



Claude Winter

December 28, 1932 - March 26, 2024

Jean-Michel Winter and Marie Jarre Winter gave birth to Claude at Premery, a village in central France. She was two months premature, and the doctors didn't expect her to survive. She proved them wrong by 91 years. Her childhood with two older brothers toughened her, as did living in Paris under German occupation--they had a turnip-rich diet. After the war, the family relocated to the piney dunes south of Bordeaux, where she was educated by nuns. Two younger sisters joined the family there.

Claude trained as a nurse in Paris, and there she met and married a young architect, Yves Colomb. They moved south to Provence, to raise chickens and rabbits. Son Eric and daughter Emanuelle were born there. Then they returned to Paris, to live on a houseboat on the Seine river. Sons Petrus and Francois were born there. In the 1960's south France called them back: they bought "la Corconne," a campground in the rugged Cevennes mountains, where they lived in primitive conditions--no electricity, no telephone, mountain stream water. Claude worked as a nurse while husband Yves rebuilt the ruined stone house and prepared the campground to receive summer visitors from all over Europe.

In the winter of 1976 a vagabond American, Lee Welch, stopped by la Corconne in search of a cartoonist friend who was also living there. Claude was only semi-separated from her husband, so their mutual attraction was

suppressed until a shared traumatic experience--the failed rescue of a drowning horse--burst the emotional dam.

Claude and Lee lived for three idyllic years in a huge stone house by a waterfall. They installed several apartments in the building, eventually living themselves in the gigantic attic overlooking an apple orchard. Claude became an adept traveller: they explored Italy and Corsica together, and then , at age 47, Claude embarked on her first airplane: to the U.S.A. to meet Lee's family. For two years they lived intermittently on either side of the Atlantic, until she settled on Corvallis, Oregon as her home and English as her new language. They married in 1981, and she became a U.S. citizen five years later. Her daughter Emanuelle and youngest son Francois joined them in Corvallis.

Claude worked in the back office of her mother-in-law's travel agency. But she found the time and energy to explore several crafts: weaving, silk painting, basketry, ceramic painting, jewelry-making, and egg decoration, and to sell them at Saturday market. She also enjoyed travel opportunities in Asia, Mexico, South and Central America, and the Caribbean islands. She was a steadfast member of a synchronized swimming team.

In the last ten years of her life, Claude suffered a progressive debilitation from Parkinsons disease, taking away her mobility, her creativity, and finally, her life. The flowers that she planted will always bloom around her home on Fillmore Avenue.

She is survived by her husbands Yves Colomb and Lee Welch, her sons Eric and Francois, daughter Emanuelle, brother Joel, sisters Eliane and Sylvie, four grandchildren and many nephews, nieces, cousins near and distant.

Celebration of her life will be Friday May 31, 3:30 to 5:30pm, at Franklin Park,

corner of 16th and Polk in Corvallis.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

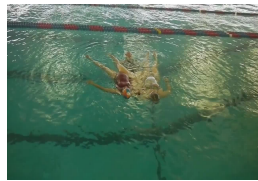
MAY 31. 3:30 AM - 5:30 AM (PT)

Franklin Park
1599 NW Polk
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall



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DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - June 06, 2024 at 05:22 PM



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DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - June 06, 2024 at 03:39 PM



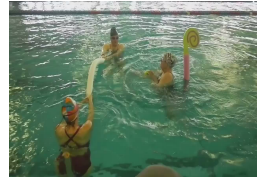
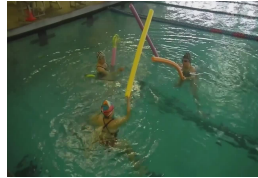
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DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - June 06, 2024 at 01:23 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Memories Album*



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - June 06, 2024 at 11:06 AM



“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Netanya Welch - May 26, 2024 at 08:13 PM



Beautiful photos from an amazing life.

Debby Kohler - May 29, 2024 at 12:57 PM

LA

“ In 2012, when I visited Corvallis, with my husband, who participated in the 50th anniversary reunion of his high school graduation, I met the Welch family. The Welches had welcomed Francisco into their family for a year (1961/62).

In those days, I “discovered” Claude, Lee Welch's wife. I am very aware of her sympathy, her joy, her tenderness...

My English language was very poor and she went out of her way to communicate with me in a way that I would understand.

I remember one day when she approached me to a wall with photos of her family and she lovingly explained to me her relationship with each of them. I was also touched by the love she shared with Lee and the way they showed it.

Thank you, Claude, for treating me so kindly.

Rest in peace.

Claude, I will always remember your smile.

Lucía.

Lucia and Paco from Argentina - May 22, 2024 at 08:13 PM

SN

“ Claude was such a uniquely kind and loving person. I remember meeting her for the first time when I was about 6 years old. She sat down with me to read a Dr. Seuss book, and I thought she was so classy and sweet.

