



Maria Barkev Agulian

December 31, 1950 - May 20, 2022

Maria Barkev Agulian (née Bulbulian), 71, of Hamden, passed away at home surrounded by family, on Friday, May 20, 2022, following a yearlong journey with pancreatic cancer. Maria was born on December 31, 1950 in Beirut, Lebanon, the daughter of the late Barkev and Violet Bulbulian, direct descendants of Armenian Genocide survivors.

Maria received her Masters in Mathematics Education from the American University of Beirut and was a passionate Mathematics teacher for 41 years, with 15 years at the Armenian Evangelical College in Beirut, Lebanon and 26 years at Hamden Hall Country Day School in Hamden, CT.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Samuel Kevork Agulian, her three children, Tamar Agulian, Taleen Agulian Gleeson (husband Michael Gleeson), and Lori Agulian (fiancé Michael Dedrick), and her four grandchildren, Nazeli, Tigran, Viken, and Mihran. She leaves behind her siblings, Lucy Bulbulian and Berdj Bulbulian, and cousins, Ardem Bulbulian, Chouchig Vaello Bulbulian, and Alice Lussier. Her extensive community of family and friends will miss her dearly.

Maria shared many rich experiences with the closest people in her life. Maria and her husband Sam were always the first and last ones on the dance floor. They sang in harmony and took turns with their vivid storytelling. Maria was a

devoted mother who was the greatest advocate for her children and encouraged them to explore their interests. No idea was too small; whether it be a costume, birthday party theme, or craft project, Maria helped make their dreams a reality. Maria was so excited to become a “Medzmama” (grandmother). She made sure her home was welcoming to her grandchildren, with a playroom filled with endless toys, books, costumes, and art supplies. Together, they loved baking cookies, helping in the garden, cuddling, and engaging in conversations about life and mathematics.

Maria left a lasting impression on everyone she met. She was feisty, sharp-witted, open-hearted, embraced the weird, and had a radiant smile. Maria expressed her personality through her unique fashion sense and was not afraid to show off her style with bright colors and bold prints.

Maria’s love of mathematics was profound and contagious. She relished in solving problems and finding patterns, and shared that joy with the world beyond teaching. Maria helped her students see math from a different perspective, and showed how it can be relatable, fun, and even beautiful. Her approach to math education sparked a love of learning, which had a long-lasting impact on generations of students.

Another passion of Maria’s was gardening, which went beyond just planting and growing flowers. She cultivated a living art gallery, complete with gnomes and treasures, and took deep satisfaction in her work. Visitors lucky enough to get an elaborate tour of her garden were regaled with tales of each flower, each plant, with great attention to detail. Her garden will continue to grow and evolve past her death, guiding her spirit in its approach to infinity.

A church service will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 10 a.m. at the Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension at 1460 Huntington Turnpike, Trumbull, CT 06611. A private burial service will follow with family. A memorial

service will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2022 at the Sisk Brothers Funeral Home at 3105 Whitney Ave, Hamden, CT 06518, with visitation hours from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., followed with speeches by loved ones at 2 p.m. For all services, masks will be required per family request. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Maria Agulian Fund, created in Maria's honor at Hamden Hall Country Day School (<https://www.hamdenhall.org/maria-agulian-fund>) and the Armenia Tree Project (<https://www.armeniatree.org/en/donation>), an organization close to Maria's heart.

Tribute Wall

“ In Memory of Maria

I met Maria 30 years ago when our children were in Elementary School. Throughout this years, our friendship blossomed by mutual interests from gardening to book clubs, yoga classes and more. Our husbands became friends, and teammates on men's (from the over 40's to past their prime) soccer leagues. Whether we spent time together more often or less often, we had a strong bond. We always connected and knew we would be there for each other, when needed and in good times or otherwise.

