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**Frederic Lawrence "Fred" Cheyette(1932 - 2015)**

LEVERETT – Fredric Lawrence Cheyette of Leverett, passed from this world April 14, 2015, after a brave battle with cancer. His loving family and many friends will miss his ready smile and booming laugh.

Fred was born Jan. 13, 1932, in New York City, to Irving and Ruth Cheyette. The family later moved to Indiana, Pennsylvania. Fred received his AB from Princeton in 1953, and his doctorate from Harvard in 1959. While working on his doctorate, he lived in Paris for several years, where he met Shlomit Sambursky of Jerusalem, Israel. She later became his wife and the mother of his three children.

After teaching at Stanford, the University of Wisconsin, and Oberlin, Fred settled with his young family in Amherst. He was professor of medieval history at Amherst College from 1963 to 2005. His book, Ermengarde of Narbonne and the World of the Troubadours, published in 2001, garnered numerous prizes and a glowing review in the New York Review of Books.

During his retirement, Fred auditioned for and won a spot as tenor in the Boston Symphony Orchestra chorus. He especially loved performing with the BSO at Tanglewood in the summers, as well as a European concert tour in 2007. He was also one of the founding members of the Da Camera singers, an Amherst choral group focused on early music.

When at home, Fred poured his heart and soul into restoring his 200+ year old farmhouse, and in the surrounding acreage creating an idyllic garden. He was a devoted father and doting grandfather, hosting each of his four grandchildren in the summer for a week long "Camp Grandpa" filled with fun.

His marriage to his first wife ended in divorce in 1978. He married Susan Ross Huston in 1984, and she died in 1997. Ellen Baker of Cambridge was his loving companion for the last 17 years of his life. His youngest daughter Tamara Cheyette Cohen of West Hartford, Connecticut, tragically predeceased him in 2014.

He is survived by his son Oren of Berkeley, California, daughter Dina of Mountain View, California, and grandchildren Sam, Anna, Jacob and Natan.

A memorial service for Fred will be held Oct. 11, at 1 p.m. at Johnson Chapel, Amherst College. Those who knew him are invited to attend.

Donations in his name can be made to the Hospice of the Fisher Home, 1165 North Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01002.

To sign a Guest Book, express condolences, share memories and read other obituaries, go to [www.gazettenet.com/obituaries](http://www.gazettenet.com/obituaries).

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