



Dr. Carol Marie Palermo

October 5, 1967 - September 12, 2023

Carol Marie Palermo, 55, passed away peacefully and with uncommon grace on September 12, 2023, at home, with her husband Joseph Dellinger at her side and surrounded by her family.

Born in Long Branch in 1967 to the late Henry and Doris Palermo, Carol was raised in Eatontown and had resided in Red Bank since 2008. She excelled academically from a young age, receiving numerous awards from elementary school through her graduation from Monmouth Regional High School in 1985. She went on to earn her BA in English Literature from Fordham University in 1989, her MA from Teachers College, Columbia University, and her PhD from Fordham.

Carol's deep love of literature and learning led her naturally into a career as a teacher. She taught middle school English in the New York City public school system for years, touching the lives of hundreds of students along the way. She and Joseph later moved to Red Bank, where as a teacher of eighth-grade English at the nearby Ranney School, she continued connecting with young people through great books.

A lover of animals and nature, Carol was an avid birder, and she drew great pleasure from identifying the numerous species that visited her backyard. She loved her two rescue cats, Bootsy and Lola, and she was a strong supporter

of animal rescue from the Monmouth County SPCA.

Carol was especially happy when gathering with family at her home for Thanksgiving, where she prepared a delicious feast each year. The memories of the joy and laughter shared at those family gatherings will stay with us for all time.

Carol is survived by her husband, Joseph L. Dellinger; a brother, Michael Palermo, and his wife Akemi, Eatontown; a sister, Lisa Palermo, West Belmar; and two nephews, Luke Takuya Palermo, New York City, and Nicolas Makoto Palermo, Eatontown.

A memorial gathering will be held at Bongarzone Funeral Home, 2400 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls, on Friday, September 22, from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Monmouth County SPCA.
<https://monmouthcountyspca.org/support/donate/>

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

SEP **22**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home
2400 Shafto Road
Tinton Falls, NJ

Tribute Wall

AC

“ I only worked with Carol for one year while at Ranney, but she made such a lasting impression on me. She was always smiling, engaging with the kids and improving my vocabulary :-) She will be missed by so many, not least of which all of her students.

Amelia Caverly - October 07, 2023 at 04:04 PM

NK

“ Smart, funny, passionate, and caring, you were a good friend and wonderful teacher. Your legacy lives in the many students whose lives you touched. Rest in peace, my friend

Nancy King - September 22, 2023 at 05:06 PM

SJ

“ She was a very thoughtful and passionate teacher. I'm truly saddened by this news. Prayers and strength to her family and loved ones.

Siobhan Jones - September 20, 2023 at 03:32 PM

JA

“ Heartbreaking to hear this. I was Dr. Palermo’s student 11 years ago. Such a wonderful teacher and person. I was just thinking about her class the other day. A lot of fond little memories. She was so kind. So helpful. Knew so much.

I am a PhD student in applied math right now, and don’t tell my advisor, but I sometimes think about dropping everything and becoming a writer. I’m sure this is in part due to Dr. Palermo’s class, which is my earliest memory of loving the books I was assigned and the discussions about them. I wish I could remember even more of what Dr. Palermo had to say.

Im so sorry to everyone close to her

james - September 20, 2023 at 12:15 AM

LP

Thank you so kindly. It is so wonderful to hear from former students. It is testimony to her successful mission. ❤️

Lisa Palermo - September 20, 2023 at 08:27 AM

CC

“ I had the pleasure of being Dr. Palermo’s student five years ago. She was truly a wonderful, caring, and understanding soul. Dr. Palermo helped me and my classmates realize our true potential, academically and personally. I am eternally grateful for her wise words and I know they live on through her students. So sorry for your loss. Rest in peace Dr. P ❤️

Colette Cipriano - September 19, 2023 at 06:18 PM

VG

“ I had the joy of being a student of Dr. Palermo’s about eight years ago. She was such a special soul with the gift of being able to connect to each of her students on both an academic and personal level. She really showed students that their efforts mattered, and that they were cared for. She taught me how to write a formal essay all those years ago and those tips still live with me today. I would be so blessed to have another teacher like her. What an amazing presence she had and what an amazing person she was. Rest in Peace, kind soul❤️

