



## Helga McCamley

August 27, 1944 - November 12, 2016

Helga McCamley 8/27/1944-11/12/2016

Helga was born during WWII Germany in 1944. Funneled through Ellis Island, Parents and eight year old Helga with her Steiff teddy bear strapped to her back headed for an unknown farm in Lincoln, Nebraska. Little did Helga know the difficulties lying before her- prejudice from the war, a new language and a completely alien way of life. With the determination of people that have seen hard times she succeeded in school and created lifelong friendships with her classmates. Her first marriage to a Naval officer propelled her around the country meeting the different peoples of the US. The marriage brought her a daughter, the sunshine of her life, Bryn McCamley. After a divorce, she found her way back to college, to finish her degree in Art from UC Hayward(the first college degree in her family). She worked through many jobs stepping up the ladder into the field of Architecture, rising to Human Resources Manager for an appreciative company in San Francisco. While there, she met and married the love of her life, Kurt Widstrand. Together they traveled extensively, eventually purchasing a dream home in NZ. Her passion for gardening and horses pulled them into Corvallis, where she and Kurt purchased a small ranch closer to family and grandchildren. She was surprised to find herself teaching both English and German through OSU with faculty and students she adored. Her final years were some of the happiest in her life. While she left us too soon, she left knowing she was loved. Her shy smile slid into our hearts and resides there still.



# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

NOV 19. 9:00 AM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home  
206 NW 5th St.  
Corvallis, OR

# Tribute Wall



“ *McHenry Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Helga McCamley*



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**McHenry Funeral Home** - November 15, 2016 at 11:43 AM

SH

“ *I traveled to the USA 2 years ago and met dear Helga at Crossroads where she helped me and other non-native-english speakers to learn English.  
She was knowledgeable and very clever and she could understand me even I had a hard time to state my point in english.  
She had a sense of humor and a beautiful smile. She was kind also I never forget her.*

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**shahrzad** - March 15, 2018 at 04:40 PM



“ *To Helga’s family.*

*Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.*

*With deepest heartfelt sympathy,  
your family in Germany  
Reinhilde and Willi,  
Renate and Jürgen,  
Ralf and Simone with Finja,  
Sandra and Lorenz with Robin and Sina*

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**Sandra Cichon** - December 05, 2016 at 10:50 AM



“ *To Helga's family,*

*I have very fond memories of going to junior high and high school with Helga. She always had that beautiful, beautiful smile. The video memory shows how much love Helga had for her family and friends, and how much they loved her.*

*May her beautiful memories get you through the hard times and you find serenity in knowing your courage, care and love for Helga brings you peace in your heart.*

*With deepest heartfelt sympathy,*

*Donna (Staberg) Lessig*

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**Donna Lessig** - November 17, 2016 at 05:09 PM

CB

“ To Helga's family, may God keep you all in his loving care and help you to get through this heartbreaking time. May you find comfort in knowing Helga is at peace and is no longer suffering. And may the wonderful memories of her life sustain you all. With love, Carol Bucy

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**Carol Bucy** - November 15, 2016 at 07:20 PM

CB

“ Helga and I were best friends in 6th and 7th grade. We walked a mile to Northeast Junior High in Lincoln, Nebraska school days. I was her maid of honor in her first wedding and she was so beautiful. Her loving light has always shown through in her eyes and lovely smile. We lost touch for many years but she found me on Facebook. As a result we renewed our friendship and I am so glad I got to visit her and Kurt in 2015. Helga was a wonderful friend and I will miss her dearly. We had hoped that she could visit me in Colorado but it just wasn't meant to be. Hugs and much love, dear friend and peace be yours at last! Carol Bucy

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**Carol Bucy** - November 15, 2016 at 07:16 PM

CB

“ Carol Bucy lit a candle in memory of Helga McCamley



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**Carol Bucy** - November 15, 2016 at 07:08 PM