



# Vivien Barbara Cyrus

August 1, 1939 - June 7, 2025

Vivien Barbara Cyrus (August 1, 1939- June 7, 2025) daughter of the late Lewis & Jane Cyrus, Campbeville, Georgetown, British Guiana (now Guyana), South America. Co-founder, with Rosamund Davis, of Bellingham Montessori School, “The Children’s House” (A.M.I.) for 18 years, from 1972-1990, and pioneer of The Montessori Method of Education in Bellingham.

“God’s Love and Divine Blessings, Always” – V&R

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Last of the two Bellingham Montessori Pioneers

A Tribute

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Vivien Barbara Cyrus

(1939-2025)

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Vivien Cyrus (aka “Patsy by her relatives) was born in British Guyana, South America. She left, at the age of 18 yrs., and completed her education in England and in France (The Manor Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, England; & University of London Extension at the Sorbonne, Paris). She was, also, employed as a nanny/governess in those two countries and later, went on to graduate from the Maria Montessori Training Organization in London.

After her arrival in the US, in 1966, she and Rosamund Davis worked, together, as A.M.I. (Association Montessori Internationale) Montessori teachers & consultants in Portland, OR, San Francisco and Santa Monica, CA, and Seattle, WA before establishing the first Montessori School in Bellingham, WA in 1972.

During the three years that she and Rosamund lived in San Francisco, Vivien also worked as a substitute teacher for the San Francisco & Berkely Unified School Districts. She also worked for the Urban League; and later, received a Commendation from Assemblyman William Brown of the CA State Legislative Assembly, for her work achieved with students at The National Career Institute. Being awarded a scholarship to The American Conservatory Theater (ACT) led to her becoming a member of The New Shakespeare Co. She also hosted a 2-hour Sunday talk-show (Black Montage) for KDIA Radio.

“Thankfully, all those jobs helped to pay for the rent.”

However, she found none of these occupations as fulfilling as the profession for which she was trained. “The happiest years of my life were those spent working alongside Rosamund, with little children in a Montessori environment.”

Vivien and Rosamund went on to receive two appointments as US Delegates representing Montessori Education, conferred upon them by the Dwight D. Eisenhower Citizen Ambassador Program (Pres. George H.W. Bush,

Honorary Chairman): 1) in 1991, to The People's Republic of China, at the invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Education and 2) in 1992, as US Delegates to Russian, Hungary, and Poland, by invitations from the respective Ministries of Education of those countries. Acceptance became impossible when Rosamund was diagnosed with "an aggressive form of rheumatoid arthritis".

Viven's favorite pastimes were writing poetry, writing children's stories and children's songs, sharing a mutual love of the Classical Arts and other interests with Rosamund, and gardening.

Message from Vivien:

I would like to pay tribute and express my eternal gratitude to all the parents who entrusted the care and/or education of their children to me, in England, France, and America. No honour has ever been more greatly appreciated than this trust. Nothing has ever surpassed its importance, nor has ever touched me more deeply.

Your children filled my days with endless joy, and a treasure-chest overflowing with happy memories, shared with Rosamund during our retirement. I consider myself highly privileged and greatly blessed to have had the opportunity to serve each and every one of those sweet, adorable little beings during the most formative years of their lives. The Light in their eyes, and tinkling chimes of their laughter will remain in my heart, forever.

For this most cherished of my life's experiences, my humble thanks, and blessings to you all."

\* In lieu of flowers please make donations to a children's charity of your

choice, in memory of Vivien & Rosamund.\*

Thank you.

A Funeral service will be held at Moles Farewell Tributes – Bayview Chapel located at 2465 Lakeway Dr. Bellingham, WA. on Friday August 1st at 10AM followed by a graveside service held at Bayview Cemetery, located at 1420 Woburn St. in Bellingham, WA. with a reception immediately following back at Bayview Chapel.

