



CIAA BULLETIN

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Exclusive Member Update



Remembering Margaret Cicogna

We are saddened to share the news of the passing of Margaret Cicogna, a longtime leader and mentor, known by many as The Cheese Lady.

The Cheese Importers Association will remember the legacy she built and extends its heartfelt condolences to her family.

The information below is shared from her son, Alexander Cicogna.

Greenwich, CT — Margaret Bermingham Cicogna died peacefully in Greenwich, CT, on September 12, 2026. She was 91.

Born October 9th, 1934 in New York City, Margaret was the daughter of Archibald Bermingham and Mathilda Cilento Bermingham. With her parents she also resided in Southport, CT, where she spent most of her summers. She loved Southport, and always thought of it as her second home.

Margaret was an avid sailor, often joining Briggs Cunningham, a famous sailor and race car driver, as crew at the Pequot Yacht Club in Southport. She was also an avid figure skater while living in New York City.

Margaret attended the Convent of the Sacred Heart, New York City, which she loved and cherished, and Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart. She also attended the Sorbonne in Paris later on, where she studied French and Latin.

She loved art, music and the opera, which she often attended with her mother. She was fluent in three languages.

Upon her return to the United States, she married Count Gian Carlos Cicogna Mozzoni, who was a graduate of Yale College and later of Columbia University's Graduate School of International Relations. Both decided to return to Europe, first to Paris, France, and then Switzerland.

Returning to the United States in 1982, after living in Crans-Montana and Lausanne, Switzerland for many years, she took up residence in Rye, New York, on Pine Island. She started her own Italian cheese import company, and was instrumental in helping Italian manufacturers and producers of specialty cheese to import, market and sell their products in the United States marketplace.

She was known as the Cheese Lady, and worked closely with local distributors to market Italian cheese and other Italian products. She traveled constantly back to Italy to strengthen those business relationships.

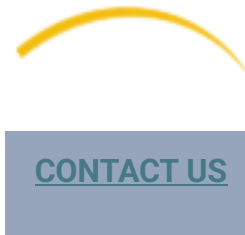
Margaret has been recognized as one of the leading authorities on Italian cheese in the United States. Her deep knowledge and passion for cheese, and her close relationships with producers and buyers, allowed her to manage a highly successful career in the industry. She worked closely with many producers and distributors such as Consorzio Gorgonzola, BelGioioso Cheese and Atalanta Corp., and with Alessandro Cicogna of Milan, Italy, to market his gorgonzola cheese in the United States. Her deep love of Italy —

its traditions, culture, history and fine food products — guided her throughout her career.

Margaret's friends, colleagues, clients and many others cherished her friendship. She leaves behind a legacy of dignity and service to everyone she encountered. She will be greatly missed by many in the Specialty Cheese Industry.



Laurra Lyden McGregor * CIAA President * 206-909-6531



Cheese Importers Association | 515 2nd Street, NE | Washington, DC 20002 US