



Cari Anna Norris

June 26, 1970 - April 13, 2022

Cari Anna Norris, age 51, of Louisville, Kentucky, died on Wednesday April 13, in Louisville, Kentucky. She was a resident of the city for 25 years.

Cari was born on June 26, 1970, in Lexington, Kentucky, to Barbara Pennington Norris Greenlief and Mike Norris. She graduated with highest honors from Jessamine County High School, attended Earlham College, and earned two degrees from the University of Louisville. She was a teacher at inner-city Louisville public schools and most recently at the Waldorf School of Louisville until an illness forced her to take time off for treatment. She was also a professional musician and painter.

Cari's love of music was inspired by her grandmother Lily May Ledford, leader of the Coon Creek Girls and National Heritage Fellowship winner. She learned Lily May's banjo style, and many of her grandmother's signature songs were a standard part of her repertoire. She began performing professionally as a teenager and played Lily May's banjo and guitar at countless events (concerts, tv and radio programs, festivals, workshops, coffee houses, and dances) over the decades. She also played lap dulcimer, piano, and clarinet and was a talented songwriter. She taught and performed regularly at the Hindman Settlement School and the Cowan Creek Mountain Music School.

Cari's other great creative love was art. Though primarily a painter, she also did sculpture, weaving, fiber art, pottery, and quilting. Her paintings can be found in many locales around the state. At the Waldorf School she taught art and music.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Steven Biles, and an infant son, Jewel.

Those left to cherish her memory include a son, Samuel Norris McGee; a daughter, Gretchen Biles; parents, Barbara Greenlief and Mike (Carmen) Norris; a brother, John Harlan (Miriam) Norris; step-siblings, Elena Rodriguez and Daniel Lazarus; a niece, Noemi Rodriguez; and two uncles, J.P. Pennington and Bobby Pennington.

Visitation will be at Pearson's Funeral Home (149 Breckenridge Lane, Louisville) Tuesday, April 19, 4-8 p.m.

Funeral will be at Pearson's Funeral Home Wednesday, April 20, 10 a.m.

A graveside service will follow at Lexington Cemetery (833 W. Main St., Lexington) at 2 p.m.

Expressions in memory of Cari may take the form of contributions to The Waldorf School

of Louisville (3110 Rock Creek Drive, Louisville 40207; [502]327-0122)

Memories and condolences for the family of Cari Norris may be left at www.pearsonfuneralhome.com

Arrangements under the direction of Pearson's, "Where Louisville Goes To Remember".

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **19**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pearson Funeral Home
149 Breckenridge Lane
Louisville, KY 40207

Funeral Service

APR **20**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Pearson Funeral Home
149 Breckenridge Lane
Louisville, KY 40207

Burial

APR **20**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Lexington Cemetery
833 W Main street
Lexington, KY 40508

Tribute Wall

LP

“ Cari was a kind and gentle person who deserved a better hand than she was dealt. Wish there were more like you, Cari.

*In sadness and sympathy,
Liz Palmer*

Liz Palmer - April 23 at 10:36 PM

CS

“ Mike, I am so sorry to hear this. Prayers for you and your family. Carol Johnson Senn

Carol Johnson Senn - April 21 at 10:31 PM

SW

“ Going to the Folk Festival at Hindman as a child, Cari was always like an older sister to me. Mike and John, sending you lots of love. Please know that I am there in spirit, thinking of you at this time.

Snow Wildsmith - April 20 at 11:16 AM

JS

“ I am terribly saddened by this news and so sorry for your loss. I went to Earlham with Cari and played with her in the band Hurricane Sadee. I clearly remember meeting Cari and hearing her play music the first time. It was like nothing I had ever heard before - she opened a world for me and taught me so much. I feel so lucky and honored to have known Cari and called her my friend.

“And I’ll shout and I’ll dance, and I’ll rise up early in the morning”

John Kingman Smith - April 20 at 08:43 AM

KS

“ My cousin Cari, such a sweet gentle soul, with too much sadness for her heart to hold. When it came to missing her soulmate, she would say to me, “I know you know” and my heart would break for her because that kind of sadness truly does hurt. May her precious heart now be mended and wrapped in peace.

We had talked about getting together and singing with each other as we did when we were younger. How I wished that we had gotten to do that.

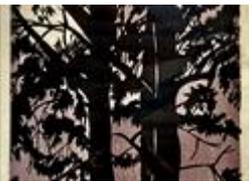
She was a person that when she touched upon your life, you never forget it. Such a special soul that I will miss.



Katrina Sparks - April 20 at 02:31 AM

JJ

“ This is such heartbreaking news! I’m so sorry Sam and Norris family all. She will be so missed. May her memory be a blessing. Here’s a wood block print she made when she was 18. Her talents were boundless.



