



Catherine "Cathy" Barrek

March 26, 1938 - November 8, 2018

Catherine "Cathy" Barrek, 80, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at Care One at Somerset Valley in Bound Brook, NJ. She was born in Somerville, NJ the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Zavacky. Mrs. Barrek was a lifelong resident of Bound Brook, NJ. She went to Kean University in Union, NJ where she received her Master's Degree in Education. Mrs. Barrek was a dedicated and caring teacher who touched so many children's lives. She worked for the Manville Board of Education working in various grades but spending most of her time in Weston School during her 35 year career. Mrs. Barrek was a loving mother, sister, grandmother and aunt who loved spending time with her family. She also loved spending time at the Jersey Shore. Mrs. Barrek will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her. She lived a very active life and was a member of many groups and organizations. Mrs. Barrek was a member of the NJEA, the Slovak Society, various Book Clubs, Friends of the Bound Brook Library and the Memoir Club. She was very active with and proud of her Slovak Heritage. Mrs. Barrek also enjoyed playing canasta. She was a member of Holy Ghost Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church in Manville, NJ. She is survived by her loving daughter Cathy Abraham and her husband Joerg of Hillsborough, NJ, her dear brother Joseph Zavacky and his wife Annie of San Jose, California and her cherished grandson Justin Abraham. She is also survived by her niece Robin Mary Zavacky and her Aunt Margaret Gumerlock. The visitation will be on Monday, November 12, 2018 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 PM at the Ketusky Funeral Home,

1310 Brooks Blvd., Manville, NJ. The Panachida Service will take place at 7 PM during the evening visitation. The Funeral will be on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 with a 9 AM to 10 AM visitation and a 10 AM Funeral Service at the Funeral Home which will be conducted by Father Kenneth Ellis of Holy Ghost Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church of Manville, NJ. Burial will follow at Holy Ghost Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Cemetery in Hillsborough, NJ. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her memory to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or by calling 1-800-822-6344 or online at [www.St. Jude.org](http://www.St.Jude.org).

Cemetery Details

Holy Ghost Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Cemetery

Millstone River Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 12. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Ketusky Funeral Home
1310 Brooks Blvd - PO Box 747
Manville, NJ 08835
(908) 575-8512
info@ketusky.com
<https://www.ketusky.com>

Visitation

NOV 12. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Ketusky Funeral Home
1310 Brooks Blvd - PO Box 747
Manville, NJ 08835
(908) 575-8512
info@ketusky.com
<https://www.ketusky.com>

Service

NOV 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

Ketusky Funeral Home
1310 Brooks Blvd - PO Box 747
Manville, NJ 08835
(908) 575-8512
info@ketusky.com
<https://www.ketusky.com>

Tribute Wall

JW

“ Sincerest sympathy to the family & friends of Cathy, May her soul rest in peace.

Dan & June Waslin
Simpsonville, SC

June Waslin - November 25, 2018 at 04:39 PM

AS

“ Cathy and family: Just wanted to send my sincere sympathy on the passing of your mom. I was a longtime friend of your father and was an usher at their wedding. I remember your mom as a friendly, smart and attractive lady. May her soul be happy and at peace with Christ.---Al (skip) Smith.

Al Smith - November 13, 2018 at 10:47 AM

CA

Hi Skippy...Mom was always wondering about you and we started a search to find you...She always would talk about what a nice person you are. Thank you for your condolences - Cathy Barrek Abraham

Cathy Abraham - November 19, 2018 at 01:07 PM

DR

“ Some of my best child memories center around Aunts Mary and Kate (including my mother Martha) and all the visits we made to Bound Brook and Manville. I have too many fond memories of the hours I spent with Jim, Babs and " Caddy" to mention here. I hold especially dear the traditions of the Slavish culture that the above mentioned exposed to me including all those recipes. Imagine having two Christmas celebrations during the holiday season and all that good food.

