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Rosemary A. Simons

Oct 22, 2021

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Rosemary Antoinette Simons, 96, of Falmouth died Saturday, October 16.

She was the wife of Robert Aubery Simons, who died in 2007. They had been married 60 years.

Originally from Minnesota, she was born in Eveleth, the eldest child of John and Mary Vaida of Slovenian and Croatian descent. She was graduated with a degree in design from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth.

Ms. Simons was known for her expertise at baking, especially an Austrian nut roll called potica. Her recipes had appeared in community cookbooks, and she was featured several times in the food column of the Enterprise, Gourmets & Good Eaters.

During an interview in 1998 Ms. Simons revealed that “It was the Curling Club that brought us here” to the Falmouth community, in 1992, “and the fact that four of our 11 children live in Massachusetts. Now I have a smaller kitchen, but at least I was able to keep my larger freezer, stored in the basement.”

When columnist Gail Blakely asked Ms. Simons how she developed her interest in baking, she said, “I think I’ve been a baker from the get-go. I always made my own bread—you could smell it a mile away. The kids would come home from school at lunch time, and have freshly baked bread with butter. I always worried that they would go back to school and the teacher would ask them what they had for lunch. If they said just bread and butter, I thought they’d send a social worker in to check on us!”

In 1950 she discovered the universal bread mixer, a large pail that makes mixing and kneading

much easier. "I would put in the ingredients, then my husband would turn the handle just before he went to work," she recalled.

"I love cookbooks, and always enjoyed trying new ideas. Growing up on the Iron Range in Minnesota, there were lots of community cookbooks around, with many different recipes." She showed an example, "Woman's Glory, the Kitchen," a collection of Hungarian, Croatian and Slovenian recipes. A number of her own recipes were published in these books, including one for her famous potica.

Another of her specialties was gazpacho, large quantities, "which I keep chilled in the refrigerator during the summer."

After living initially in North Falmouth for several years, she and her husband settled in Greengate. They were active members of Falmouth Curling Club, with Ms. Simons frequently baking for the club social hours.

Besides her interest in baking and cooking, Ms. Simons did needlework, sewing and painting; played piano and was a gardener. A volunteer at Mullen-Hall Elementary School, she was named the Volunteers in Public Schools 2010 volunteer of the year with her granddaughter Lian Folger.

She leaves 10 children, Michael Simons of Madison, Wisconsin, Toni Cunningham of Lexington, Sally McGrath of Quogue, New York, Janet Simons Folger of Falmouth, Susan Gajewski of Arlington, Virginia, Terry Levenson of Tuckahoe, New York, Rachel Sama of Briarcliff Manor, New York, Claire Simons of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Robert A. Simons Jr. of North Adams, and Cathi Crouse of Lynn; her sister, Barbara Grillo of Hibbing, Minnesota; as well as 15 grandchildren, a great-grandchild, four stepgrandchildren and a large extended family.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her daughter Mary Kay Rubly; two sisters; and a brother.

Her body was donated for research at Harvard Medical School.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick's Church in Falmouth at a date to be determined.