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ANNE BRADEN COMMEMORATION PLANNED

Anne McCarty Braden (1924 – 2006)
Advocate for Racial Equality – Civil Rights Activist

Anne McCarty Braden, civil rights activist and advocate for racial equality, will be commemorated in an event at 10:30am on Saturday, March 4, at St. George's Episcopal Church where Braden was a devoted member.

Those who worked and worshiped alongside Braden are expected to speak at the commemoration.

After working as a journalist for newspapers in Alabama, Anne returned to her hometown of Louisville to write for *The Louisville Times*. She married Carl Braden, a fellow reporter, who was active in progressive politics.

In 1954, Anne and Carl Braden were the targets of violence after they purchased a house in an all-white neighborhood of Louisville and had it deeded to an African-American couple. They were charged with sedition, and Carl Braden was convicted and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. After a U.S. Supreme Court decision invalidated state sedition laws, all charges against Carl Braden were dropped.

Later in Anne Braden's career, she edited *The Southern Patriot*, the publication of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), an interracial organization. As she aged, she focused her activism on Louisville, where she remained a leader in anti-racist drives and taught social justice history classes at local universities.

Braden's work for social and economic justice was recognized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his famous 1963 *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. He expressed his gratitude to a group of white Southerners, including Braden, who "have written about our struggle in eloquent and prophetic terms. . . and committed themselves to it."

For her contributions to civil liberties, Braden received the American Civil Liberties Union's first Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty in 1990.

Those attending the commemoration are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the church's Dare to Care food pantry. St. George's Church is located at 1201 S 26th St.

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