Sophie Steuer, niece - May 22, 2024 at 07:39 PM

EM

“ Soooo...much happy and sweet memories with Claude,
my awesome mother!
What a blessing , to have been borned by such a loving, being !
I am eternaly grateful !
Until the very end, she kept her sens of humour, and she always
had a smile, iluminating her sweet face for everyone around her.

Thank you Lee, for all !



Emanuelle - May 21, 2024 at 03:58 AM

AR

“ In loving memory of Claude, our dear friend and talented jewelry
artist, unique Pysanka's creator and china painter, whose art were
imbued with beauty, grace, and everlasting charm. Each stroke of
their brush whispered tales of delicate craftsmanship and passion,
tell a story of love and grace, talent, and the timeless creativity,
leaving behind a legacy of artistry that will be cherished forever. My
daughter just LOVE one of Claud's bracelets that i bought for her. I
have 3 of your Ukrainian Pysanka eggs, witch i put on the shelf that
i can see them every day. They are warm up my heart.
Good-bye, dear friend! Your artistic legacy will stay with us.

Anna Russell - May 20, 2024 at 07:31 PM

JP

“ *Mon cher Lee,
Cette nouvelle m'attriste beaucoup.
Toute cette journée mes pensées seront pour toi et pour Claude.
Je vais allumer une bougie chez moi.
Je t'embrasse vieux frère.
Jacquot.
Très amicalement.
Jacques Postel.*

Jacques Postel - May 20, 2024 at 07:30 PM

MR

“ *Thank you for sharing the news of Claude's passing with us. How are you doing?
May I assume that your great sadness of missing her is tempered by some thankfulness that she is no longer suffering? You did everything possible to keep her comfortable, spirits up and a twinkle in her eye. It was so easy to see how much you loved each other.*

We are glad that Manu, Eric and Hugo came over in time to say goodbye to her. We wish we would have had one more chance to let her know how she has enriched our lives as well, with her upbeat personality, encouraging me to come folkdancing, joining us for French movies and ultimately sharing her beloved vacation house in Vallerauge with us.

Thanks to her, going to the Cevennes has become a fairly regular part of our lives here.

Michael and Andrea

M&A Ronkin - May 20, 2024 at 07:28 PM

DK

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Deek Keis - May 18, 2024 at 04:38 PM

“ Dear Claude was my first friend in Corvallis, and in the US, when I came from Czechoslovakia in 1982. (My cousin lived there, but I was allowed to visit more with Claude, much later with other new friends.) We went to an English Language school together, where we connected immediately. After one week there I started to work in a restaurant, Claude continued her language school, but we stayed in touch. This first year was very hard on me, on the other hand, Claude was happy to be there. She enjoyed her partner Lee and his family. She was helping in the family business - a travel agency. Claude was always a very bubbly personality, together with Lee they enjoyed life, traveled often and it seemed that there was not one trouble in the world. :--)

Claude was always very romantically dressed with taste, she came from a part of France where there was a warmer weather and she liked to wear a lot of happy color.

One activity we enjoyed together was making our Slovakian/Ukrainian Easter eggs - Pisanki. She was able to connect with some artisan and we both bought a necessary equipment to decorate these marvelous eggs. The hardest part was to blow the raw egg out. Then we used a batik technique to lay many pretty ornaments with a bees wax on these empty shells. One can easily brake it close to the finish line. We dyed them several times before revealing the beauty of different traditional ornamentation. Then we were selling them - separately. I also gave many away as gifts. One egg took 4-5 or more hours to decorate. Claude kept this and her other artistic endeavors - like making a pretty jewelry - and continued all her life. At one visit Claude gave me some of her pretty earrings as a gift.

I became so busy with my 4 children, jobs and we moved far away, traveling to Europe every year, visiting families, not managing other travels. The special visit was in France, where we found her hidden very old stone house, on a very swift creek, as we stayed in my cousins' not so far away. It was so special to see Claude and her daughter Emanuelle in that far-away land and in that medieval village.

A very interesting part about Claude is that she is a descendant of Jeanne D' Arc, who is the brother of Joan of Arc. The family has an official document and the Family tree, certified by the government. Not so many generations ago! That fact belongs to my special collection of unusual people in my life. Claude was one and I hope we will meet again, dear Claude....

Renata Bricka - May 08, 2024 at 08:29 PM

EM

*My Love, Renata and family !
With nice memories of moments shared.
Emanuelle*

Emanuelle - May 21, 2024 at 03:13 AM

AJ

*Dear Claude, such a nice person and so "French" never wore pants!
Always had great outfits and cardigan sweaters and headbands. Made "bush de noel" the real way with chestnuts. Had thistles in her vases. Loved to catch crawdads. Most of my Christmas ornaments are those Claude made, including the gorgeous eggs. Thank you Claude for all the teachings/sage advice and great times*

ann jumel - May 31, 2024 at 04:36 PM



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DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - May 06, 2024 at 05:04 PM