Maria was a bright sun in a universe of her family, friends, students, and colleagues. Her colorful self expression was mesmerizing, from the tip of her head with lavender glasses to the tips of her toes in her sunflower stiletto heels, which she boldly wore on a boat at an early meeting of her prospective in-laws. Her passion for fashion, compassion, creativity, and brilliance enriched the lives of those in her orbit.

I loved Maria's joyful, and bold fashion but my fondest memories of her are our mutual love of nature. As gardening partners in crime, who's offense was to buy plants we did not need in our already stocked garden, we would sneak off to garden centers. Two girls on a treasure hunt. There was always room to squeeze in another plant. Maria "did the math".

Over the years her lawn at her home in 'the Glen' was removed and filled with her favorite peonies, hibiscus with flowers the size of dinner plates, scarlet Mandevilla vines, Gardenias and a wonderful variety of perennials and shrubs. The intrigue of her little piece of paradise became spot for neighbors passing by to stop and admire.

Maria and Sam's hearts and soul were deeply rooted in her home in "the Glen" where they spent many joyful and fulfilling years. As their daughter spread their wings and moved out, they decided, ironically, it was a good time move to a larger home. The quest landed them in

a home in 'the Hills', with space to accommodate a growing family to gather together, never giving up their home in 'the Glen'. It was not long before Maria filled her new garden with beloved favorites plants and curiosities. The water garden pond with fish, a playground playground structure and a vegetable garden with cherry tomatoes to eat off the vine, made her garden a delightful destination for family and visitors.

Drifting through rows of plants in countless garden centers throughout the years, Maria would point out plants which grew or reminded her of those in Lebanon. From her stories of the home she fled and the transition to a new country, I learned of her courage and strength. I also gained a new appreciation for plants I may have previously passed by in the garden center. This spring in honor of her memory, I filled a large planter box and pots along my front path and on the front porch with a variety of colorful succulents and sedums like those she loved in Lebanon.

I will wear bright colors to celebrate her influence with the hope she would approve. My heart is heavy with the reality of the loss of my dear friend. I will seek solace in the sunshine in my garden to reflect on her brilliant life filled with flowers, funky follies in her garden and our forever friendship. Whether in my garden, or elsewhere, Maria will always be in my mind and heart.

Marilyn Elsworth

Marilyn Elsworth - June 23, 2022 at 09:34 AM



“ Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Barkev Agulian.



June 11, 2022 at 02:55 PM

BB

“ Dear Sam, Tamar, Taleen and Lori

I can find no words that measure the sorrow. I can find no more tears to drown the pain.

Her absence leaves a gaping hole for both the Agulian and Bulbulian families, that in time can only be mended by the healing power of keeping the flame of her memories alive, as she always maintained for our mother (Violet Bulbulian).

I'm heartbroken and having great difficulty accepting this new reality without my dear sister Maria. Helena and I offer you all our heartfelt condolences.

In Maria's memory, who will be forever living in our hearts..... I'd like to share this old song called "Ari im Sokhak" performed beautifully by Arpi Alto.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-3q60ziHHQ>

Bérdj & Helena Bulbulian

Berdj Bulbulian - June 03, 2022 at 07:52 PM

MK

“ Dearest Maria:

This is not a goodbye but a wish for your smooth transfer to Heaven that you so deserve. We've shared so much together that I am sure we are going to meet soon somewhere lovely as we have done so many times in the past. I don't know where to start: Our high school, our interest for both arts and sciences, our love for the Armenian language, literature and history, our worldwide trips, our loud laughter and, of course, almost our first names! All this will help me keep you, if not physically alive, soulfully active in my heart until we meet again, dear Maria!

I knew you for almost 60 years now and that was not long enough. I wish it were a lot longer than that so we could have more sweet reunions full of fun and laughter. Yes, there were a few years when we lost one another, thanks to the aftermath of the Lebanese Civil War but then we found each other again and relived together those lost years on every occasion we could create and that mostly with your help! After a long break of separation, I was so proud to learn about your educational and community achievements on top of the tough job of being a mother to three beautiful daughters and a supportive wife to a brilliant husband. I know your legacy will guide them all the way and I pray they will all enjoy a good health and adore your memory.