Caddie and I shared on very special in common in that we were both career teachers. I recall Uncle Joe asking me what I planned on doing after college and when I told him I wanted to be a teacher, he remarked " You don't want to do that, that's a girls job". Twas the best advice I ever ignored.

My love to all

David Ruscus

David Ruscus - November 12, 2018 at 04:23 PM

CA

Thank you cousin David.....

Cathy Abraham - November 19, 2018 at 12:07 PM

BZ

“ We are out of town, so sorry we couldn't make the service We always enjoyed her visits to the Zavacky Reunion. She always loved the rhubarb cake or pie I would take. We gave her rhubarb plants from our yard and she said it rooted. Our Condolances to all family members. Ron and Barbara Zavacky

Barbara Zavacky - November 11, 2018 at 02:55 PM

BT

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Barbara Ruscus Thompson - November 10, 2018 at 05:56 PM

DZ

*Sincere sympathy ; our thoughts and prayers are with you. We will always remember your presence at our family reunions. We will miss a wonderful lady.
Linda and Dave Zavacky*

Dave and Linda Zavacky - November 11, 2018 at 10:38 AM

JZ

*Cathy always enjoyed talking with family members at our Zavacky reunions in Pen Argyl. She will be missed by all who knew her.
Jack and Pat Zavacky*

Jack Zavacky - November 11, 2018 at 01:25 PM

CA

Mom always looked forward to the Zavacky reunions in Pen Argyle

Cathy Abraham - November 19, 2018 at 01:09 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Catherine "Cathy" Barrek.



November 10, 2018 at 04:54 PM

CH

“ *Mrs Barrek was a special teacher she made me feel special. I will remember her always. I especially enjoyed reconnecting on Facebook with her after all these years.*

Christine Regetz Homicki - November 10, 2018 at 12:45 PM

EC

“ *Ed Copensky lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Cathy" Barrek*



Ed Copensky - November 10, 2018 at 12:30 PM

NB

“ *The Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook sends their deepest sympathy to the family of Cathy, We will miss her very much.*
Natalie Buzby, President

Natalie Buzby - November 10, 2018 at 10:47 AM

DF

“ Cathy , We had many laughs & memories over the years . So sorry your life ended this way . Much love to you , Cathy Joe Marge & the rest of the family . Love you so much . You ll be missed by the families , the students you had over the years & everyone who knew & loved you . Give my love to my mother , Charlie Frank & all our relatives as you get up there . Tell them i miss them all . Now you my mother & Elizabeth can talk for hours catching up on what s been going on since Charlie & my mother got up there . Love you & you ll be missed deeply . Thanks for the phone calls in the first year after i lost my mother . A new angel in heaven . You were one here on earth as well as my mother . Gonna miiss you lots . Cathy wasnt ready to let you go as we werent ready to let my mother go . RIP . MUCH LOVE



David Farinick - November 10, 2018 at 10:19 AM

KM

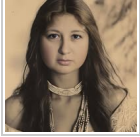
“ Rest in Peace Mrs Barrek. I was lucky to have you as my first teacher and even luckier to reconnect as an adult. Thank you for everything you taught me
Karen Persinko McNee
Weston School

Karen McNee - November 10, 2018 at 05:06 AM

KF

“ Rest in peace Mrs. Barrek. Thank you for being such a loving and caring teacher, I will never forget you.
Kathy Fetko
Kindergarten student Weston school

kathy fetko - November 10, 2018 at 03:07 AM



“ *Christina Manicone-Engesser lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Cathy" Barrek*



Christina Manicone-Engesser - November 09, 2018 at 09:48 PM

BP

Cathy, My sincere sympathy on the passing of your Mom. Cathy and I became friends while attending college. She was a dear, loyal and caring person. I was in your Mom and Dad's wedding party and enjoyed their friendship. We enjoyed many summers in Point Pleasant. So many fond memories.

Beatrice Price - November 13, 2018 at 02:28 PM

VB

Peace and love to you all Cathy. Your Mom was s special lady. May your memories give you all comfort.

Vicki Bartus - November 13, 2018 at 06:01 PM