



## Eugenie Marie Gruender

September 20, 1928 - December 25, 2017

Eugenie “Jeane” Gruender passed away on Christmas Day, December 25, 2017, in Overland Park, Kansas.

Jeane was a longtime resident of the Topeka, Kansas Westboro community and teacher at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic School and USD # 501 public schools. She was born on September 20, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri to Louis and Viola Podolski Tryniecki, the youngest of five children. In 1951, she married Ralph “Corky” Gruender in St. Louis and completed her education as they moved for his career. She attended Harris Teacher’s College in St. Louis, earned her B.A. in Education from the University of Missouri at Kansas City (UMKC), and earned her M.S. in Education from Washburn University in Topeka. She loved her teaching career and she continued substitute teaching well into her 80’s.

Jeane was an accomplished athlete achieving recognition through U.S. Masters Swimming. She traveled frequently to meets with her swimming friends and enjoyed the challenge of competition at regional, national, and international levels. She continues to be a Missouri Valley record holder in two events. An avid tennis player since childhood, a runner in later life, and lifelong golfer, Jeane pursued them all. As a lifelong learner, she was involved with an investment club, Women of Independent Means (WIM), and a Journaling Group at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library.

Survivors include her daughters, Robin Coxe (Dr. James), Raleigh NC, and Gretchen Lichtenberger (Tom), Lenexa KS; grandchildren, Kelsey Coxe, New York City, James Coxe, Norfolk VA, First Lieutenant Nick Lichtenberger, USMC, Camp Pendleton CA, and Courtney Lichtenberger, Playa Del Rey CA.

Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 3601 SW 17th Street, Topeka, Kansas 66604. Family will greet friends one hour prior to Mass.

Private inurnment will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

If you feel moved to do so, please consider donating to Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, in Jeane's name. Donations may be sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, Kansas 66614.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd  
Topeka, KS 66606

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **29**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church  
3601 SW 17th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

## Mass of Resurrection

DEC **29**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church  
3601 SW 17th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

# Tribute Wall



“ *Eugenie Marie Gruender*

---

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Dec 29, 2017*

*To Robin, Gretchen and family,*

*Kathy and I want to express our sympathy on the passing of Jeane. Words say very little at a time like this, but knowing people are thinking of you, maybe helps. We hope so. We know you have some wonderful memories of your mom.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jackie Campbell Petersen and Kathy Campbell*

---

**Jackie Petersen & Kathy Campbell** - December 29, 2017 at 03:15 PM



“ *Gretchen and Robin,  
Sorry to hear about your Mom. She was a blessing to the MPHM  
and Topeka swim communities.  
Rick Strecker*

---

**Rick Strecker** - December 29, 2017 at 12:42 PM

SL

“ God bless you family.  
I am unable to attend the memorial service for Mrs."Jeane".  
Jeane was the most outstanding educator I have ever met in my 40 years of education.  
She often substituted in our school as I was privileged as a principal to request her presence in our building. Vivacious, intelligent, and just genuinely loving.  
Students appreciated her class management style and well her ability to listen to them.  
Delighted to hear about her swimming experience. Students were enthralled with her stories.  
She will be sorely missed.  
Personally, I appreciated the transparent person she always displayed. Ms.Gruender spoke some powerful words of wisdom into my life. Loved her.  
You are a blessed family.

Love and prayers,  
Sandra Lassiter, retired principal #501 Topeka Public Schools  
Principal - International Academy Private School

---

**Sandra Lassiter** - December 29, 2017 at 12:26 AM

KM

“ Mrs. Gruender was my home room and art teacher at MPHM in 6th grade. It was my first year at MPHM and she welcomed me when I felt so out of place. I am forever grateful that she chose to share her talents and love of life with her students. God bless you Mrs. Gruender ❤️

---

**Kelly Matthews** - December 28, 2017 at 11:41 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eugenie Marie Gruender.*



---

December 28, 2017 at 10:50 AM



“ *Capital Endocrine Consultants purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Eugenie Marie Gruender.*



---

**Capital Endocrine Consultants** - December 27, 2017 at 07:01 PM



“ *Dear Robin,*

*I am deeply sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you, your sister and the entire family.*

*Sincerely, Susan Foster*

---

**Susan** - December 27, 2017 at 06:33 PM



“ *Jeane was a beloved member of the Journaling Group. We miss her. Susan Gilliland*

---

**Susan Gilliland** - December 27, 2017 at 09:04 AM