



Valerie Bivona Cordiano

December 1, 2023

Sunrise: August 8, 1951 ~ Sunset: December 1, 2023

Valerie Bivona Cordiano, 72, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and counselor, passed away peacefully on December 1. She was surrounded by her husband and children. She is reunited with God after a 15 year courageous battle with cancer, leaving behind countless people touched by her kindness, generosity, intelligence and empathy. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Dean; her four children, Alexis, Douglas, Benjamin and Emma; her grandchildren, Gabriel, Jason, Michael, Nicholas, Jack, Owen, Nico and Luca; her daughters-in-law Kristen and Andrea Cordiano; her son-in-law Dennis Durao; her dog, Archie; her sister Rosemarie Harrison and her brother John Bivona, as well as her nieces Kathleen Budd, Beth Bivona, Jill Bivona and Donna Harrison, and her nephew David Harrison. She was predeceased by her parents Nina and John C. Bivona, her brother-in-law Hugh Harrison, Dean's parents Domenick and Mary Cordiano, and her sister-in-law Sarah Budd.

Valerie lived in West Hartford for 30 years and Madison, CT for the last 17 years. Her children continue her tradition of service, as they include a physician, two lawyers and a mental health counselor. Valerie was proud to have grown up in Brooklyn, N.Y. She graduated with honors from SUNY-Binghamton, held Masters Degrees from the University of Hartford and St.

Joseph's College, and was a Marriage and Family Therapist for more than 25 years. In addition to helping private patients with their mental health issues, Valerie was a grief-counselor and was the Founder and Director for 22 years of the West Hartford site of The Cove, a grief program for children and their families who have experienced the death of a loved one. Valerie also received the St. Joseph Archdiocesan Medal of Appreciation for her volunteer work with the bereavement group of St. Timothy Parish.

She was an extraordinarily gifted counselor and her work continues by her youngest daughter, Emma, who was the Director of Counseling at East Granby High School and is now in private practice in West Hartford. After her retirement from The Cove and her private practice, Valerie became an accomplished potter and exhibited her work at the Guilford Arts Fair. But at the risk of using a cliché, there was no greater joy in Valerie's life than spending time with her children and grandchildren. Ski and beach vacations were supervised by "Nonna" (or "Grammy" as she was known to Gabriel and Jason) and the memories of time spent in Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Colorado and Vermont ski resorts, and the beaches of Madison, will resonate through the lives of her family.

Valerie and Dean were high school sweethearts in Brooklyn. In more than 50 years of glorious marriage, she was the touchstone which gave meaning and dignity to Dean's life. Valerie taught high school in Raleigh N.C. while Dean attended Duke Law School. She supported Dean's rise in the Connecticut legal community and did not pursue her counseling career until the last of her children was in sixth grade, exemplifying once again her dedication to family.

Although her passing is devastating, her family will choose to celebrate the beloved memories and lessons of Valerie's life: kindness, patience, love, sensitivity to the faults of others, and the willingness to put others' needs before her own. She always found the time to attend her children's (and now

grandchildren's) sports and school events, and taught them that the outcome of the event was secondary to whether they gave their all and tried their hardest. The stresses of the day melted away when she greeted you with her warm smile and comforting hugs. And that included her physical interactions with her beloved dogs through the years. They will all be reunited with her on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge.

Valerie's passing illustrates the truism that God calls the best people to his side early and so lets them enjoy eternal peace sooner rather than later. All of her family will look forward to being united with Nonna when God wills it. Her loving example will help her family and friends understand and accept her untimely passing and its place in God's plan.

Visiting hours at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford will be on Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 3-7pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Dec. 6 at 11am at the Church of St. Peter Claver, 47 Pleasant St., West Hartford. A private burial will take place on Dec. 7. Donations in her memory may be made to The Cove Center for Grieving Children (www.covect.org) or the American Cancer Society (donate.cancer.org) Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

To livestream please visit the church's website <https://www.stpeterclaverparish.org/> and click on the YouTube button that says livestream and recordings of Masses. The livestream will begin at 10:55.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

DEC 5. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Peter Claver
47 Pleasant St.
West Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

KN

“ Valerie met my family at the Cove following the death of my husband Fran with my two children ages 4 and 2 1/2. As a fellow clinician she honored my experience but most importantly showed immense compassion, care and concern for me and my family over the next 23 years. The kindness and presence in how she led the Cove is still remembered by my children now 30 and 28 years old. She inspired myself to lead a Cove for a short time. She always loved periodic updates, supported my creation of a nonprofit doing animal assisted therapy and in an email 18 months ago she loved hearing about my adult children and as someone who is suffering with a serious health issue she offered wisdom and compassion. She is definitely one of the kindness and caring women I have ever met - and the love she gave others shines down on her children and grandchildren - additionally as someone who had a lifelong partnership with her husband she was so happy that I found a wonderful partner after loss and you could tell she adored her husband. Peace to her family - as she was someone who had a life well lived in service and in love to others and loved greatly with her friends and family

Kate Nicoll - December 13, 2023 at 03:46 AM

RO

“ Our sincerest condolences for you and your family. Rene Ortega and Family



Rene Ortega - December 05, 2023 at 09:35 PM

DC

Thank you Rene. My extraordinary wife liked you very much.

