



## Laurel "Laurie" Ann Parker

August 15, 1951 - February 10, 2026

Laurel Ann Parker passed away, after a long battle with cancer, on February 10, 2026.

She was 74 years old and is survived by her husband John III, her son, John Parker IV, his wife, Jessica and their wonderful children, Kendall and John V, whom she dearly loved. They called her "Gramma with the Sparkles", because of her personality and her love for jewelry.

She is also survived by her siblings; Michael, Eileen and Patrick Palace and her many special lifelong friends.

Laurie spent her entire 37 year career teaching art at Ephrata High School guiding thousands of students, with love and respect to become their best selves. They responded with their own love and respect, referring to her as "Mama Parker".

Laurie loved walking the beach for agates and exploring tidal pools. She also loved hiking the mountains and was an incredible skier. She was the most helpful, compassionate, and empathetic person I have ever known, besides being the best problem solver I've ever seen.

Laurie helped me achieve all my dreams; from a happy family to building our log home from scratch! She was a ferocious defender of the Arts. Her motto was, "More Art!" Every college freshman in Washington is required to have a "Fine Art" credit in high school, thanks to Laurie's efforts, when she was on the State Board of Art Education. She was also a founding board member of "Columbia Basin Allied Arts", which is still going strong today.

Laurel Ann Parker was an absolutely incredible human being, who gave to society rather than take from it. I've been privileged to spend the last 56 years of my life, with her. I and many others have been blessed knowing her.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Nicoles Funeral Home, June 13, 2026 at 2pm. Laurie's life was definitely well lived!

If desired, donations may be made in her name, to Columbia Basin Allied Arts.

# Upcoming Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN 13. 2:00 PM (PT)

Nicoles Funeral Home  
157 C St. N.W.  
Ephrata, WA 98823  
(509) 754-3420  
[bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com](mailto:bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com)