



Priscilla V. Jenness

August 5, 1930 - March 14, 2025

Rye – Priscilla Jenness, 94, of Rye, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 14, 2025. Born in Portsmouth, NH, on August 5, 1930, she was the daughter of the late Christopher and Vivian Volkmann. She shared 49 wonderful years with her late husband, William Jenness, until his passing in 1998.

Priscilla dedicated 33 years to shaping young minds as an art teacher in Portsmouth schools, serving students from kindergarten through 12th grade. For 14 of those years, she led as the head of the art department. She also taught at the University of New Hampshire for four years, earning a faculty appointment in 1986 to instruct art education. Passionate about inspiring future educators, she mentored over 80 art education students in her classrooms and at UNH. She also contributed to televised education by teaching several segments of elementary art education on Channel 11.

Beyond education, Priscilla was deeply involved in her community. She served as a selectman for the town of Rye for 20 years, passionately advocating for the town's preservation and working tirelessly to protect it from overdevelopment. She was a past member of the Rye Driftwood Garden Club and the Red Hat Society.

An immensely talented artist, Priscilla was known for her beautiful oil landscape paintings. She also had a love for gardening, knitting, and taking

scenic drives along the coast of Maine with her son Christopher. A lifelong creative, she once crafted wedding cakes and dresses. She cherished traveling, especially to Italy with her son Steve.

Priscilla will be remembered for her strong will, her dedication to her town, and deep love for her family. She is survived by her children, Stephen and his wife Christine, Christopher and his wife Cheryle, and Cynthia, as well as her beloved grandchildren, including Danielle Artz, Nicole Sherburne and, Winter York, and great grandchildren Jaxson, Colston, Greyson, Michael, Gabriella, Aiden, and her sister Frances Hyde. Predecease by her sister Esther Woods.

Visitation will be held from 11 AM to 1 PM on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory in Hampton. A grave side service will follow immediately at Rye Central Cemetery, Rye, NH. Donations in Priscilla's memory may be made to NH PBS by clicking here (<https://nhpbs.org/>).

Cemetery Details

Central Cemetery

20 Central Road
Rye, NH

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 18. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Tribute Wall

DM

“ My name is Diane McGee. I am so sorry for hear of Priscilla’s passing. I just heard about it yesterday. What an amazing woman. I have known her since I was in 2nd grade at Sherburne School. She was my art teacher and later on I worked with her at Dondero School where I was the music teacher! What an artist! Amazing! I was also in ADK with her. What a blessing to have had herr in my life! Please accept my sympathies to you all.

Diane McGee - June 04, 2025 at 04:38 PM

NW

“ I was secretary to the Selectmen when Priscilla was serving as a member of the Board. She was truly a lovely, strong, thoughtful, wise, generous, artistic, fair, person with a sense of humor and cooking skills! We all wanted her recipes for dishes enjoyed at Town Hall birthday parties.
She will be missed.

*Such a loss to the town and those who loved her.
I send my sincere condolences to her family.*

Nancy Weiland - March 18, 2025 at 04:32 PM

AG

“ Having served under her leadership as police chief and town administrator, I had tremendous respect for Priscilla in her roles as a town leader, but even more so, for her as a person. Calming when things were tough. Courageous when a stand had to be taken, and kind always. The world has lost a great person.
Alan Gould

Alan Gould - March 18, 2025 at 10:54 AM

MD

“ As Town Attorney I had the pleasure of working with Priscilla during her many years of service as a Rye selectperson and planning board member. She was intelligent, well informed, compassionate, articulate and always well prepared on matters before the boards on which she served. She loved Rye and its history, its beautiful natural features and its people. She lived virtually her entire adult life in Rye. Over her lifetime she witnessed many changes in the fabric of her community, and she worked tirelessly to balance those changes with preservation of the characteristics which make Rye a special community. Michael Donovan.

Michael Donovan - March 18, 2025 at 09:19 AM

CM

“ I served as a selectman with Priscilla for 12 years and knew her well. She was one of a handful of people I have known who I was always certain that if I couldn't convince her that a decision or action was the right thing to do, that I was most likely wrong. I had great respect for her judgment.

Craig Musselman - March 17, 2025 at 02:51 PM

KW

“ Priscilla will be deeply missed. Her unique blend of leadership and humor has inspired many, fostering positive change in those around her. She taught me that while I may not be able to change the world on my own, casting a stone across water can create countless ripples, spreading positive influence far and wide.

Kevin

Kevin Walsh - March 17, 2025 at 10:04 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Priscilla V. Jenness.



March 17, 2025 at 10:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Priscilla V. Jenness.

March 17, 2025 at 10:03 AM



“ Many years ago I lived in the center of Rye for a few years. Priscilla and Bill as newlyweds moved into the apartment of what is now Mark Joseph's home. When I moved back to Rye 59 years ago we laughed about how young they were and I thought they were old. A wonderful woman who loved Rye, gave so many years to her town, family and friends.

Judy Tracey - March 15, 2025 at 04:56 PM



Another mom passed, from us kids on cable and Central Road. Our parents all grew up together when I was just a small family town. We all loved her. My husband had her for an art teacher in Portsmouth when he was just a child. Love and sympathy to your family. Santo and Jenny Geraci

Jennifer Hayes Geraci - March 16, 2025 at 10:13 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Priscilla V. Jenness.*



March 15, 2025 at 04:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Priscilla V. Jenness.

March 15, 2025 at 04:39 PM