

Mary F. Kosinski



Education:

- **Mary Falcone Kosinski, 1948 Graduate of Thomas W. Harvey High School**
 - Member of French Club, Cheering Club, Printing Club, Harbinger, and National Honor Society
 - Actor in Le Masque - "Prince of Peace" and "Balcony Scene"
 - Secretary of Junior Class, Scarlet Torch, Social Board, and Home Room
 - President of Spanish Club and Home Room
- **1953 Graduate of Lake Erie College with a B.A. in French and a double minor in biology and Spanish**
 - Literary Editor of the 1953 yearbook, the *Tiber*
- **Ohio University - additional coursework**

Career Service:

- 1952 - Student teacher at Thomas W. Harvey High School
- 1953 - 1955 - Teacher at Huntington Elementary School
- Part-time teacher of Spanish at Lake Erie College for several years
- 1965 - 1992 - Teacher at Madison Avenue Elementary School

Community Service:

- President of the PTA at Madison Avenue Elementary School
 - Re-vitalized the organization
 - Led efforts to establish the first elementary library in Painesville Township Schools staffed with parent volunteers
- 1960 - 1982 - Member of the Board of the Lake County American Cancer Society
 - Held a lifelong commitment to ease the suffering and hardship caused by cancer
 - Involved with educational sessions regarding cancer at malls and schools
- Involved with neighborhood collection campaigns for Easter Seals and Multiple Sclerosis
- Volunteer tutor for many crippled and disadvantaged children in the Painesville area

Honors/Recognition:

- 1992 - upon her retirement, the Madison Avenue Library was named the "Mary F. Kosinski Library"
- 1997 - inducted into the charter class of the Riverside Faculty and Staff Hall of Fame
- Recognized as a Martha Holden Jennings Scholar
- Service award from the American Cancer Society

Foreign Language Skills:

Mary Kosinski's accomplishments would be incomplete without mention of the mastery she displayed with foreign languages. Mary learned Italian in her home as she was growing up and studied French and Spanish at Harvey and Lake Erie College. As an adult in her 50s, she learned Polish on her own and out of textbooks. Her fluency in Polish was such that during a year-long trip to Poland, she taught English to Poles in her apartment. During a meeting with Nobel Prize winner and Polish Solidarity leader, Lech Walesa, he was amazed and referred to her as "this beautiful Italian-American lady who speaks Polish so beautifully".

A former student said of Mary, "When I first started going to Mary's, I didn't have much going for me. I was struggling in school and that is why my dad went to find help. Without Mary to spark that interest and change my life, I wouldn't have gained the skills and my love for reading today. This helped me to become more confident and help my self-esteem. Shortly after the passing of Mary in 2004, I started marching band, swim team, and track. Without the confidence that Mary gave me I would not have had the ambition to do so. She believed in me and pushed me to be a better person. Even now as I am coming to my last year of college, I thank her for the skills, confidence, and so much more that she gave to me."

**Inducted Posthumously:
Member of The Harvey Alumni Association
Distinguished Graduates
May 26, 2016**