



## Nancy Anna Orr

November 4, 1927 - February 12, 2023

Nancy Anna Y. Orr of Warrenton, Virginia, former librarian and an active volunteer in community and church affairs, died at Poet's Walk Warrenton, Virginia on February 12, 2023. Born in Columbus, Ohio on November 4, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Arthur B. and Miriam J. Young. She was greatly admired and loved by family and friends for being an artistic and scholarly woman who was always pleasant and friendly.

She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Ohio State University and went on to receive her MLS degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1951. Serving as a public librarian in Upper Arlington, Ohio, Arlington, Virginia, and Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties in Maryland, her career culminated in the position of Coordinator of Children's Services for the Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries.

Twice elected by the American Library Association to serve on the Newbery-Caldecott Committee, Mrs. Orr also worked with Virginia Haviland of the Library of Congress to produce an annual list of the best children's books. Her background in art led to her participation in a national seminar on children's book illustration held at Cranbrook in Michigan. As a child growing up in Columbus she took art lessons at the Columbus Art Academy and had a minor in Fine Arts at OSU. She maintained an active interest in art throughout her life, studying under various teachers at the Academy Art Museum in

Easton where she had served as a trustee, and exhibiting her oil paintings locally.

In 1966, she married George Miller Orr, a NASA engineer who grew up in Cambridge, Maryland. They made their home in Silver Spring, Maryland and moved to Oxford in 1978. Mr. Orr died in 1988 and is interred at Old Trinity in Dorchester County.

After her retirement and subsequent move to Oxford, Mrs. Orr became active in community and church affairs. She served as President of the League of Women Voters of Talbot County and later on the Board of the League of Women Voters of MD, chairing a study on the election process in Maryland. In that capacity she lobbied for election process reforms and testified at hearings in Annapolis. The present election laws in Maryland reflect some of the reforms which the League of Women Votes promoted.

Mrs. Orr was a long-time member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton, twice serving as President of its Board and lending her leadership to many other positions in both the local Fellowship and as a board member of the Joseph Priestley District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She also volunteered at the Regional Cancer Center in Easton and at the Museum and Custom House in Oxford. In addition to her painting, she enjoyed many travels abroad, her favorite being the Provence region in France, outdoor activities, gardening, and hosting family reunions at her Oxford home on Boone Creek. While residing at Londonderry on the Tred Avon in Easton, she served as President of the Board then moved to Warrenton, Virginia in Fauquier County in 2018.

She is preceded in death by her husband, George M. Orr and three siblings, Mary Jane Wollerman, Virginia Alford, and John D. Young. She is survived by fourteen nieces and nephews as well as grandnieces and grandnephews. A

memorial service will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Easton, MD on March 18, 2023, at 1 p.m. The interment will take place prior to the service, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Old Trinity Church Cemetery in Church Creek, M,D for any wishing to attend.

# Cemetery Details

## Old Trinity Church

Church Creek, MD

# Previous Events

## Graveside

MAR 18. 10:30 AM (ET)

Old Trinity Church  
Church Creek, MD

## Memorial Service

MAR 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Easton  
7401 Ocean Gateway  
Easton, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ Nancy Anna Orr

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Nancy Orr was my aunt on my dad's side. My father, John Young, was her brother. I have many cherished memories of Nancy; she was a very special person and so talented. Nancy made numerous trips from the east coast to come visit her mother, Miriam Young, & her brother who both lived in Columbus, Ohio. During her visits we had some great family get-togethers with nice dinners & a lot of good conversations about life & our family with a lot of laughter shared. My favorites were when Nancy was able to visit during our summer family BBQ outdoor picnics & also at Christmas time. As a young girl, I remember Nancy always bringing me special books for gifts at Christmas. Her experience as a children's librarian reflected in the quality of these books, which often were award winners. I remember reading a unique book called "The Borrowers" which was a book about miniature people & all the adventures they had and also Mr. Popper's Penguins which was a funny story about a family who adopts a real life penguin. When I later had my own 2 girls, Nancy continued this book tradition. Nancy was certainly influential in my love of reading & it is her legacy. Most of all, I will miss Nancy's love, her warmth, and her genuine caring for our family over the years.

Kathy Roush

Kathy Roush - March 14, 2023 at 08:55 PM

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*Thank you to Kathy for sharing this, It really warms my heart. Aunt Nancy truly touched and enriched so many lives. I can see and smell the wonderful holidays spent with her and grandma Young in Columbus. I also remember the books in particular A Traveler in Time by Allison Uttley and Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder. It also gave me a life long love of books an strength from what I found in them. Aunt Nancy was always one of my biggest inspirations and I thank her for the many things she did for me with love . I was always so happy for the time she had with Uncle George, I am glad they are together again. Nancy Salerno*

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**Nancy Salerno** - January 14, 2024 at 01:51 AM