Josh Joplin - April 19 at 04:48 PM

Profile icon

“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Cari Anna Norris.



April 19 at 12:18 PM

AS

“ Cari was always kind and a solid presence in my experience with her. She bookended my childhood as one of my first playmates as a kid and reappearing in my life during adolescence. She was consistently a kind and thoughtful soul and seemed so grounded. She made such an impact in her gentle ways .

Allison Smith - April 19 at 11:43 AM

PE

“ Penny purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Cari Anna Norris.



Penny - April 19 at 09:50 AM



“ Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Cari Anna Norris.



April 18 at 04:59 PM

MJ

“ Prayers for Mike and all her family. She will be missed.

Mary Jane Brewer Jones - April 18 at 02:08 PM



“ Memorial Trees was purchased for the family of Cari Anna Norris.



April 18 at 01:36 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Cari Anna Norris.



April 18 at 12:03 PM

CS

“ May God give each family member comfort during this time. My heart certainly hurts with all of you. Cari was so loving and compassionate to everyone around her. Prayers and love to all of your family. Claudia Shepherd Smith



Claudia Smith - April 18 at 09:10 AM

DM

“ Sincere sympathy to Cari’s family, and also to her friends. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers.



Donna Ruth Morris - April 17 at 10:31 PM

GW

“ Mike and the entire family; I had the pleasure of working with Cari when she was in middle school in Danville. She was part of an academic team (Odyssey of the Mind) where her art talents shone bright. Her gentle demeanor and kind spirit brought the group together and lead to success in so many ways. She was a beautiful soul and reading of her struggles with her illness and the loss of Steven (also a former student) were difficult to accept. I can only hope that the impact she had on others through her musical and artistic talents will carry her legacy forward; may the beautiful memories help sustain you all at this difficult time and in the future.



*Gail Wright (previously Thompson)
Danville*

Gail Wright - April 17 at 09:22 PM

MN

“ My heart goes out to all of Cari's loved ones. Cari and I shared a room our first year at Earlham. I have many fond memories of her, as well as a couple of treasured pieces of pottery that she made during her time there. May her memory be a blessing, always.

Mari Nowitz - April 17 at 08:37 PM

SS

“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Cari. She was a beautiful and talented person. Prayers for peace, and comfort.*

Sandra Welch Snowden - April 17 at 08:01 PM

DV

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Prayers*



Dennis and Ruth Venable - April 17 at 07:00 PM

JL

“ *Deepest Sympathy and prayers to Caris son and parents.*

Jeff & Donna Lakes - April 17 at 06:54 PM

SA

“ *Prayers for Caris son and parents. So sorry for this horrible news.*



Sara Angell - April 16 at 11:49 PM

AR

“ *I went to Earlham with Cari Anna. I enjoyed her playing with Hurricane Sadee so much and was moved by her gentle ways. I am so sorry for your loss. I can't even imagine.*

Anna (Van Doorn) Robertson - April 16 at 10:46 PM

DJ

“ *Doug & Connie Johnson lit a candle in memory of Cari Anna Norris*



Doug & Connie Johnson - April 16 at 05:53 PM

DR

“ *Debbie Johnson Robbins lit a candle in memory of Cari Anna Norris*



Debbie Johnson Robbins - April 16 at 05:14 PM

PG

“ *Patricia (Turner) Gabbard lit a candle in memory of Cari Anna Norris*



Patricia (Turner) Gabbard - April 16 at 05:03 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cari Anna Norris.*



April 16 at 12:42 PM

GC

“ *Sympathy and love sent your way from the Jess Wilson family, Gail and Curtis, Sammie and Dick, and Rebecca*

Gail Chandler - April 16 at 12:41 PM

JN

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



julie and Nando - April 16 at 11:20 AM

JN

Happy days!

julie and Nando - April 16 at 11:23 AM

RE

“ Cari was my friend, my “sister,” my mentor. Though she was in my life for just a few years, she will remain in my heart forever. Thinking of her parents, Barbara and Mike, her brother, John, and her son, Samuel; May love and sweet memories bring comfort and peace.



Rhonda Edwards - April 16 at 04:45 AM

JN

“ Dear Mike and entire Norris Family:
We send our deepest and most heartfelt condolences for your tragic loss.
May the Lord bless you with peace and consolation during this difficult time.
Deepest sympathy and prayers, light and love going your way.
Love, Julie and Nando

Julie & Nando - April 15 at 11:01 PM

BW

“ A self portrait from her early years in Louisville, Cari captured this image from a mirror. Sending love to her family. Betty Lou



Betty Lou Whitford - April 15 at 07:09 PM