists who met once a week to paint and share their love of art. Florence was also a volunteer at the Vineland Public Library for 25 years, receiving Volunteer of the Year awards on numerous occasions.

She is survived by her four daughters, Doris Forst (Jim), Janet Walsh (Kevin), Elaine Braidt (Chuck); and Karen Mayo (Bev Greco); thirteen grandchildren, Holly Gamber (Paul), Matthew DeBarger, Amanda Hall (Dan), Doug Walsh, Ted Walsh (Kay), Elizabeth Davis (Chad), Natalie LaTorre (Mike), Ricky Catrambone (Caroline), Carla Catrambone (Fiancé Chris Lesniak); Augustus Mayo (Amy Gilfillan), Alex Mayo, Randy Mayo and Nicholas Mayo: seven great-grandchildren, Nora Gamber, Sadie Gamber, Hunter Khutsishvili, Sage Hall, Henry Hall, Sarah Davis and Barney Davis; sisters, Olga Cariello and Mary Batistone and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Florence was predeceased by her husband, Adolph "Randy" Calovi and her parents, Alberto & Celestina (Bonnetti) Weber.

At the families request in lieu of flowers that donations in memory of Florence be made to: Vineland Public Library, 1058 E Landis Avenue, Vineland, NJ 08360.

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