



Eleni Coyle

April 3, 2023

Dr Eleni (Helen) Coyle, the loving mother of Sean, Kiriakos (Kirk), Christopher, and Stephen, and beloved wife of James Coyle, passed away on Monday. She was 61.

Born in Aigaleo, Athens, Greece in February of 1962 to parents Anastasia (Stasa) and Kyriakos Emmanuelidis, Eleni (Neni) grew up in a tight nit Greek family who traveled between Aigaelo and the island Crete. Her family quickly realized they had a fun loving, intelligent, and compassionate little girl on their hands. Along with her two older brothers, Anastasios (Taso) and Konstantinos (Dino), Neni loved playing at the neighborhood parks, going on drives in her father's VW Beetle, and making lasting friendships, especially with the Koumantakis children (Leonidas, Dimitra, Michalis, and Grigoris) with whom they developed a lifelong bond.

Later in childhood, Neni's family spent time between New York, and Aigaleo. It was during this time that her parents brought Neni to factories to observe machinery in action, encouraged her with educational aspirations, and empowered her to achieve her educational goals. Neni quickly developed a passion for science, mathematics and engineering and she made a name for herself at her high school, Ralleios Gymnasio in Piraeus. Her classmates nicknamed her "Albert" in honor of Albert Einstein, and Neni graduated Valedictorian of her High School class in 1979.

Later that year, Neni began her undergraduate studies at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ, where she was part of the trailblazing first group of women who were admitted into Stevens when the school approved the admission of Undergraduate women in the 1970s. It was while at Stevens that Neni met Chemistry Lab partner, and future love of her life, Jim Coyle. Neni and Jim both graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering in 1983, and Neni later earned her Master of Chemical Engineering in 1985.

Neni and Jim were engaged in December 1983, and were married in June of 1985, at St Catherine's church in Piraeus. They honeymooned in Rhodes.

Neni spent the first few years of her career as a Chemical Engineer at Mobil Chemical in the 1980s, but soon joined forces with her brothers at Olympic Marine in Brooklyn, where she worked until 1993.

In 1989, Neni attained one of the roles that would truly define her legacy: Mom. Neni and Jim welcomed the birth of the first son, Sean in 1989. Soon afterwards, Neni welcomed Kiriakos (1991), Christopher (1993) and Stephen (1995). Neni would often say she was blessed with "ena kai dio kai tria kai tessera paidia", as the old Greek song goes. She was a constant source of inspiration for her children, and she had unwavering spirit and joy. She instilled in her four boys how to live in the fullness of Christ, and tirelessly encouraged them to always to "Love One Another". She was a dedicated and loving Mom, who always put her children first, and ensured that they had everything they needed to succeed in life.

By 1997, Neni's children were old enough to go to school on their own, so Neni decided to take on a new role - Science Teacher. Neni began her teaching career at New Milford High School, where she spent 2 years developing a passion for teaching all levels of Physics, Chemistry and

Physical Science. A few years later Neni joined the Academy of the Holy Angels, where she initiated the AP Physics B course, after studying at Manhattan College to prepare.

In the Fall of 2007 she found, on an opportunity that she could not refuse - a chance to teach her own children as a Science Teacher at Tenaflly High School. Throughout her time at Tenaflly High School, "Mrs. Coyle" was deeply committed to making a positive impact on the THS community. She spearheaded the creation of the Science Research Class and led the organization of the end-of-year Science Research Symposium, where THS students showcased their research work to the Tenaflly community. She also served as an Organizer of International Week at Mackay Elementary School and was co-director of the music boosters. She was so proud to be a part of the Educational Community in Tenaflly.

Neni was an incredibly inspiring and supportive teacher and mentor to all she encountered in her classroom. She had an intoxicating smile that filled the room with joy. She was an inspiration for countless students, and influenced many children to pursue a career in science and engineering.

Outside of THS, Neni achieved many teaching awards and accolades. In 2018, she was honored to be awarded the New Jersey Teacher of the Year at Princeton University. In 2022, Neni graduated from the University of Louisiana at Monroe with her Doctor of Education. When asked to describe her studies and scholarly achievements, she often replied "My children are my scholarly achievements!"

Neni, Jim, and her children have been devoted parishioners of Saint John the Theologian in Tenaflly, NJ for many years, and she served as a Sunday School teacher for more than 30 of those years. She was an advisor for the Greek

Orthodox Youth Association and for the Venture Crew at St. John's, and more recently Neni was proud to run the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival with her family. In 2022, Neni was deeply honored when she was selected for the Religious Education Award by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of New Jersey.

Neni was the world's best mother-in-law to Sarah Coyle (Sean), Caitlin Coyle (Kiriakos), and Lexi Coyle (Christopher), and she was so looking forward to meeting her first granddaughter next month. She was a loving aunt to so many nieces and nephews and loved all their children as her own grandchildren. She was a devoted sister-in-law, and loving Nonna to many god children and loved her entire family immeasurably.

Although our mother Neni was proud of all the names she had in life, like Eleni, Helen, Neni, Mrs. Coyle, Nonna, Theia Neni, Dr. Coyle, Yaya Neni, or Agapi Mou, she would tell you that she was most proud to be called "Ma". Every person Neni encountered couldn't help but feel blessed by her positive spirit, profound faith, persistent perseverance, gentle smile, and contagious laughter. Her love and light will live on through all who knew her, and she will be missed more than words can describe in any language. May her memory be eternal.

