



Annette Trinity-Stevens died Sunday evening, March 4. She was 46 years-old. A long-time, MSU employee, Annette recently held the position of News Director at MSU. In the fall of 2006, Annette was diagnosed with a rare cancer. Unlike many metastatic cancers, her disease had an "unknown primary" origin. In addition to working with Dr. Annie Castillo in Bozeman, she consulted specialists at the Mayo Clinic and the Fred Hutchinson Center in Seattle.

Always of good cheer, she fought the disease valiantly. Annette made it through December and January and was hoping for an early spring trip to Utah to take in the wildflowers and the desert sun.

However, her health declined dramatically in early February. After almost two weeks in the hospital, Annette was taken home. She dropped into a deep sleep on a Sunday morning and never woke up.

Her family was present when she died.

A native Montanan, Annette Kathleen Trinity was born April 30, 1960 in Helena. She was one of five girls born to John and Noel Trinity. Annette attended grade school in Missoula and graduated from Sentinel High School in Missoula in 1978. Always an excellent student, Annette enjoyed poetry, great writing and playing the violin. As a child, she attended Lindisfarne/Camp Marshall an Episcopal Church camp on Flathead Lake. It was a magical place for her. While working there in the summer of 1978 she met David Stevens. Eventually David and Annette would marry and have two children: Derek Richard born in 1991 and Emily Aidan born in 1996.

Annette started her college career as a drama major at the University of Montana. She eventually switched to English and began working part time U of M's news and publication department. That experience gave her a professional direction that she would follow until her death. Graduating with a bachelor's of arts degree in 1984, she moved to Bozeman to join David. Like many newcomers she tackled a variety of jobs. However, Annette never drifted too far from good books and great writing. She worked at Poor Richard's Bookstore, and was a free-lance writer and editor.

Her experience and perseverance eventually landed her a job writing for the MSU Research Department. One of the many assignments she enjoyed was taking extensive road trips of Montana and talking with the editors and publishers of many of the smaller newspapers. In 2003 Annette became the News Director for MSU. She liked her job and had immense respect for her fellow staff members and colleagues. In turn, she was a beloved supervisor and manager admired by fellow employees as well as journalists throughout the state who respected her professionalism and judgment.

Like many young women, Annette felt her greatest accomplishment in life was being a mother. She always managed to carve out time for her children and maintain that delicate balance between a home life and a professional career.

Annette enjoyed reading, listening to music, having coffee with friends and playing the violin. She liked the outdoors, often starting the day walking around the Bozeman ponds. She exercised regularly, even after being diagnosed with cancer. Some of Annette's best times were spent with her family skiing and ice skating. Her last family outing was a seven-mile hike to Lava Lake on Labor Day weekend.

She is preceded in death by her beloved great aunt Jessie Taylor. Annette is survived by her immediate family: Husband David and children Derek and Emily. She is also survived by her mother and stepfather, Noel and Peter Walther, Polson; and her father and stepmother, John and Martha Trinity, Havre. Her siblings are: Richard and (Lois) Trinity, Red Oak, IA; Brigit and (Steven) Larson, Des Moines, WA; Rebecca Kerner, Rock Island, IL; Gretchen Webster, Missoula, MT; Sue and (John) Crissey, Kent, WA; Racheland (Robert) Krug, Helena, MT.

Annette enjoyed visiting with her many nephews, nieces, in-laws, and cousins. By marriage she is related to the following local people: Ardis A. Stevens, Bozeman; David Ray & Nike Stevens, Wilsall, MT; Steven and Debbie Shope, Bozeman.

Having married into a family descended from pioneers, she is connected to the following family names that have been in the West since the 1850s and Montana since the 1870s: Shope, Hyatt, Stevens, Wright, Rutledge, and Stinson.

Annette was a true friend, a gifted writer, a first-rate mom, a steady and trusting sister, and a loving and faithful wife. She possessed a keen intellect, playful demeanor and a great sense of humor. She will truly be missed.

Her funeral is Tuesday, March, 20 at 10 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, Bozeman. A reception will follow at Hope Lutheran Church in Bozeman. Both churches are located within a one block radius of each other. Internment will be at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman that afternoon.

Memorials can be sent to: Lindisfarne Fund, 312 Stillwater Ave., Bozeman, MT, 59718. Further e-mail questions about Annette can directed to: davidstevens57@yahoo.com. Copyrighted, David Stevens, March 2007