# Tribute Wall

AS

“ I am writing late to commemorate Vivien who as my sister has already written was a treasured nanny to us. We loved her and she loved us immensely and never stopped keeping in touch and remembering our and our children’s birthdays. It’s now several months after her funeral and I am sorry none of us could be there. But we won’t forget her.  
Alexandra Shulman

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**Alexandra Shulman** - September 28, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ Dearest Vivien, you were a beacon of light and love to all that had the pleasure to know you. My Mother, Mavis Massay, your first cousin loved you dearly. The weekly joyful calls to Mum in England when she was unwell, recalling childhood memories and singing songs together lifted her spirits immensely. For me, you also became a call I looked forward to make or receive. Lovely chats about all sorts of things. Listening to enchanting stories about your life with Rosamund were full of delight. It’s an absolute treat and honour to have been part of your extraordinary life. I Love You!

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**Lisa Temple** - July 05, 2025 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ Darling Vivien

*You came to us as a nanny in about 1965, or maybe 1966. YOU looked after me, my sister Alexandra and my brother , Jason. My sense of time is not exact but I do know that after a year or so, you left to pursue another job – and then, you came back! And that day when we were told ‘You’ve got a new nanny’ and we filed in, grumpy and vaguely fearful, to see what we were now to be presented with- and it was you! – was one of the best days of my childhood.*

*Because you were, to us, a magical person. You told stories and did ‘magic’ in our baths in the London flat. In the holidays, we had adventures: you were King Arthur and we were the knights of the round table, waging war on the nettles in the cottage garden with the enchanted sword ‘Excalibur’ (a fine stout stick we’d found under a chestnut tree). You were never impatient or cross when we were naughty, in my recollection, but only a bit surprised and curious as to what might be bothering us. Your voice was the prettiest and safest voice in the world. Thank you, darling Vivien , for those happy years. We really loved you.*

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**Nicola Shulman** - June 17, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Vivien joined our family in Marlborough, Wiltshire in 1963. She came as a nanny for my brother Mark. She immediately made a great impression on our lives and I would not be wrong in saying that she changed our lives, so much for the better. She was kind, thoughtful and was able to tell a young boy incredible stories, full of vivid storytelling, she was a master. Even though this period of time was relatively short, my family kept in touch with her. My recently deceased mother Jane Wren spoke quite regularly on the phone, they were the greatest of friends. Sally Vivien’s dog was named after our Sally, my mother’s black labrador. My memories are very special, she touched our hearts. God rest her soul.

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**Jonathan Cooper** - June 17, 2025 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ *The Armstrong and Raphael families of Campbellville Georgetown express their sincere condolences on the death of our dear relative Vivien whom we fondly called Patsy may her dear soul have eternal rest and peace you will be fondly remembered*

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**Pansy Raphael** - June 16, 2025 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Dear Vivien,  
You will be missed. Your mark on this world will live on and shine through the countless lives you have touched. From all ages and all stages of life, you had a special way of making everyone feel seen and heard. And you remembered everyone's names (including our pets!) Incredible! We believe your reunion with Rosamund and Sally was tremendous.  
So from all of us: Jim, Dini, Soula, Niki, Spiro, JR, Ari, Olivia, Flapjack, Daisy and Desmond, we are blessed to have met you. Fly high*

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**Soula Christopoulos** - June 13, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Vivien and Rosamund were two of the most influential people in my early life. I have such fond memories of days at their precious school-home early on in the lettered streets, where I would walk to school with my grandpa, and then at Henry St. Such fun memories of the stories Vivien would tell and such beautiful songs Rosamund would play on the piano. Loved learning to read so early, even French, exploring geography with the huge world puzzle map, their precious dog Sally, and their beautiful secret garden. Loved the plays we performed. And I was so honored they were close family friends and spent time with my family and I on Lummi Island. Loved sleepovers at their home! Such wonderful memories. It was so good to be in contact with both of them throughout the years. They, especially Vivien, made a wonderful difference in my life—as well as many others. Thank you, Vivien and Rosamund. I will never forget either of you.

With love,  
Lorinda

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**Lorinda Lipscomb Hines** - June 12, 2025 at 12:00 AM