



Vivian Pahos

January 23, 1930 - August 27, 2024

Vivian Pahos of Santa Barbara died peacefully in her sleep the morning of August 27th with family by her side.

Vivian was born to Peter and Christine Philis in Holyoke Massachusetts in 1930, at the beginning of the Great Depression. Her parents were Greek Immigrants, and they lived a humble but full life adhering to the Greek traditions that they brought with them on their journey across the Atlantic. The second oldest of five children, Vivian faithfully adhered to these traditions until her passion for adventure coaxed her away from her hometown.

To the disappointment of her father, who had expected her to live at home until married, Vivian left Holyoke after high school and pushed her way into the New York office of Pan Am where she persuaded them to hire her as a stewardess, even though they were not hiring at the time. At Pan Am, Vivian traveled the world, visiting her Greek homeland and the great cities of Europe and Asia. In Constantinople, she was received by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch (The Equivalent of the Catholic Pope) for tea, which pleased her father and won his admiration.

Later, Vivian moved to San Francisco so she could fly on Pan Am's new fleet of jets that would take her to parts of the world rarely seen by Americans in the 1950's. During this time, she met her husband- to- be Michael Pahos who

was attending UC Berkley. After a quick courtship, they were married in her home state of Massachusetts. After marriage, Vivian supported her husband through his remaining years at Berkley. Upon Mike's graduation, they moved to Santa Barbara where they raised their children--Maria and Theo.

Vivian was an energetic woman with a cutting wit and a smile that could light up a room – and it often did. She was a dynamic hostess that presided over 2121 Chapala—a place as much a social institution for the community as it was a home for its occupants. In the tradition of her ancestors, Vivian would welcome “drop in visitors” of all ages, political persuasions, and religions showering all of them with food and love. Her authentic dishes were a culinary delight, and her skills in the kitchen were utilized not only for welcoming guests but for supporting the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church where she and her late husband, Michael Pahos, were members almost their entire married life.

Vivian dedicated her life to her church community and ensured her family was rooted in the Greek Orthodox faith. She held cooking workshops to prepare for the Greek festival, was a long-time member of the Philoptochos Society where she served as President for many years, worked as Church Secretary and helped publish a successful Greek Cookbook. She sang alto in Saint Barbara's choir for over 40 years where many great friendships were made. If you wanted to know what was going on at the church, Vivian was the one you would ask.

Vivian Pahos is survived by her daughter Maria Benson and son in-law Bruce Benson; her son Theo Pahos and daughter in-law Leora Pahos; grandchildren Marie and Vivian Pahos; Sisters Doris Henault and Alexandra Cobin; and many beloved nieces and nephews. May her Memory be Eternal!

Trisagion services will be held at Welch-Ryce on 15 E Sola Street, at 7 pm on

Thursday Sept 5th. Funeral Services will be held at Saint Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church at 1205 San Antonio Road on Friday Sept 6th at 10 am.

In lieu of flowers the family requests a gift to Saint Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church or the Central Coast Alzheimer's Association at <https://www.alz.org/ca-centralcoast>

Previous Events

Trisagion

SEP 5. 7:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown
15 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Funeral Service

SEP 6. 10:00 AM (PT)

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
1205 San Antonio Creek Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
<http://saintbarbara.net>