



## Aranka Schubert Polony

March 8, 1923 - January 6, 2022

Aranka Schubert Polonyi, 98, died Thursday January 6, 2022, peacefully in her multigenerational home in New Jersey with all of her loved ones nearby. A picture of her mother was perched by her bedside. During her final days, her daughters and grandchildren surrounded her tenderly and warmly. They reminisced and shared stories of their years intertwined, played her Hungarian songs, and held her hand.

At Aranka's request, no service will be held. Her loved ones will celebrate her existence, nearly a century long, and grieve privately, intimately.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Aranka Polony may be directed to VNA of Central Jersey Hospice/VNA Health Group, Attn: Philanthropy Department, 23 Main St., Suite D1, Holmdel, NJ 07733 or [www.vnahg.org](http://www.vnahg.org)

Aranka was born Thursday March 8, 1923, in Gönc, Hungary. Etymologically, her name derives from the word gold. Aranka's childhood in the countryside of Gönc was filled with fresh fruit from gyümölcsfák, or fruit trees, which she picked and savored with her older brother, Tibor, and older sister, Valéria. She and her late husband, László Polonyi, emigrated from Hungary in December 1956; two refugees of the Hungarian Revolution. They were granted political asylum and housed temporarily in Camp Kilmer, Piscataway, New Jersey. Later, they made a home together and raised their daughters in East Orange, New Jersey. Aranka and László did not speak English upon arrival in the

United States. They had tiny cards inscribed with English translations of words and numbers tucked away in their wallets for when they required reminders. They learned English by watching television and by way of their daughters, who learned the language in school.

Aranka had lake-blue eyes. She was a *varrónő*, or seamstress and a brilliant baker of traditional Hungarian walnut and poppy seed pastries (who baked *dobos torte* on birthdays). She was a beautiful singer and a violin enthusiast (being a descendant of the composer Franz Schubert, music was in her blood). And she was like a beloved second mother for her five grandchildren, whom she welcomed home from school daily in their youth with traditional Hungarian dishes made with paprika and love.

Aranka is intensely loved, honored, and survived by her devoted daughters Elizabeth, Aranka, and Adrianna; by Adrianna's husband John; and by her five adult grandchildren Gregory, Zachary, Mackenzie, Justin, and Aranka. She is our Matriarch, always. The strongest woman we know.

We believe that when she left us here, she was welcomed home there by her mother, Anna Bodnar, by Tibor, by Valéria, and by László, all of whom she loved dearly. Aranka departed by way of the sun's reflection on water, *aranyhíd*, or directly translated, a golden bridge.

# Tribute Wall

TM

“ *Even though I was a kid when I knew Aranka, her warmth and humor are vivid memories. So sorry to learn of her passing.* ”

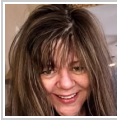
Tom Meglioranza - April 19, 2024 at 11:39 PM

LB

“ *Lisa Bongo lit a candle in memory of Aranka Schubert Polony* ”



Lisa Bongo - February 11, 2022 at 06:20 AM



*the sweetest woman i knew love Forever such great times & memories Anuka too to me i love all the Polony girls*

Lisa Turner-Bongo - February 11, 2022 at 07:21 AM



“ *We all share in your grief in the loss of dear Aunt Aranka. We have beautiful memories of her amazing and cheerful character. Our heart is with you* ”

*Tibor and Kornel's family: Tibor, Cila, Lilla, Katinka, Magdi, Kornel, Peter*

Ilona Schubertné Rabóczki - January 17, 2022 at 03:01 PM

LF

“ So sorry to hear about your mom/ grandmother. She was a special woman who has an amazing family. Sending love and heartfelt condolences.

Leslie Kesselhaut and family - January 13, 2022 at 09:07 AM

PC

“ Sending our love to you and family for you to find comfort in the coming days and cherished memories you can forever hold on to . Love Mark & Patty Curcio. 😊

Patty & Mark Curcio - January 10, 2022 at 08:35 PM

AS

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Adrianna Sands - January 09, 2022 at 07:59 PM

AS

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall

Adrianna Sands - January 09, 2022 at 07:50 PM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Aranka Schubert Polony



Bongarzone Funeral Home - January 08, 2022 at 09:20 PM

VS

*A beautiful woman in every way. She will be missed.*

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**Valerie Sands** - January 10, 2022 at 07:05 PM

DC

*Please accept our sincerest condolences on the loss of your dear Mother .God bless you and the family at this time of sorrow. You are in our thoughts . Dory and Lee Cruz*

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**Dory Cruz** - January 11, 2022 at 10:09 AM