

## Rosamonde (Sunny) Schurr 1929-2022

Rosamonde Jean Burgess (Sunny) Schurr was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts in the summer of 1929. She was the oldest child of Rev. E. Clayton and Veta Louise Burgess. She grew up in Southern California as her father served Methodist churches in communities like Artesia and Chino. Rosamonde frequently described herself as a “preacher’s daughter”. As a young girl in that time and place she witnessed historic events, like the interment of her Japanese classmates, and spoke of them through her life. She had a summer job building military aircraft and she was, literally, Rosie the riveter!

Rosamonde left California to attend Baldwin Wallace College. After graduation she married George M. Schurr, a “preacher’s son” and moved to Illinois, where George attended seminary and served some small student pastorates. George went on to earn a PhD and became a college professor and administrator. Rosamonde was a busy wife and mother of two sons. She was the successful hostess of many faculty dinner parties. She was dedicated to her sons and honored their individual gifts, from encouraging Randy’s development as a musician to sewing Scott his own Nehru Jacket when he was twelve. She was active in The League of Women Voters and worked for the Equal Rights Amendment. The family moved several times and she made them a home wherever they landed.

In midlife, Rosamonde went back to school and earned a Masters in Community Arts Management. This brought many adventures. The greatest of these was when she became involved with a group building a new Salvador Dali museum in St Petersburg, Florida. After years of service she retired from the Dali Museum as Operations Manager. Sunny, as Rosamonde was called by then, had a passion for modern art and became learned in the field. After retirement she and George moved to Eugene, Oregon. Sunny took CNA classes and provided home health care to local residents. She and George separated at that time. After his death, Sunny moved back to Florida and merged back into the art community.

Eventually, Sunny returned to Oregon. This time it was to Portland and she settled into a lovely retirement. She collected art. She kept a rooftop garden in her downtown apartment. She wrote. She got closer to grandchildren. Sunny was very well read, enjoying the heady works of Paul Tillich and Buckminster Fuller as well as novels by Zane Grey and Tony Hillerman.

Rosamonde died of heart disease on St. Patrick’s Day, 2022, in the company of family who loved her. She was preceded in death by her husband, George, her two brothers, Rev. E. Clayton Burgess Jr, and Rev. David Burgess, her oldest son Randy Schurr, and an infant son Christopher. She is survived by son Scott, grandchildren, Adam Schurr, Ian Schurr, and Morgan Schiller as well as great grandchildren, Everett, and Asa Schiller.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to your local public broadcasting station or to The Dali Museum in Florida.