

Maria Triada Karkoulis

Interviewee: Maria Triada Karkoulis, September 16th 2017, Duration: 22:28			
Interviewed by: George Katinas; Translation: Athina Peidou			
min:sec	File:	KGHP_17_KARKOULIS_MT_20171216B_KINGSTON_GKATINAS_AUDIO.MP3	
Interview Time	Chronology	Place	Description
0:47	Life after high-school	Tripoli, Arkadia, Greece	Maria's brother was doing his military services in Thessaloniki. Maria applied to the military medical school of Thessaloniki. Her brother helped with the application. Maria had an uncle who was working for the military and he encouraged her to apply for the military medical school.
1:52			While Maria was sending her application, she met her husband, Peter, who was in Greece with an AHEPA trip (bringing people from Ottawa Toronto, etc.). The majority of the girls were interested in getting married with a Greek who lived in Canada.
2:56			Peter's family was well known in Tripoli. After their first meeting they decided to get married. This is how they met: Peter was at a barber shop, and the barber was trying to find someone to marry him, and he said this to Peter. He saw Maria in the mirror, who was going to the Post office, and said "if <i>that</i> young girl is available, I'll marry her." Peter's uncle, after hearing this joke, sent the barber to Maria's mother's house to ask for them to meet. Afterwards they got an engaged. They were married in August, and moved to Kingston in September.
3:50	Life in Kingston	Kingston	Maria moved to Kingston, as her husband's family was already settled in Kingston. Maria was very happy to have all these people around her. The Karkoulises were very welcoming to her. She didn't have to work like other young girls.
4:38			Maria had her first child, Katerina, in 1962 and her second, Anastasia, in 1963.
5:10			Maria's children were raised in a good family. Maria had very nice neighbors. There were three Greek families, and the rest were Canadian. Ms George was Maria's neighbor who Maria called her Canadian mother.
6:52			Maria spoke only Greek to her family. She wanted to teach Greek to all the children of the Greek Community, as not many spoke Greek.
7:10			At that time the president of the Greek Community was Frank Karis. Maria worked as secretary of the Greek Community. She taught in the Greek school and got authorization from the education board in Ottawa.

8:03			<p>In 1964, the Greek community bought the church on Johnson Street. They cleaned the hall next to the church, as it was filthy, and wrote a letter to Greek parents to welcome them to the Greek School. Classes were every Saturday between 2-4pm. Others had tried to run a Greek school beforehand as well, but it didn't go well.</p> <p>She opened the greek school with her sister in law Andromahi, and they had around 18 students at the beginning but less and less students showed up each week.</p>
9:37			<p>Greek parents did not trust Maria because she did not study education. Mr Dimitrios Kanellos had certain doubts for Maria's initiative to run the Greek School, since she didn't have a diploma. The school failed.</p>
10:12			<p>Maria was the Sunday School teacher. This effort was successful. She and members of the Karis family (and some others) also started a choir.</p>
11:01			<p>Maria served also as a chanter to the Greek Orthodox church. There was also a piano. Maria Karis played the piano. The choir was growing.</p>
11:48			<p>Maria baptized Katerina in a foreign church on Queen's street. Before buying the Greek Orthodox church they rented a room in St. George's and had orthodox divine liturgies there. Constantinos Glouftis was a visiting priest coming from Toronto once a month.</p>
13:00			<p>In 1964 when the church was bought, Maria and her family put in a lot of effort to clean and decorate the church properly. They ordered everything (icons, educational material, etc.) from Costopoulos in Greece. Everything was bought by personal donations.</p>
13:58			<p>The community hired another priest after Father Glouftis, whose name was father Kakavelakis.</p>
14:34			<p>Afterwards they hired a full time priest, father Poluhroniadis. He also taught the Greek School.</p>
15:05			<p>Maria helped with organizing events. She also volunteered in fund-raising activities, such as making and selling homemade things. They sold Greek traditional foods at St Lawrence (first one) and the Olympic Harbor (afterwards), for Folklore. They cooked the traditional food at LaSalle and transported it all to a big room in St. Lawrence. It was a lot of work.</p>
16:46			<p>Afterwards they moved their cultural event to the church. Maria's children participated in Greek traditional dancing and they travelled for it.</p>
17:15			<p>In 1982 Maria's daughter Katerina moved to Toronto to study to be a Pharmacist at the University of Toronto. Then she moved Scarborough. Now she specializes in chemo.</p>

18:00			Marias second daughter, Anastasia, studied at Queen's and she pursued her master studies in economics. She got married to a Canadian with roots from Netherlands. They moved to Netherlands where she worked for many years. Meanwhile she got pregnant in Sebastian and the family moved back and settled in Toronto.
19:05			Katerina's husband passed away this year (cc 2017) while in vacation in Florida.
19:42			Maria still helps with chanting. Health issues do not allow her to participate more.
20:38			Maria is not very optimistic for the Greek Culture in Kingston. Youth move to big cities and they are uninterested in church issues. The faith also fades.
22:14			Nowdays, the priest is Canadian, converted to Orthodox. He studied in Thessaloniki, Greece, and serves the Greek Orthodox church.