



## Daphne Beardman

February 2, 1934 - June 14, 2020

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Daphne Assimacopoulou Beardman, a woman of remarkable distinction, humanity, and culture, died peacefully in her temporary home in Birmingham, Michigan on June 14th in the presence of her daughters. The cause was acute leukemia.

She was born on February 2nd, 1934, in Haifa, Palestine (then under the British Mandate, now Israel), to a Greek family that had lived in the Middle East for several generations. Her education began in an English school in Haifa. After her family became refugees in early 1948, they lived for a while in Damascus, Syria, and Beirut, Lebanon, and eventually settled in Athens, Greece. She completed her secondary education in a French school in Damascus, where she received her baccalaureate. She then worked with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Beirut, and helped them to set up and run an office in the Congo.

She married an American artist, John Beardman, whom she met in Greece. They settled into a beautiful old home on Franklin Boulevard in Pontiac, Michigan where they raised their two daughters, Stephanie and Irini. While a young mother, Daphne received her Master's degree in English with a focus on Linguistics at Oakland University, where her husband was a professor of studio art, and where she briefly taught courses in Modern Greek. The marriage was dissolved after eighteen years and she did not remarry.

What mattered most to Daphne was family and her Greek heritage. She regularly visited her beloved parents, sister, and many relatives in Greece and France. She was a devoted and proud mother. Her home was full to the brim with photographs of her ancestors and extended family. She loved adventure and travel, and she maintained lasting friendships with people all over the world. She was a marvelously accomplished cook, a superb hostess of lively parties, artistically talented and highly skilled at sewing clothes, embroidery and crochet. She was a woman of great energy, who avidly enjoyed going to the beach, walking and driving, going to so many films, concerts, and art museums.

Daphne supported numerous humanitarian causes and engaged in activism and political work to improve her local community and support peace in the world. She spoke five languages - Greek, English, Arabic, French, and Italian -- and retained an interest in learning about and experiencing other cultures throughout her life. She was occasionally employed as a translator and a private language tutor. She organized and directed two clubs for people who wanted to converse about the matters of the day in French and Italian.

In the last few years she persevered with remarkable determination and high energy through a number of difficult health setbacks - she lived an active life even after experiencing a broken hip, broken pelvis, a stroke, and myelofibrosis. She valued her independence greatly.

She is survived by her two daughters Stephanie and Irini, Irini's husband Mahmoud Habboub and their son Aiden, her sister Agnes and her husband Georges Constantine and their two children Philip and Anne-Marie, and a great many other relatives in her extended family.

# Comments

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“ I met Daphne in July 1997 at the Detroit Film Theatre after an Arab Film Festival movie. My friend and I started talking to Daphne about the movie and we were soon on our way to Traffic Jam for dinner. This was the beginning of a long and enjoyable "film buddy" friendship. Of course, there was more to it than that, but movies were our usual activity. We both loved the DFT for movies and the Kresge Court for lunch. Especially after Daphne got sick, Kresge Court was our hangout. Eating in that setting just made us both feel good. Our last meeting was lunch at Kresge and the movie Spellbound at the DFT on March 8, 2020. Soon after, Daphne was locked down and we could only speak by phone. Our relationship enriched me. She was an international person and I was a born and bred Detroiter and still here! She had so many stories to tell about all her different jobs and experiences and friends around the world, friends she still had. I wish her a good rest after the pains of the last few months.

Marilynn Burns

Marilynn Burns - June 29 at 10:39 AM

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“ Daphne linked my memories to the past days. Whether at Damascus, Lattaquie, Beirut, Brussels or Athens, in all our discussions and correspondence, we remembered our families' good old days as well as their sufferings that remained vivid in her memory. They guided her feelings and her actions until her last days. I hope that her torch will last.

Costaky Constantinidis



Constantin CONSTANTINIDIS - June 25 at 08:51 AM

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“ I had the privilege of becoming Daphne's friend over the last year and a half. It was fate that brought our unlikely paths together, we both believed it. She always shared countless stories, numerous photos/postcards, and even a few tears together with me over the course of our short friendship. She was so bold, fearless, caring, and always raved about how good of a life she was lucky to have lived. She was truly an inspiration to live life a little harder and a little deeper. Her spirit will live on in so many hearts, and I feel honored to be one of them. Many prayers, blessings, and love out to the family of sweet Daphne.



**Kirstin Gladding** - June 23 at 11:44 PM

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“ Daphne was a beautiful spirit and a wonderful friend. We met when I brought the St. John Vianney youth group over to rake the leaves in her yard. It became a regular activity for us, and led to coffee and visits. We spent many hours looking at pictures and talking about her many adventures! What a lady! I will miss you dearly!

**Barbara L Bakotich** - June 23 at 07:11 AM

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“ So sad to have lost suddenly a cousin so well read, always elegant and who has achieved so much abroad, mostly by herself.  
My warmest sympathy to her family,  
Ioli KONSTANTINIDOU  
Brussels

**iolli konstantinidou** - June 21 at 06:28 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Agnes Constantine** - June 21 at 11:55 AM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Anna-Maria - June 21 at 09:41 AM



“ It's such a nice memory when my aunt Daphné was at my house in Paris in 2009. She was always happy and smiling. She will be greatly missed.

Anne-Marie Constantine

Anna-Maria - June 21 at 09:52 AM

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“ Daphne, my sister, was bright, sensitive, spontaneous, and certainly unforgettable .  
A souvenir to fight sadness for a moment, for Stephanie, Irini, family and friends:

The first NUIT BLANCHE in Paris a few years ago, a cultural event, visiting museums, street expos, all night every thing open, restaurants as well, starting at 11pm, Daphne convinces me to go, the two of us. I hesitate: too far, we are at 30km from the center, too tiresome, it's raining... We go and enjoy it of course. At 6 am, we enjoy a Risotto mushrooms and salad at LA COUPOLE, (that's all that remained for dinner) but also coffee and pastry.  
I would'nt have lived that and so many other similar experiences, without always interesting, enriching Daphne.

Agnes Constantine - June 19 at 12:39 PM



“ Daphne was a beautiful person Both physically and spiritually. I had the good fortune to spend many years with her. Her two daughters owe their graciousness to her. Old friends from around the world still tell me that they remember her impeccable entertaining and delicious food. She will be missed by many

john beardman - June 20 at 03:55 PM

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“ My aunt was full of life and I hope we could all get inspired by that. Sorry for this loss for all family and friends of her

These pictures are from Dubaï, in 2005

Philippe Constantine



Philippe Constantine - June 18 at 10:15 PM

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“ We raise our glass to toast Daphne Beardman—indeed a remarkable women and wonderful neighbor. She cared about Franklin Blvd and enjoyed the renewal of the area.

Thank you for being part of our lives for over 25 years. Pat and Rick David

**Rick and Pat David** - June 18 at 08:56 PM