Dean Cordiano - December 08, 2023 at 05:58 PM

KT

“ I just heard the sad news of the passing of a wonderful friend Val. I met Val when I worked at The Cove in West Hartford. I will never forget the first time going to the volunteer training session and how nervous I was. I experienced grief at a young age when my younger sister passed away. I was a teen when this occurred, and I never had a place like the Cove to go too. Val greeted me with her warm smile and compassionate hug. It was her encouragement that got me through the training and provided me with such a wonderful experience of giving back to other teens and their families who experienced the grief that I felt.

My sincere sympathies to Val's family. I will never forget you Val and what you provided to me spiritually and emotionally. The song "lean on me" is always in my heart. Rest in peace beautiful friend~

KELLY KUHARSKI TRZCINSKI - December 05, 2023 at 08:36 PM

KT

“ **KELLY KUHARSKI TRZCINSKI** lit a candle in memory of Valerie Bivona Cordiano



KELLY KUHARSKI TRZCINSKI - December 05, 2023 at 08:29 PM

RF

“ Many years ago when I came on as the Family Services Coordinator at The Cove, Val was the first director to welcome me with open arms. While each Cove site director was amazing in their own ways, Val was definitely the warmest and the best at making me feel welcomed and safe in my new role. I was only there for a couple of years but Val taught me so much and generously guided me in what really mattered for Cove families and volunteers. We got together every few years and it was always like we had chatted just yesterday. I have no words for how sorry I am that she has left this world. A lot of our conversation was about our kids and I have never met a mom or grandmother who took more absolute, unmitigated delight in her children and grandchildren. She loved her marriage and her life. She was classy, funny and had a heart of gold. I send my deepest condolences to each family member and hope that you have a circle of love surrounding you at this painful time, just as sweet and wonderful as the circles of love Val facilitated for so many grieving families. Val - wherever you are, I am thinking of you, hoping you understand all the mysteries we pondered and feeling perfectly loved and supported just as you did for everyone of us while you were here. I hope we meet again to share the mysteries and delights of family and laugh together at our shared craziness. Sending you love and blessings and miss you already.

Ruth Freeman - December 05, 2023 at 07:42 PM

BM

“ *The news of Val’s passing just reached me today. I will always be grateful for her finding my business card on the bulletin board in the art store and asked me to be part of the building the West Hartford Chapter of the COVE. Those early days building the new chapter were full of challenges but also lots of love. And so many laughs too sitting at her kitchen table planning creative activities for the kiddos. I have never known a more dedicated leader serving a population that needed support and care during their heartbreaking transitions. She was the absolute best. And I learned a lot from her. My heart goes out to her family. Sincerely, Bonnie MacKenzie*

Bonnie Mackenzie - December 05, 2023 at 02:17 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Valerie Bivona Cordiano.*



December 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM

EH

“ *Eric and Dianne Halvorson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Valerie Bivona Cordiano.*



Eric and Dianne Halvorson - December 04, 2023 at 06:15 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Valerie Bivona Cordiano.*



December 04, 2023 at 04:05 PM



“ *Michele, Louis, Michael, Jamie Maffattone planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Valerie Bivona Cordiano.*

Michele, Louis, Michael, Jamie Maffattone - December 04, 2023 at 04:05 PM



“ *Dean
You and I share wonderful memories of the wives with whom we were blessed. I know you will experience, as I have, the way our children, largely. thanks to their mothers, are supportive for us in what otherwise would be a lonely life.
Much love to your family, Phil Walker*

Phil Walker - December 04, 2023 at 12:07 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Valerie Bivona Cordiano.*



December 03, 2023 at 04:37 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Valerie Bivona Cordiano.*



December 02, 2023 at 08:31 PM



“ *She was one of the classiest human beings I have EVER known. She made the HS years so special for me. May her memory continue to be a blessing to all. Sending love and healing prayers to Dean and her children.*

Lester Turchin - December 02, 2023 at 05:04 PM



“ *As she did for so many others, Valerie enriched our lives with her boundless love and kindness. She will be forever missed by all who knew and loved her—especially her husband Dean and her children, to whom we express our sincere condolences.*
Carole and Lou Pepe

lou Pepe - December 02, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *I am so sorry to learn of Val's passing I remember her fondly*

Edmund C Tiryakian - December 02, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Valerie Bivona Cordiano.



December 02, 2023 at 12:01 PM



“ From your friends at ABOTA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Valerie Bivona Cordiano.

From your friends at ABOTA - December 02, 2023 at 12:01 PM



“ A truly amazing being has left us, but her bright light will shine in the hearts of so many that she touched with her caring, kindness, humor and incredible insight. So many times Val was a source of inspiration, knowledge and shining example of a life well lived through her love of Dean and family, community, the beach and of course her four footed friends. Love you Val, today and always. Tears are not enough. God bless you and keep you. Mary

Mary Andersen - December 02, 2023 at 08:23 AM



“ It is with great sadness that I learned of the death of Val. She was an incredible lady and I worked with her at The Cove with grieving children. She had a huge giving heart and her loss will resonate with those who knew her. My condolences to the family. For everything that passes, something beautiful always remains.

Ed Ciolkos - December 02, 2023 at 06:06 AM

CO

“ Sending my condolences to Dean and the whole family. Val had a very contagious smile and I know she will be missed.

Caren Osborne - December 01, 2023 at 05:28 PM

FC

“ From Rosemarie, John and Cheryl purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Valerie Bivona Cordiano.



From Rosemarie, John and Cheryl - December 01, 2023 at 02:59 PM