



Janine D. Breitenberger

July 20, 1927 - February 27, 2021

Janine Breitenberger (née Dufaure) passed peacefully in her sleep in her 94th year. Janine was born in Vigeois, France and came to the United States in 1958. She is preceded in death by her parents Sylvain and Marie Rose “Elodie” Dufaure (née Sermadiras), her brother Guy Dufaure, and her son Roland Breitenberger. Survived by her sister Madeleine Claude and family; her children, Caroline Breitenberger (Earl Devanny), Gisele (Neil) Murdoch, and Eric Breitenberger (Julie Rowland); as well as grandchildren, Nicole (Austin) Gibney, William Devanny, Caroline Murdoch, Jamie Murdoch, and David Murdoch; and great grandson Roland Gibney.

Janine earned her master’s degree in French Literature from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and then moved to Henderson, North Carolina where she taught French at Vance Academy and English at Henderson Junior High. She subsequently moved to Cary, North Carolina where she established her own company teaching French to local business executives. She engaged her students with energy, passion and enthusiasm, always believing in their ability to become conversant in a foreign language. One student even reached out, 25 years later, to appreciate Janine’s hard work and dedication.

A 35-year resident of Cary, Janine was an avid gardener with a green thumb like no other. She also enjoyed her daily long walks on local trails. She later moved to Dublin, Ohio to be closer to family where her energy and cheery

disposition endeared her to many. Her family extends kind thanks to the staff at Dublin Retirement Village for their tender care and support during her final years.

Services and arrangements will take place at a later date. To send an online condolence, please visit www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Janine D. Breitenberger*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *I was a student of Madame Breitenberger when she taught a French language seminar at Meredith College in the late 80's/early 90's. She was such a joy to be around and I have so many happy memories of the wonderful dinners at her house. I remember she taught us to cook using Julia Child's book - I cherish my own copy and think of her every time I open it. She was so strong and so independent, she was a wonderful role model. Much love to her family.*
Amy LaVoy

Amy LaVoy - June 11, 2021 at 04:09 PM



“ *I was saddened to learn of Janine's passing when I read the Dispatch this morning. I recognized her beautiful face right away. My mother, Kathe, lives in the apartment next door to Janine's at DRV so I was lucky to meet her prior to Covid restrictions. My sympathies to your family.*
Becky Klosterman

Becky - March 03, 2021 at 12:52 PM

GP

“ *Janine Breitenberg was my best French teacher ever. I studied with her in classes at her home as an adult in the 80s and 90s. Actually, I think she was my best language teacher of any kind ever - between French and three other languages.*

We had weekly classes that were at least 2 hours long at her home in Cary. In the middle, we would break and Janine would provide a snack - always wine, and usually some puff pastries. At the end of the semester or year, we would do a potluck dinner and she would make the main course - usually Coq Au Vin or Boeuf Bourguignon. And wine, of course! It was such a wonderful experience! I took it for many years, until I switched back to a different language for work and life. About then, Janine started spending more time teaching French at Rhône-Poulenc.

Some of the students in my class were a lawyer who had been in the Peace Corps and a few French teachers themselves. There was also a Computer Science professor who is the one who told me about Janine's class.

I remember Janine, and those times, very fondly. May her memory be a blessing.

Gailya Paliga - March 02, 2021 at 07:27 PM

LW

“ *I was fortunate to participate for several years in one of Jeanine's classes during the late 80's in Cary, NC. She was a force of nature, a great teacher, wonderful cook, and beautiful and strong as steel. To her family, I can say only that we will not see her type often again.*

Lane Wharton - March 02, 2021 at 06:00 PM

BR

“ My condolences to Janine's family. Almost thirty years ago I had the pleasure of meeting Roland, Gisele, and Caroline.

I studied French with Janine for a time, usually on Saturday mornings, and Janine was a clever teacher: our lessons lasted well over two hours, and when I was thoroughly fatigued, I began to communicate in French without worry about what I was saying or what I sounded like. This was Janine's plan and design. So I made good progress!

She told me a great deal about her life in France and her family here. I was aware of the love and affection she had for her four children.

Janine was a lovely person - she not only was "good looking" but she was intelligent, perceptive, inquisitive, charming. She had a grand sense of humor.

Regrettably we had lost contact. I will say with certainty that my life is richer for knowing her, and I am glad that we had time together in Cary.

Barney Rickenbacker

2 March, 2021

BARNEY RICKENBACKER - March 02, 2021 at 12:04 PM

JD

Sadly, I just learned of Janine's passing. We had not been in touch with her for 20 years. My wife and I studied the French language with her in 1992 at her home in Cary, NC. Also, we met her son and daughter there. While later on sabbatical in Nancy, France, we spent time with her sister, Madeline Claude and family, who very kind (et nous n'avons parlé que français ensemble.) I knew "zero" French before studying with Janine. But thanks to her, we became "fonctionnel" as she would say. She might be pleased to know that, from the intellectual seed she planted, we still pursue our interest in French. Qu'elle repose en paix. Et condoléances à sa famille, Ed and Pam de Steiguer

Joseph Desteiguer - January 13, 2023 at 12:02 PM