

Annette Parker Burr was born in Evanston, Illinois on February 23, 1936, to Raymond Maurice Parker and Anna Louise Ewing Parker. She met her husband, David, the love of her life, at Oberlin College. They married on June 6, 1957, and lived in Massachusetts, New York, South Dakota, and North Carolina as David initially pursued a career as a UCC minister. They moved with their children Cathy and Jeff to Blacksburg in 1966, when David joined the Department of History at Virginia Tech. They travelled throughout Europe, living for a year at a time, in Florence Italy, Oxford England, and Cambridge England.

Annette received a BA (1968) in English from VPI, a MS (1972) in Library Science from the University of North Carolina, and a MA (1984) and PhD (1993) in Art and Art History from the University of Virginia. Her doctoral dissertation was entitled *James McNeill Whistler: The Scottish Connection*.

For two decades, Annette was the Art and Architecture Librarian at Virginia Tech, retiring in 2001 as Associate Professor Emerita, Library. Among her many contributions, she served on the Board of Advisors for the International Archive of Women in Architecture and taught classes on art history.

Annette was a beloved and devoted friend to many throughout her life, sharing her passions for art, books, travel, the outdoors, and animals with friends around the globe. She belonged to a decades-long Friday lunch group with friends who became her chosen family, as well as a cherished book group comprised primarily of women artists, art historians, architects, designers, and many others. A lifelong learner and social activist, she was a champion for justice and equality in many organizations, including teaching English as a second language.

Upon retirement, Annette and David took many trips with ElderHostel, pursuing their love of outdoor adventure through canoeing and kayaking. Active until the end of her life, she enjoyed hiking and swimming and was an avid member of the Rock Steady Boxing program for people with Parkinson's disease at Warm Hearth Village, where she lived during her last decade.

A Celebration of the Life of Annette Parker Burr



February 23, 1936 – January 2, 2025

January 18, 2025, 11:00 am
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Blacksburg, Virginia

Order of Service
January 18, 2025

Entering Music Jared Gibbs
Concerto in D minor, BWV 974, II. Adagio — J. S. Bach
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, BWV 147 — J. S. Bach
Prelude in E minor, Op.28, no.4 — Frédéric Chopin
Prelude in B minor, Op.28, no.6 — Frédéric Chopin
Melancholia — Duke Ellington

Opening Words Rev. Pam Philips

Lighting the Chalice

Reading Parker Palmer

Hymn 1008, *When Our Heart is in a Holy Place*

Family Memories Erin Drake
Katherine Allen

Song *Fields of Gold, Eva Cassidy*

Reflection Rev. Pam Philips

Community Sharing of Memories and Gratitude

Please come to the front to speak so all may hear.

Raise a hand if you need to speak from your seat.

Prayer of St. Francis

Hymn 101, *Abide with Me*

Poem *Blackwater Woods, Mary Oliver*

Postlude Jared Gibbs
"I'll Be Seeing You" — Sammy Fain & Irving Kahal

Greeters: Lisa Evanylo, Jane Mahone, Helen Renqvist,
Britton Gildersleeve; Song leader: Jane Mahone

Annette's is survived by her husband, David Dwight Burr, daughter Catherine Ann Burr Drake, son-in-law Fred Drake, son Jeffrey David Burr, daughter-in-law Katherine Allen, grandchildren William, Christopher, and Erin Drake; brother Ray Parker, sisters-in-law Marilyn Parker and Elizabeth Allen. Her grandson, Matthew Allen Special, died in 2011.

Please join the family in Elarth Hall after the service for a brief reception.