



## Camille Françoise Garnier

August 7, 1940 - April 15, 2019

Camille Françoise Garnier, the youngest child of Camille Chauvin and Camille Janvier, died on April 15th at her residence in the Elm Heights neighborhood. She was born on August 7, 1940 in Le Mans, France and lived through the bombing of that industrial city during World War II. Both her parents, her brother, Bernard Chauvin, preceded her in death. Her husband, her son, two sisters, three nephews, one niece, and two great nephews and two great nieces survive her.

Camille moved to Bloomington with her new husband in 1969, one month after their wedding. She had transferred from the Ph.D. program in French at UCLA to the French Department at Indiana University where she became a teaching assistant. She received her PhD. In 1978 with a dissertation written under the guidance of Professor Diana Carr, an eminent 18th Century specialist. She taught part-time at St. Mary-of-the-Woods in Terre Haute for seven years and then joined the Humanities Division at Indiana University Southeast in 1996. She quickly developed a reputation as a highly effective teacher who was committed to the intellectual and personal development of her students, many of whom first generation college students. She was responsible for sending a large number of students, many of whom had never imagined that such a possibility existed, to abroad programs. That work included finding a scholarship to finance the opportunity. She was raised in a very poor family and was convinced that a good education could transform the lives of students whatever their major might be. She received a campus wide teaching award in 1998. Her research interest turned to French culture and she published several articles on contemporary aspects of that culture. For example, she tried to explain why Halloween celebration had become popular in France. She enjoyed the intellectual stimulation her colleagues in the Humanities Division (in English, and Philosophy, in particular) provided.

Camille was an avid reader. She loved contemporary French, Latin American and English literatures, but her interests included several other art forms: contemporary dance (the last performance she was able to attend only a few weeks ago in Bloomington was that of the Alvin Ailey Dance Company), classical music, the cinema, Buddhist philosophy (especially the writings of the Dalai Lama), and the fine arts. She and her husband visited many museums in this country and in Europe, and she collected a large number of art books.

She practiced yoga for many years and became an ardent and early environmentalist when such a practice was not yet popular. She insisted on recycling and, better yet, on consuming prudently. She repaired clothing, re-used gift paper and made sure that the thermostat was lowered every night. She swam regularly until her shoulder made that sport impossible and she continued to walk to the library, and to Mother Hubbard Cupboard where she volunteered after her retirement. In order to spend time with her family and life-long friends, she visited France every year. She brought her mother, to whom she was very devoted, to Bloomington several times so she could rest after a difficult life devoted to her four children.

Signs of dementia appeared several years ago and the manifestations of that disease became more and more evident. She became aphasic and her balance caused frequent falls. Throughout this period, she remained stoic and cheerful. She smiled to the people who looked after her until a very few days before her passing.

There will be a gathering of family and friends on Saturday April 20 at 10 AM, followed by a brief celebration of Camille's life at Allen Funeral Home, 4155 S Old State Rd 37, Bloomington, IN 47401. A green burial will immediately follow at White Oak Cemetery, 1200 W 7th St, Bloomington.

You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to the family at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com).

# Cemetery

---

# Events

---

**White Oak Cemetery**

Bloomington, IN,

**APR  
20**

**Celebration of Life Gathering**

10:00AM - 11:00AM

---

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory

4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN, US, 47401

**APR  
20**

**Celebration of Life Service**

11:00AM

---

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory

4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN, US, 47401

# Comments

---



“ Tonight, I was at an event at Indiana University Southeast and someone told me of Mme Garnier's passing. My heart is deeply saddened, and I send my sincerest condolences to her husband and son.

Twenty-six years ago, I took my first-ever French course (at the age of 34) in Knobview Hall, Room 003. I was nervous because there were other students already there, each one already familiar with the French language (and therefore, I assumed, probably experts). I very nearly left that afternoon to go to the bursar's office to drop the class, but I did not. I stayed. And, right on time, in came Mme Garnier. She swept into the room like a ballerina and said, "Bonjour, tout le monde!" I was taken by her energy and decided to give it a go.

Turned out, staying in that French class was the best choice I ever made! True enough, Mme Garnier saw to it that I took an opportunity to travel to France. And then another. And then another. And she stood behind me every step of the way when I took an opportunity for a journalism internship in my beloved Dijon.

To say that Mme Garnier changed my life is an understatement. She opened up the world to me and gave me confidence I had never known before. I was a divorced mother of three and, while finances weren't a problem, she understood that I was struggling in other ways.

She was kind and so adorable and good, and I loved her dearly. My husband and I named our youngest child after her. And, oh, how I wish for one more conversation with her...

I can offer these words only because of what I learned from my beloved Mme Garnier:

Prenant part à votre douleur, je vous présente mes sincères condoléances, à vous et à votre famille. Et, Mme Garnier, je vous remercie de tout mon cœur.

Amy McCord Clere



Amy Clere - December 06, 2019 at 09:41 PM

---



“ Dear Maurice and Philippe,  
I just learned of Camille's death and am so sad to hear that news, and also sorry I missed the service as I am out of town.  
I was aware of her health challenges over the past few years, and am glad to read she continued to be cheerful and able to attend events even until the last few weeks. I didn't know her well back in the days when you were Harmony parents, but as you probably know we became re-acquainted through Mother Hubbards Cupboard where we volunteered for the same shift for several years. We had that in common, as well as our European heritage, our dedication to walking (or biking in my case) whenever possible, and our enjoyment of knitting gatherings held at my house. She was lovely, gentle yet passionate, humble yet self-assured, and will be remembered very fondly. My condolences and best wishes,  
Libby Gwynn

Libby Gwynn - April 22, 2019 at 02:32 PM

---



“ Dear Maurice--  
  
I was very sorry to read in the HT of Camille's passing away. I would love to attend at Allen Funeral Home tomorrow, but I am required to be in Cincinnati at that time because of a longstanding family obligation.  
  
The obituary was wonderful and caught Camille's delightful personality perfectly. I have been blessed throughout the time in my house with wonderful neighbors, and you and Camille were at the head of the list!

Tim Long

Tim Long - April 19, 2019 at 11:31 AM