

Dr. Hera Tzortzopoulou Leighton was a Minnesota resident for thirteen years. She was born in Athens, Greece, to Charalambos Tzortzopoulos, a jurist and law school professor, and Josephine Karger, a former nurse. Having lived through the Second World War and the Greek Civil War, she emigrated to the United States in 1956 to study at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, from which she graduated in 1959. Obtaining bachelor's and master's degrees in home economics, English, and German, she was awarded a doctoral degree in German language and literature from the University of Illinois. She worked as a cataloger of foreign books in several major U.S. university libraries between the early 1960s and the 2010s, and she taught both English and German at U.S. colleges and universities over a period of almost forty years.

Dr. Leighton travelled frequently with her husband of thirty years, the late Dr. Lauren G. Leighton, with her two sons, and with friends. She enjoyed reading, watching movies, and listening to music. Though a long-time resident of Illinois, she was married to a Minnesota native and had several personal connections to the Twin Cities.



Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference:
living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardship
as a pathway to peace;
taking, as Jesus did,
this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;
So that I may be reasonably happy
in this life and supremely happy
with You forever in the next. AMEN

~ Reinhold Niebuhr

In Loving Memory of

Dr. Hera Tzortzopoulou Leighton

Born

February 1, 1937

Athens, Greece

Passed Away

September 21, 2025

Golden Valley, Minnesota

At the Age of ~ 88 Years

Celebration of Life

Gearty-Delmore Funeral Chapel

Saint Louis Park, Minnesota

Friday, September 26, 2025 ~ 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Survived by

sons, Denys Leighton & Jamie Leighton;
daughter-in-law, Sudeshna Mazumdar-Leighton

Preceded in Death by

parents, Charamboulos Tzortzopoulos
& Josephine Karger

Arrangements with the Gearty-Delmore Funeral Chapels