



## Maria Kourouvasilis

March 29, 1954 - August 8, 2020

Maria Kourouvasilis was born in Boston, Massachusetts to Ethel Economo and Kosta Kourouvasilis, a survivor of the Greek genocide in Turkey. A dedicated student, she spoke five languages fluently. After graduating from Girls' Latin School, she obtained her BA from Boston University, studied for a year at the Sorbonne, and later earned two Masters Degrees, one in French and one in Spanish. She taught English as a Second Language and American citizenship to Southeast Asian refugees, University of Detroit students, and Mexican immigrants. She also taught French and Spanish in the Grosse Pointe Public School System for 26 years.

She was an active member of the Meadow Brook Garden Club, offering Greek pastries to fellow gardeners and watering the many urns during the growing season. She loved working in her own and others gardens as well.

Over the years, she was an avid supporter of community service organizations including St. John Greek Orthodox Church and St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Church, as well as the Friends of Kenyan Orphans and the Clinton Township Senior Center. Her happiest time was spent being with her loving family, especially the grandbabies.

She is survived by her sister, Tess Paicos (John+), her son John (Leslie), daughter Becky (Yanni) along with grandsons Nicholas, Aristides, Stelios,

Constantine, Nikolaos, and Athanasios, as well as cousins, great-nieces and nephews, godchildren Dimitri, Nicholas, Kostantinos, and Jonovan, and her beloved bird Matia Mou.

Maria passed away quietly on August 8, 2020. Instate Wednesday, 9 am until 10 am. Funeral Liturgy at 10am at St. John Greek Orthodox Church, 11445 16 Mile Rd, for immediate family only. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to St. John Philoptochos

Please share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" at [WujekCalcaterra.com](http://WujekCalcaterra.com)

# Previous Events

## Instate

AUG 12. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. John Greek Orthodox  
11455 Metro Parkway  
Sterling Heights, MI

## Liturgy

AUG 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. John Greek Orthodox  
11455 Metro Parkway  
Sterling Heights, MI

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ I worked with Maria for many years at Pierce. We were both members of Pierce's Encore team, the team of all the electives teachers. We saw each other almost every day. She was a highly skilled, dedicated teacher and was always ready to join in our various (and often unique) Encore events and activities.

Maria came to our monthly Pierce retirees' breakfast in January 2020, and I had a nice chat with her. She was enjoying her retirement, looking forward to be able to start gardening again soon, and was positively JOYOUS about being a grandmother.

When I moved into a new home in 2001, she gave me some giant purple and white iris rhizomes from her garden as a housewarming gift. They are spectacular when they bloom every year, and I always think of her when I look at them. I'm so happy I had one last chance to tell that to Maria in person.

*Rest in peace, Maria.*

*Betsy Bangs*

*Art teacher (retired)*

*Encore Team*

*Pierce Middle School*

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**Betsy Bangs** - August 12, 2020 at 07:43 PM

VL

“ I had the privilege of Maria making us dinner & she served us dinner in her beautiful garden. She was a wonderful Godmother to my grandson Jonavon. We will miss her. Sending our love & condolences to the family.

Vicki Leja - August 12, 2020 at 05:52 PM

BK

“ I was also a classmate of Maria's and I am so sorry for your loss. Maria sat at the desk in front of me for six years; She was quite a student! What I remember fondly is her undying love of Charlie Brown and Peanuts! I will miss her. Beth Langevin Kennedy

Beth Kennedy - August 12, 2020 at 04:19 PM

GE

My Dear Cousin....we sure had our fun times back in the day... I will never ever forget a moment of everything we enjoyed. I will miss you with all my heart ❤️❤️❤️❤️

George Economo - August 12, 2020 at 09:06 PM

DH

“ Maria was a friend and a classmate of mine at The Girls' Latin School. A loving person, a good student, a great friend, we always looked forward to seeing her at our reunions, although family and work obligations sometimes prevented her from attending. We will miss her.

Deb Holland - August 12, 2020 at 12:31 PM

GB

“ *Maria was a wonderful teacher with a heart of gold. Maria was dedicated to her teaching of Foreign Languages. Maria treated all her students with the care of a parent and kindness of a saint. Having known her son John, a student at De LaSalle Collegiate HS, Maria’s best qualities live on.*

*Rest In Peace Senora/Madame/Ms.K.*

*G Buslepp  
Retired Principal  
Pierce Middle School*

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**Gary Buslepp** - August 12, 2020 at 11:03 AM