Visitation on Thursday, April 6 from 4-8PM at Barrett Leber Funeral Home, 148 Dean Dr, Tenafly. Funeral Service on Friday, April 7 at 11AM at St. John The Theologian Greek Orthodox Church, 353 East Clinton Ave, Tenafly. Interment to follow at 1230PM at George Washington Memorial Park, 234 Paramus Road, Paramus.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Eleni's name to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) at https://www.facebook.com/donate/908852953755109/?fundraiser_source=external_url

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 6. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home
148 Dean Dr
Tenafly, NJ 07670
(201) 568-8043
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

APR 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John The Theologian Greek Orthodox Church
353 E Clinton Ave
Tenafly, NJ 07670

Interment

APR 7. 12:30 PM (ET)

George Washington Memorial Park
234 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Tribute Wall

KE

“ I love you Neni, and think of you every day. Your God daughter, Kay

Kay Emmanuelidis - March 26, 2024 at 01:33 PM

SW

“ I am shocked and deeply saddened to hear that Helen has passed away. I only learned this today, October 11, 2023. I served as Helen's Major Professor at the University of Louisiana Monroe throughout her dissertation process and had her in several of my classes. I remember her positive attitude, deep gratefulness for the least feedback I provided, and her willingness to help her classmates in any way. Helen was a true scholar - we will never know what knowledge she would have contributed to extend our understanding of science education. This is a significant loss that radiates across states and countries. We at ULM will never forget her. A scholarship in her name for other aspiring doctoral students would be a great memorial for her. If a family member should see this, we can always work to get a portion of her dissertation published in her name posthumously. Please reach out: Dr. Sandy Watson, swatson@ulm.edu. Much love to all who knew and loved her!

sandy watson - October 11, 2023 at 08:44 PM

BD

“ Bernadette And Michael DePrez lit a candle in memory of Eleni Coyle



Bernadette and Michael DePrez - May 08, 2023 at 03:17 PM

BD

So sorry for your loss, please accept our sincere condolences

Bernadette and Michael DePrez - May 08, 2023 at 03:19 PM

MG

“ *Dear Family,
There are no words . We are so deeply
Saddened. Eleni’s passing is a loss for all of us . Eleni was truly an
inspiration to our youth. Her kindness and graciousness was
surpassed by none. My daughter and I were honored to know her.
She will be truly missed but never forgotten. An inspiration to all
young woman. She is the epitome of true goodness. May her
memory be eternal.-Alkistis and Eleni*

Meimaris Alkisti Georgie - April 08, 2023 at 10:43 AM

EE

“ *Emma Erdtmann lit a candle in memory of
Eleni Coyle*



Emma Erdtmann - April 06, 2023 at 11:53 PM

MP

“ *Dear Jim and family,
Our deepest sympathy for your loss. Neni
was one of a kind! We were lucky enough to
have known her and we can't believe that
she's gone so soon. Sending love and
prayers 🙏 to you and your family.
Xoxo Alex and Maria Perris and family*



Maria Perris - April 06, 2023 at 07:59 PM

JL

“ I am so sorry to hear about your Wife and Mother. I remember Mrs. Coyle with fondness. She was a terrific Co-President of our Music Boosters Club. I remember the kids playing their instruments and loving it. We will miss her courage and love of Life. Bless you all.



Janet Lyman - April 06, 2023 at 01:21 PM

JB

“ Jack Bennett lit a candle in memory of Eleni Coyle



Jack Bennett - April 06, 2023 at 01:08 AM

DK

“ Dear Coyle Family,
We are so sorry for your loss. Ms. Coyle was a great neighbor and a wonderful teacher. She made AP Physics exciting for our son Andrew (Stephen's classmate). She will be missed by all. May her memory be a blessing.
The Kurtz Family

David Kurtz - April 05, 2023 at 05:00 PM

TF

“ *Eleni Coyle has mean so much to so many - our family has been inspired, deeply educated and touched by her knowledge, sharing of her real life research and work, inclusiveness, warmth, kindness and genuine interest in students as people and young physicists. We have lost her too soon, too sudden, and unexpectedly, but she touched and opened doors for so many, her life, work and spirit will live on for generations and not be forgotten. We love Mrs. Coyle and will continue to pay forward your gifts. Sincere condolences to the whole family - from the Bennett family, Jack, Adam, Max, Alyssa & Gary Bennett*

The Bennett Family - April 05, 2023 at 04:22 PM

CB

“ *Lord, Thank you that you promise us that when two or more come together in Your name You are with us. Eleni brought many together in Your name. She will always be remembered to our family forever smiling . We are grateful that she was part of the lives of our children.*

Eternal Be Her Memory.

With Love & Respect, Christine & Anthony Barbarise

Christine Barbarise - April 05, 2023 at 04:01 PM

EL

“ *Words cannot express what I am feeling. Helen was a wonderful person, Christian, teacher and friend. I am so fortunate to have worshipped with her both in Church and Sunday School. My family and I send our love to the family. May her memory become a treasure for you. I will miss you my dear Helen.*

Elaine Lavitola - April 05, 2023 at 01:44 PM