

Carolyn Taylor Burr was born June 17, 1939, in Charlotte, NC, the daughter of Melvin Holmes Taylor and Elaine Culp Taylor. In 1942, the family moved to western North Carolina where she grew up in the foothills of the Great Smokies and the Blue Ridge. Carolyn, who was also called by her middle name Bettz, attended Duke University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. In 1961, she married David Burr and moved up north to New York City, where she raised her two children, Elizabeth Shepard Burr and David Taylor Burr.

Carolyn's twin passions in life were her children and writing. She published two novels, *Blue Ladies* (1980) and *Up North* (1981). She returned to North Carolina in 1987, living in Asheville, where she wrote about historic gardens and homes, poetry, fiction, and illustrated children's tales. In addition to her writing, Carolyn worked as a professional fundraiser for, among others, The Museum of the City of New York and The Big Apple Circus. She later studied education at the University of North Carolina Asheville and became a middle school teacher. For 25 years, she was a well-known figure in her North Asheville neighborhood as the woman who walked with her beautiful dog Barringer.

In 2012, Carolyn moved to St. Paul to be close to her son Taylor and his family. For the last 10 years of her life, BB, as she was known, lived in Saint Anthony Park, a neighborhood she loved for its gardens, its homes, and its wonderful people. She continually invented ways to adapt to the degenerative neurological condition SCA6 ataxia and lived in her own home, independently, until the day she died. Carolyn leaves behind a community of family, friends, and neighbors who valued her sharp wit, keen eye, and singular perspective on the world. A feminist since the early 1970s, Carolyn was a fierce advocate for equality and change. She was also a lover of music, art, and film, an intrepid spiritual seeker since her early 20s when she began studying yoga in Greenwich Village, and a sharp political critic with a quicksilver mind.

In addition to Lize and Taylor, Carolyn is survived by her daughter-in-law Suzanne Kueffner Burr; her son-in-law Chris Hyams; her five grandchildren: Emma and Mazie Hyams, and Caswell, Zachary, and Theo Burr; her brother Larry Holmes Taylor; and her former husband David Shepard Burr. She was deeply loved because she loved so deeply, and her family feels her loss fiercely.

## Celebration and Remembrance of Life



Carolyn Taylor Burr

June 17, 1939 - November 6, 2021

Service of Remembrance and Celebration  
of the life of Carolyn Taylor Burr  
Saturday, December 18, 2021 • 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE "Walking in the Air"

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Shay MacKay

UNISON CHALICE LIGHTING

*We light this Chalice as a symbol of our faith,  
the light of truth and the warmth of love.*

OPENING WORDS

REMEMBRANCE Taylor Burr

MUSIC "Shall We Gather at the River"  
Taylor Burr, solo

REMEMBRANCES Caswell Burr, Theo Burr, Zach Burr

READING "Starlings in Winter" by Mary Oliver  
Suzanne Burr

REMEMBRANCES Mazie Hyams, Elizabeth Burr

READING "Barringer Bouron Burr-The First Elegy" by Bettz Burr  
Emma Barringer Hyams and Chris Hyams

CANDLES OF REMEMBRANCE

PASTORAL PRAYER

MUSIC "I Am Weary"  
Caswell Burr and Taylor Burr

All are invited to sing the final verse, remaining masked.

*Kiss me mother kiss your darlin'  
Lay my head upon your breast  
Throw your loving arms around me  
I am weary let me rest  
I am weary let me rest*

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

*Though we extinguish the light of the Chalice here, we know that  
the light of truth and the warmth of love go with us in our hearts.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Let the River Run"