



## Elizabeth Elia

July 29, 1924 - February 14, 2023

Elizabeth Elia, 98, formally of New Britain passed away Tuesday, February 14th, 2023. Born in New Britain, daughter of the late Yousepos Elia and Hanna (Lazar) Elia.

Elizabeth “Betty” or “Liz” Elia known to many as a gentle, compassionate, humble friend to New Britain and particularly the youth of the community. Her twinkling soul and love of life have set a lasting example of achievement and style for those who have had the pleasure to learn, work with or simply know her.

Elizabeth found a love for music and began playing the piano at the age of 3. Elizabeth led youth services for South Church from her 4th grade year until the end of her senior year. As a student in New Britain Schools, she excelled in the music and arts programs.

Due to her enthusiasm for music, love for the arts and compassion for young people, there was never any doubt that a career in music and teaching were in her future.

After High school Elizabeth worked at Pratt Whitney inspecting airplane parts until the end of WWII during which she had saved enough money to put herself through Boston University. Where she earned Bachelors of Music degree. Continuing to obtain a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Hartford, with further studies at the University of Vermont, Westminster College at Princeton and Columbia University.

Elizabeth began her teaching career in Watertown, Mass Prior to returning to

her hometown as music teacher at Chamberlain School. Elizabeth was later promoted to serve as the Coordinator of Elementary Instrumental Music, Assistant Director of Music and in 1980 to District Coordinator of Fine Arts. Throughout her career as a teacher and administrator Elizabeth helped enrich the lives of young people with hopes they would continue active participation as adults with the New Britain Symphony Orchestra.

With the NBSO Elizabeth provided leadership and direction for young people during each concert season with school ensemble performances, "Meet the Artist program", "The Nutcracker Ballet" and the annual Young People's Concert.

In 1978, the NBSO established the music scholarship Helen B Kilduff - Elizabeth Elia to honor both women for their exemplary dedication to further music education.

Betty moved to Old Saybrook in 1989. Yet remained active in civic, cultural and professional organizations in New Britain.

Preceded in death by her brother Frederick "Fred" Elia, Surviving are two brothers, Norman Elia of Old Saybrook CT and Robert Elia of Ozark, AL. Funeral services will be held at South Church, 90 Main Street New Britain Saturday February 18th at 1pm. Calling hours are Friday 4-6pm at Carlson Funeral Home 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Elizabeth "Betty" Elia will be buried at Fairview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please make donations to South Church or NBSS-YPC 114 W Main #304 New Britain, CT 06051. Share a memory or note of sympathy at [carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://carlsonfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

FEB 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

South Church  
90 Main Street  
New Britain, CT

# Tribute Wall

AF

“ My deepest condolences to the family. Ms. Elia was an amazing woman with a passion for music and education. She taught me how to play cello in 4th grade and, with Mr. Elia, gave New Britain public school students a gift that will live forever. How lucky we were to have had her in our district. In my mind and heart, she will always shine brightly.

**Allison Friday** - February 23, 2023 at 08:36 PM



“ We will surely miss Betty’s wonderful spirit, her enthusiasm and support of the symphony and music for kids—this legacy will endure. I remember her as a young girl and great friend to my dad, Jack Charland. My condolences to Norm and the family.  
Julie Ribchinsky

**Julie Charland Ribchinsky** - February 21, 2023 at 09:43 AM

AM

“ Dear Betty, you will be missed by all who knew you. A kind, compassionate, and loving person. I enjoyed working with you at the New Britain School District. Ann Mikulak

**Ann Mikulak** - February 20, 2023 at 11:26 AM

PG

“ Dear Norman,

*So sorry to hear of the passing of your sister. She was an incredible woman.*

*My sincerest sympathy to you and Robert.*

*My best,*

*Paul Ginotti  
NBHS 74*

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**Paul Ginotti** - February 17, 2023 at 08:50 AM

KR

“ *I am 74 years old and had Miss Eia at Chamberlain School. She instilled a love of music that has lasted over the years. We had music classes in the library and i rememer her enthusiasm and how she got everyone involved. A wonderful teacher.*

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**kathleen a rusch** - February 16, 2023 at 10:49 PM

LM

“ *Betty was a very dear and close family friend to the Mercadante Family Vincent and Viola from BU COLLAGE OF MUSIC to family life itself. May she now rest in peace*

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**Louise Ann Mercadante** - February 16, 2023 at 04:00 PM

BC

“ *Miss Elia taught me to play clarinet at Northend School when I was in fourth grade. She was a firecracker, endlessly enthusiastic while cheering us on. Fifty-something years later I remember her with enormous affection.*

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**Bill Conlon** - February 16, 2023 at 01:45 PM

PL

“ Betty was one of the very best administrators that the New Britain School District ever had. She has earned a special place in many hearts.....and now she manages choirs of angels.

*Patricia Luke*

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**Patricia Luke** - February 16, 2023 at 01:07 PM

AS

“ Losing Betty is like losing a sparkling starburst of energy and caring in the music world. She was the Director of Music and then Fine Arts when I began teaching music in New Britain. She was always supportive and positive, always looking for new ways to bring the arts to all our students. Her energy on their behalf was boundless. My condolences to Norm and to all her family. She will be remembered by all of us who worked with her -- caring and vibrant.

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**Ann Speyer** - February 16, 2023 at 11:40 AM