



## Helen P. Roth

March 18, 2015

Helen Harper Palen Roth passed away on Wednesday, March 18 after a remarkable life as a loving wife, caring mother, and active philanthropic community citizen. She is best described by her closest friends as the most unselfish person they have ever known; always doing for others without thinking of herself. Helen was born at her home in Waterbury, CT on September 27, 1929 to Jesse Miller Palen and Ruth Little Palen. She was a graduate of Crosby High School and Colby College, where she earned Phi Beta Kappa honors. Helen met, and later married her wonderful husband, Robert M. Roth while at Colby. They were married in Waterbury on April 16, 1955. Early in their marriage they lived in Florida, Delaware, and then Connecticut, where they have resided since 1965. Helen was a volunteer for EVERYTHING!!! Meals on Wheels, reading to the blind at Oak Hill School, tutoring at Mark Twain School, the Urban League, driving cancer patients to their appointments, Cub Scout leader, the list goes on and on. She was honored as Volunteer of the Year for the State of Connecticut and at Oak Hill School. She also had her photo on the wall at the Mark Twain School to honor her efforts there. She was an avid swimmer, tennis player, and bowler, and a huge UConn Women's Basketball fan. You could find her at Cornerstone Pool on Tuesday and Thursday, as recently as this year. She would swim for an hour...she used to swim 40 laps, but was down to 30 this year!!! She was an active member of the First Church of Christ Congregational and worked on and led many of the groups there. Over the years, she was an active member

of Red Oak Hill Swim and Tennis Club, The Hartford Golf Club, and The Town & County Club. Helen was incredibly gracious in her support of local charities and organizations, both financially and with her time. She leaves behind to celebrate her inspirational life, her three children; Mark and his wife Pamela Roth, Karen and her husband Steve Ward, and Jeff Roth; as well as her beloved grandchildren Brandon Oates; Kinsey, Kesslyn, and Kylie Ward; Madeline, Molly, and Owen Roth; as well as her great grandson, Cameron Oates. Also, many, many others that have always considered Helen their second mother! Calling hours will be at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford on Friday, March 27th from 4 – 8 pm. A Funeral Service will be held at the First Church of Christ Congregational, 12 South Main Street, West Hartford, on Saturday, March 28th at 11 am. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Riverfront Recapture (50 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06106) or Oak Hill School (120 Holcomb St., Hartford, CT 06112). Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

MAR **27**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Funeral Service

MAR **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Church of Christ Congregational  
12 South Main Street  
West Hartford, CT

# Tribute Wall

PD

“ *My most sincere sympathy to the family of Helen Palen Roth. We have been friends since seventh grade in Bunker Hill School when I moved into the neighborhood (1941). My life has taken me for long stretches to Europe and South America and her cheery letters at Christmas time have always been able to find me. She was a wonderful person. We shared so many good times together as teenagers. I will miss hearing from her so much. Her mother was one of the most generous people I have ever met. Helen had all those sterling qualities herself.*

*Patty Elwin Davis*

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**Patty Elwin Davis** - April 03, 2015 at 08:12 AM

SN

“ *I remember Helen from her days as one of my most favorite Meals on Wheels volunteers She never said "no".. come rain, sleet or snow, she knew our seniors needed their meals and she was there- for her special route or any other one at any time. Helen was Mrs. Dependable and I am sad to take note of her passing. She has earned her heavenly wings and may she rest in eternal peace.*

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**Sybil Nassau** - March 27, 2015 at 08:58 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Helen P. Roth.*



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March 25, 2015 at 12:41 PM



“ *Helen will be missed and remembered by many. I shared a locker area at Cornerstone with her for many years. She persevered even when walking became hard for her. We always grumbled and smiled about life's frustrations. She drove my mother-in-law to Circle at church even though she went out of her way to do so. Helen was a giver, but she never liked to give up her independence.*

*With Sincere Sympathy,*

*Nancy Dewey*

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**Nsncy Dewey** - March 25, 2015 at 08:24 AM



*Mrs. Roth is my second Mother!*

*Mark, Karen and especially Jeff are like brothers and a sister to not only myself but many other West Hartford friends. Jeff and I have been close since early child hood and spent many weekends in Milford at the beach competing in tennis with Mrs. Roth and friends.*

*Mrs. Roth will be greatly missed!*

*Sincerely,  
Jonathan Blake*

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**Jonathan Blake** - March 25, 2015 at 08:54 AM

EC

*Helen and Bob lived across the street from us for over 32 years! There wasn't ANYTHING she wouldn't do for ANYBODY! A great poet, making all our events more memorable in rhyme. A great sport, did the "Tennis girls'Cancon" on our patio at a fundraiser for "Cookie Day". She carved fruit baskets from watermelons, participated in all the trouble I could dream up for us to get into! Miss you, dear Helen! Love, Doodle*

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**Edna Chilton** - March 25, 2015 at 07:11 PM

EM

*Mark, Karen, Jeff and family,*

*Your Mother was a wonderful lady! She always had a kind word for everyone and was truly interested in how things were going in your life. She and Bob were a huge support for my family when our Dad passed away. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her and benefitted from her generous heart.*

*With Sincere Sympathy,  
Ellen McClure*

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**Ellen McClure** - March 26, 2015 at 09:11 AM

DU

*Great dancer! Knew Helen many years ago and then ran into her at church. Was glad to reacquaint with her.*

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**Dave Unsworth** - March 26, 2015 at 10:06 PM

RB

*Mark, Karen and Jeff,  
I'm sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. Like your parents, my wife and I have raised three kids and I often use a line I stole from her: "we have one of each--a boy, a girl and [Jeffrey]!" Unlike Jeff, I always thought that was pretty funny. Would love to hear from you sometime. In Sympathy, Rob (Bobby) Boland, Dover, MA*

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**Rob Boland** - March 27, 2015 at 12:20 PM

CP

*Such a wonderful memorial service for Helen at First Church yesterday! She deserves every accolade. She was smart, honest, kind, generous and very loving. Her memory will live on in all of us who were lucky enough to know and appreciate her enormous heart and huge intelligence.*

*Thank you Helen, for all the grace you brought into the world.*

*Karen, Jeff and Mark, you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Blessing,  
Cruger Phillips*

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**Cruger J. Phillips** - March 29, 2015 at 08:39 PM