



## Lionel Guregian

August 17, 1920 - December 11, 2017

GUREGIAN, Lionel, of Plymouth, MI, was born in Highland Park and died in Livonia on December 11, 2017. He was 97.

Lionel was the oldest son of Sarkis and Frances (Nahabedian) Gureghian and brother of the late Marguerite (George) Fuller and Richard (Joan) Guregian. He married Carol Florence House on November 26, 1949, and they celebrated 60 years of marriage before her death in 2010. Lionel and Carol were the proud parents of three daughters: Sally Guregian (Robert Witte) of Northbrook, IL, Mary Jenkins (Michael) of Hingham, MA, and Elaine Guregian of Akron, OH. They also had five grandchildren: Christopher Witte, Danielle and Alex Jenkins, and Zoe and Quinn Dong.

Lionel was the oldest grandchild in a close Armenian family that valued education and adored gardening. After graduating from Highland Park High School in 1938 and Highland Park Junior College in 1940, Lionel attended Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University). During junior college and college, Lionel participated in Franklin D. Roosevelt's National Youth Administration (NYA) work study program, which provided him a paid part-time position as an assistant to various professors.

After graduating from MSNC in spring 1942, Lionel entered the military, undergoing Basic Training at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, just south of St. Louis. He served in the Finance Division attached to the Central Technical Training Command of the Army Air Corps and was stationed in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Tomah, Wisconsin; Lake Charles, Louisiana; San Antonio, Texas

and Newark, New Jersey. Following his discharge early in 1946, Lionel attended Michigan State University on the GI Bill, studying landscape architecture while working as a landscaper for his parent's nursery, Fairview Garden Flowers.

Lionel's teaching career began in 1948 at Oak Ridge Jr. High in Royal Oak. In fall 1950, he began teaching geography, American history, world history and government at Lowrey High School in Dearborn, where Carol was already teaching. Lionel and Carol attended Wayne State University at night and in the summers to complete master of education degrees in 1952. In 1954, Lionel began teaching at Dearborn High School, where he remained for the rest of his career, teaching American and world history, economics and government. For many years he also taught night school at Henry Ford Community College. Studying nights and summers, including an economics seminar at the University of Michigan, Lionel earned an education specialist degree in 1967 from Eastern Michigan University.

Lionel and Carol moved to rural Plymouth (Superior Township, Washtenaw County) in 1954, built a house and established a nursery called Fairview Gardens, which Lionel ran in the summers along with teaching summer school. In addition to evergreens and shrubs, at its peak the business sold one thousand hybrid tea roses each season, potted on site.

Lionel was a longtime member and chairman of both the Superior Township Planning Commission and the Superior Township Zoning Board of Review, and also served for a year as Chairman of the Willow Run Zoning Board of Review.

Gardening at home or fishing during family trips to Black Lake brought Lionel great pleasure. So did his many vacations with Carol to the National Parks, especially in the Southwest. Family came first, and he was never happier than when his children and grandchildren visited. A voracious reader who loved backgammon and poker—and always won at hearts, right until the end—Lionel was fully engaged in life.

Lionel Guregian was a man of intelligence and unending curiosity about the

world, as well as a gentleman and a loving family man of the highest integrity. He will be forever missed.

Funeral Service Tuesday, December 19, 2017, 11 AM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth (btwn Sheldon and Beck). Visitation Monday, December 18, 2017, 2 – 5 PM and 7 – 9 PM at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy or Gleaners Community Food Bank

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# Cemetery Details

## Greenwood Cemetery

4350 Cemetery Road  
Fowlerville, MI 48836

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 18. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

## Visitation

DEC 18. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

## Funeral Service

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DEC 19. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
[plymouth@vermeulenh.com](mailto:plymouth@vermeulenh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lionel Guregian*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Dear Guregian Family,*

*I am so sorry to hear the passing of Mr. Guregian. He was one of my favorite teachers at Dearborn High School. I had him for Economics in 12th grade. My father, Duane Smith, was the vocal music teacher at DHS and the two men were friends. Every day when I walked into class, Mr. G. would start singing "Paddlin' Madeline home" or the words from the end of the song, "Paddlin' Madeline, Sweet, sweet Madeline, Paddlin' Madeline home." He always had a big grin on his face when he sang it. Now, my real name is Madelyn, but no one was allowed to call me that. I only use the nickname from my middle name. Mr. G was such a sweet man that somehow I never minded having him sing that song every day. I believe that my dad and Mr. G were both in the group of retired DHS teachers who bowled together every week and then went out to lunch. It was a favorite time for my dad. You were all fortunate to have such a man in your life.*

*With best regards, Wendy Smith Dillingham (AKA: Madelyn Wendel Smith Dillingham)*

Wendy Smith Dillingham - January 03, 2018 at 03:55 PM

PD

“ To Mary, Sally, Elaine, and Barb and Nancy-- we are so sorry to see Lionel's passing in the Free Press. He was a super guy, careful and so thoughtful. He always helped me with tasks around the cottage. What I remember most is our fishing trips on the lake and he would bring out that old cane pole and we would actually catch fish. We talked about everything, mostly politics and history. I remember one night when I was working on my masters thesis and I couldn't go fishing, He came back and held a large stringer of perch and bass in front on the window laughing. That was the little imp in him. He was so much fun...him and Carol and all of us around a campfire. We pray for him. Love Phil and Pat Dixon

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**Phil Dixon** - December 18, 2017 at 10:28 AM

WM

“ Mr. Guregian was my most inspiring teacher at Dearborn High. He ignited my interest in economics and politics, which led to a major in political science at U of M, a law degree at Detroit College of Law, and a 50-year career in labor law and labor relations. He was a wonderful teacher who set me on my career path in life.

*William J. MacQueen  
DHS Class of 1961*

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**William J. MacQueen** - December 17, 2017 at 02:47 PM