Victoria Gualario - September 19, 2023 at 07:32 AM

TC

“ This breaks my heart. Carol was such a lovely beautiful woman inside and out. I worked with her at Ranney School since she started. She always had a smile on her face and truly looked like she loved coming in every day. The kids all loved her and she was loved and respected amongst her peers. I enjoyed talking with her whenever our paths crossed. She was always so appreciative whenever I helped her. She will truly be missed and her memory will live on through all the lives she has touched. Rest in the sweetest peace Carol! <3

Tyler Crapanzano - September 18, 2023 at 09:46 AM

LP



Lisa Palermo - September 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM

VS

This so very sad. I worked with Carol at Ranney and even though we didn’t teach in the same division, we always chatted when we would run into each other in the faculty room or faculty meetings. She was always so friendly and well-loved by her students. May she rest in peace. 🙏

Valerie Schwake - September 18, 2023 at 11:42 AM



Thank you so much.

Lisa Palermo - September 18, 2023 at 02:14 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Carol Marie Palermo.*



September 18, 2023 at 06:26 AM

RO

“*Ms. Palermo was my sixth-grade teacher at Michelangelo Middle School in the Bronx, almost thirty years ago. You could tell how much she loved teaching. I remember how she delighted watching us debate over what makes literature "literature," or wrangled while trying to assemble each other in birth order. It was an exercise to show how leaders emerge from chaos before we started reading "The Girl Who Owned the City." I became a writer, in no small part because of Ms. Palermo's influence, and was thrilled to reconnect with her on LinkedIn a couple years ago. That's when she informed me she had become Dr. Palermo. Last night, I had this urge to get back in contact with her. I wanted to tell her that I might meet Sandra Cisneros at an upcoming event, which I thought she would find exciting because she introduced us to Cisneros' great short story, "Eleven." I found this page when I googled her to see if she was still teaching. I am heartbroken. We had so much to catch up on; I wanted to make sure she knew that she had taught a Pulitzer Prize winning author (me?!), among other things. I hope her memory is a blessing to all her family. You have my deepest condolences. At the very least, please know that before she got to an expensive independent school, she definitely made a difference in the life of one student at Title I School in the Northeast Bronx, who felt elevated by her support and thought her love for books was infectious, so much so that he devoted his life to writing stories so well that a child in her class might pick it up and say, "Definitely, THIS is literature."*

robert - September 17, 2023 at 07:59 PM

MP

Thank you so very much. Dr. Palermo (or Carol we knew her) would be so proud and gratified to read of your success as a writer. May you continue to use the power of literature, of telling YOUR story, to reach others.

Michael Palermo - September 17, 2023 at 10:25 PM

LP

Thank you so much for this. This was her mission, her life, her love. Your success is testimony to her commitment. All good things. 🕊

Lisa Palermo - September 18, 2023 at 09:10 AM

LA

One of Carol's many beautiful and insightful quotes that were displayed in her classroom was a Patti Smith quote which read : "Please, no matter how we advance technologically, please do not abandon the book. There is nothing more beautiful in the material world than the book." As humble as Carol was, she would be beaming with pride and joy to know that her influence contributed to your accomplishments. Thank you so much for sharing.

Laurie - September 23, 2023 at 09:26 AM

PD

“ Dear Carol,

Your students were lucky to have a teacher that truly cared for them. We lived so far apart, we didn't get to visit often; however, I always took comfort that Joe had his New Jersey family around him.

*With love,
Mom Dellinger*



Peggy Dellinger - September 15, 2023 at 04:42 PM

LP



Lisa Palermo - September 17, 2023 at 03:50 PM

LG

I'm so saddened to learn of your passing. You were such a smart and kind young woman. I know your family was very proud of you and your students were lucky to have you. My deepest condolences to your family during this very difficult time.

Leslie



Leslie Goldman - September 21, 2023 at 07:44 AM



“ With deepest sympathy on the loss of Carol.



Amy Hilton - September 15, 2023 at 11:28 AM

LP



Lisa Palermo - September 17, 2023 at 03:51 PM

DL

“ Debbie Loughman lit a candle in memory of Dr. Carol Marie Palermo



Debbie Loughman - September 15, 2023 at 09:26 AM

LP



Lisa Palermo - September 17, 2023 at 03:51 PM

BH

“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in
memory of Dr. Carol Marie Palermo*



Bongarzone Funeral Home - September 15, 2023 at 08:34 AM