



Frances R. Fraser-Smith

April 16, 1937 - August 20, 2025

Wantage - Frances R. Fraser-Smith, age 88, passed peacefully on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at her home with her loving family by her side. Born in New York, New York to the late Albert and Sybil (Hammer) Moeller, Frances lived in Ridgewood, New Jersey and Scotland, UK for many years before moving to Wantage. Frances attended Earlham College, Indiana and Edinburgh University, Edinburgh, Scotland for her undergraduate degrees and earned her masters in theater studies at the University of Leeds, England. While living in Scotland, she was a professor of theater at Dumfries and Galloway College.

Mrs. Fraser-Smith was very involved in local politics everywhere she lived. When she moved to Wantage, she continued that involvement with the Sussex County Democratic Committee. She believed in “contributing to this world” and always wanted to make a difference. Her favorite places to be were camping at Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland, living in Scotland with her beloved husband, Duncan, and her home on the lake in Wantage.

Mrs. Fraser-Smith was an active church member of Unity of Sussex County in Lafayette and was involved with the historic Crescent Theater in Sussex.

She was most proud of her family here in the US and in Scotland. She enjoyed cooking and baking for her friends and family and especially enjoyed

having dinner parties and celebrations of every kind with her many friends.

She is predeceased by her husband, Duncan and her brother, Albert Moeller. Mrs. Fraser-Smith is survived by her two sons, Mark Miller and his wife Betsy of Jamaica, Vermont and Bruce Miller and his wife Hui of Glen Spey, New York; her daughter, Leslie Coolong and her husband Ray of Wantage; her sister, Carol Gorman and her partner Frank Smith of Morehead, North Carolina; her grandchildren, Olivia Riccardi and her husband Joe, Tyler Miller and his wife Alex, Samantha Miller and her fiancé Christian, Jake Miller, Lucas Coolong and his fiancé Nicole, and Tristan Coolong; and her great granddaughter, Lena Grace Riccardi. A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 4, 2025 at Unity of Sussex County, 25 Mudcut Road, Lafayette, NJ 07848. The family would like to express their profound gratitude to the compassionate staff at Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice for all the wonderful care given to their mother during the past two months. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Frances' memory to Karen Ann Quinlan Center of Hope Hospice, 99 Sparta Avenue, Newton, NJ 07860. Private cremation services have been entrusted to the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.pinkelfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Private Cremation Services

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

OCT 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Unity of Sussex County
25 Mudcut Road
Lafayette, NJ 07848

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Frances R. Fraser-Smith.

October 03, 2025 at 07:57 AM



“ Sending love and thoughts to all those who will be missing dear Frances x

Katy - October 03, 2025 at 07:10 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Frances R. Fraser-Smith.

October 03, 2025 at 07:07 AM



“ Moran Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Frances R. Fraser-Smith.



Moran Family - September 30, 2025 at 02:12 PM



“ Moran Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances R. Fraser-Smith.

Moran Family - September 30, 2025 at 02:12 PM

JL

“*Brad and I loved Frances—that will never change! We called each other soul sisters. Shortly after she and I first met at one of her dinner parties, we knew it to be true. We had so much fun at her parties and her dinners were outstanding. We met so many wonderful people.*

She was a gourmet cook, a director, a teacher, a good friend and more. She loved her family. She was wise and knowledgeable, and we loved our conversations with her. She stood up for everything she believed in, and she was so involved with whatever she pursued. She loved to travel and would take off in her SUV all by herself. She was an extraordinary person. We so admired and respected her.

We feel blessed to have her in our lives and as our good friend. We miss her but she will always be with us in our hearts.

Jo Lewis

Josephine Lewis - September 24, 2025 at 06:43 PM

EL

“*Ellen Lin Lentz purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Frances R. Fraser-Smith.*



Ellen Lin Lentz - September 16, 2025 at 08:16 AM

AE

“ I had Frances as my drama director in our after college club. She was truly inspirational and so much fun. She believed all her students could perform. We played to a packed college theatre in two Scottish plays. The Steamie and A white Bird passes. I loved the love she shared with Duncan. Frances was an experience not to be missed. RIP lovely lady.

Avril Ellis - August 29, 2025 at 06:46 PM

LH

I have treasured my friendship with Frances since we met when we worked together at Dumfries College. We enjoyed so many good times since then. She made my life brighter, happier and full of fun. Her zest for life was infectious and her kindness and generosity touched everyone around her. One of our most treasured memories was when Frances travelled to St Andrews to celebrate our marriage. Her reading at our wedding, Apache Blessing, made our day so special. Thank you for being my friend. I'll keep all my memories close to my heart.

Leslie Hamill - October 01, 2025 at 05:17 PM

BC

“ My condolences to Fran's family and those who were touched by her, I feel so fortunate to have had the chance to spend time with Frances since her 85th "shared" birthday celebration with my mother Carol Howell in 2022. I want to acknowledge the positive impact that she made through her friendship and steadfast support of my mother and our family — thank you Frances



Brad Conger - August 28, 2025 at 03:43 PM

MW

“ So sorry to hear of Frances' passing. She was a wonderful person and a dear friend to me and my family since the late 1980's. She will be much missed.

Mary Waldron - August 27, 2025 at 01:16 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Frances R. Fraser-Smith.



August 27, 2025 at 09:32 AM

GE

“ Oh Leslie I am so so sorry to see this news. My amazing friend was such a vibrant and positive and kind Lady loved her to bits sadness in this house tonight please give my love to all the family Georgina xxxxxxx

Georgina - August 25, 2025 at 07:16 PM

AN

Leslie ,I'm so sorry for your loss . Your mom was always nice to me .she had fantastic Halloween costumes! I hope your tears are stopped by all the wonderful memories you all have together . Rip . Love Anne Brislin

anne - August 25, 2025 at 08:03 PM

CC

So glad I had the chance to get to know Fran through Brad and his family. What an amazing strong woman. I send my love and condolences.

Carol Conger - August 25, 2025 at 09:19 PM

SG

My deepest condolences to all of Frans family & friends. Wonderful memories of Fancy Francy (a name given by my son when a toddler and adopted by my entire family) she will be remembered with love in our hearts. Big hugs to Leslie, Mark and Bruce.

Sue Conger Garrett - August 26, 2025 at 07:34 PM

KM

My deepest condolences to Frances' family and friends. May wonderful memories always bring them comfort and peace. It was both a privilege and a pleasure to have crossed paths with Frances in this lifetime.

Karen Merritt - August 26, 2025 at 08:45 PM

JC

I met Frances a few years ago at the supermarket in Sussex, looking at British foods. We ended up talking for about 45 minutes! A lot in common.. I used to live in Ridgewood, was married to a scotsman, I was a dancer, and we had many more shared interests...she was a bubbly, interesting and interested personality, I will miss her warmth and charm, wit and wisdom, Judyth Casey

Judyth Casey - August 28, 2025 at 04:17 PM

MC

Frances was a very dear friend. She had a keen mind and was passionate about her interests - from drama to politics. She loved her family and her friends. She was a consummate hostess and threw great parties. I miss her very much. My sympathy to all her family.

Mary Cafarelli - September 05, 2025 at 11:56 PM

EL

When I moved to Wantage, doing my first round the lake walk. I saw Frances out by her door. I waved at her saying hi and I was new to the neighbourhood. She reached out her hand to me and said "Hi, my name is Frances and I am a democate.". I thought I have to come back to chat with her later. The next we sat down. It was a four hour visit. An amazing loving courageous woman, she was.

Ellen L Lentz - October 04, 2025 at 09:02 AM