The stories we created and the trips we shared together over the last decade or so will never fade away from my sweet memories: Our class reunion in Lebanon, our trip to Las Vegas including the evening dedicated to Lucy in The Sky of the Beatles, your warm hospitality in your beautiful house and hand grown garden in Hamden, Connecticut, our US East coast trips and last but not the least our last minute meeting in Toronto thanks to your ongoing pursuits of keeping connected with your old friends.

I pray and hope you are in a safe and painless place called Heaven surrounded with your long lost loved ones including your mother

whom I know you missed for so long. Rest in peace dear Maria and may God bless your soul together with all your loved ones. Our sweet memories will stay alive in my heart forever.

*Your friend forever,
Marie Karakanian
June 3rd, 2022*

Marie Karakanian - June 03, 2022 at 09:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Maria Barkev Agulian.*



June 02, 2022 at 07:52 PM



“ *During my recent visit to Maria (including during other years), I couldn't help but ensure that the Spring garden blooms had their best opportunity to grow and flourish, spreading their scents and showing off their vibrant colors, with cardinals and other birds visiting them, while we both watched them fly around and hop from tree to tree. She loved and cherished grooming her flowers and trees that were one of her passions in her spare time.*

In loving memory of sister Maria, let us remember and celebrate the past. Your loving sister, Lucy

Lucy Bulbulian - June 01, 2022 at 11:30 PM

YK

“ *Your cousins, Alice, Jim, Craig & Krista purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Maria Barkev Agulian.*



Your cousins, Alice, Jim, Craig & Krista - June 01, 2022 at 11:58 AM



“ *Meat & Cheese Wooden Gift Crate was purchased for the family of Maria Barkev Agulian.*



May 30, 2022 at 02:14 PM



“ *Mrs. Fields Crimson Nibbler Trunk was purchased for the family of Maria Barkev Agulian.*



May 26, 2022 at 12:52 PM



“ *Ultimate Meat & Cheese Wooden Gift Crate was purchased for the family of Maria Barkev Agulian.*



May 26, 2022 at 01:22 AM

SK

“ So sorry of Maria's unexpected loss. Sha was lovely, sincere and full of life. We shared nice memories together in our first teaching experience. My deepest condolences to you Sam and to your sweet daughters. May her beautiful soul rest in eternal peace and her nice memories comfort you. 🙏🙏🙏

Seta Semsarian Karakelian - May 24, 2022 at 09:07 AM

BK

My condolences to dear Samuel, and the family.
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Berge manuel Kissoyan - May 26, 2022 at 07:34 AM

BK

Very sad news.

Berge manuel Kissoyan - May 26, 2022 at 07:35 AM

HM

My deepness condolence for the loss of your lovely wife. May God bless her soul. From Hagop Maxian(Hong Kong)

Hagop Maxian - May 27, 2022 at 01:20 AM

JM

Աստուած հոգին լուսաորէ եւ տայ մխիդարութիւն իր սիրելիներուն ...

Hovhannes Mardirossian

john mardirossian - May 28, 2022 at 11:18 AM

JM

May God comfort her loved ones...and God bless her Soul.

john mardirossian - May 28, 2022 at 11:23 AM

AG

“ So sorry to hear of Maria’s passing. May she Rest In Peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Aedan and Bernie



Aedan Gleeson - May 23, 2022 at 07:44 PM

BG

“ We feel so special to have known Maria over the years. She was such a vibrant and fun person - not to mention an amazing cook and incredible Medzemama. We will remember her as we stroll through the garden feeling her presence with sound and scent. Our thoughts and prayers are with all her family during this difficult time. Aedan & Berni Gleeson

Bernadette Gleeson - May 23, 2022 at 06:51 PM