

CELEBRATING  
THE LIFE OF

*Monnette*  
L. Sudler-Honesty

A  
*Trailblazer*

*Sunrise*  
June 5, 1952

*Sunset*  
August 21, 2022



**MONNETTE** passed away on the morning of Sunday, August 21, 2022. She died peacefully at her home in the Germantown section of Philadelphia following a long and valiant bout with cancer. Her battles with other serious medical conditions in recent years---always with grace and remarkable humor---- demonstrated her courage in facing life challenges with hope and determination. She was surrounded by friends and family as she approached the end, listening to and playing music, lighting up the room with her quirky jokes and infectious laugh, and enjoying some West Indian cuisine made specially for her. Monnette's love of music and people was a constant force in forging her ever-expanding circle of collaborators, family, and friends.

**MONNETTE** was born Monnette Goldstein on June 5, 1952, in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania. Her family settled in North Philadelphia when Monnette was a young girl. She studied piano from the age of 8 and started playing guitar at 15. By the time she was 19, she was playing with Sounds of Liberation, a seven-member band from her Germantown neighborhood that had a distinctive, eclectic sound and powerful social and spiritual message. She attended Germantown High School, and after graduation, studied at Berklee College of Music in Boston. She earned a B.A. degree from Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance. Monnette married Kenzel Honesty in the 70's, and with the birth of her two sons, described as the "loves of her life", she balanced motherhood with her demanding professional and artistic careers.

In addition to her music career, **MONNETTE** was an educator and teaching artist at several schools and institutions, and counselor to children in therapeutic programs in the Philadelphia public school system. She spent several years teaching music to young people at the Philadelphia Clef Club, and with the North Stars afterschool program through Art Sanctuary. Monnette loved attending concerts and shows. One of the last shows she attended before the pandemic closures was headlined by one of her favorite artists, Gregory Porter. She was a great cook who made a mean mac and cheese dish that was highly sought after by family and friends. Classy, stylish, and creative, Monnette was a caring mother, wonderful friend, and generous artist. Monnette loved to travel---her destinations included cities in Europe and Japan, and locations in Jamaica, Canada and South Africa. Even as she spread her music across continents, she made a beautiful and comfortable home for herself and her family in her hometown of Philadelphia.

As a jazz guitarist, composer, vocalist, and bandleader in a highly male-dominated field, Monnette was not only a trailblazer in her own right, she also demonstrated unwavering commitment to expanding opportunities for women in the jazz field. She was the first woman to found and organize an international guitar summit, an event that she ran for a decade and where she punctured gender barriers and drew connections among multiple traditions, styles and genres of music. She collaborated with a vast array of musicians, and performed and recorded with local poets, including former Philly Poet Laureate Trapeta Mayson and Beth Feldman Brandt. Throughout her career she shared her love of Philly's great jazz legacy with young people. And even in her final months mentored young female jazz instrumentalists through the Mutual Mentorship for Musicians (M3).

**MONNETTE** leaves behind a half century of music and artistic collaborations. She was creating until almost the end of her life. Appropriately, her final album, released in the fall of 2021, was titled "Stay Strong" and contained original songs of spiritual uplift and social consciousness. In May 2022 she was honored by Ars Nova Workshop for her many contributions to Philadelphia's jazz and experimental music legacy. And just weeks before her passing she was recognized by the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage with a 2022 Pew Fellowship.

**MONNETTE** is survived by her two sons William Erik Honesty and Lamar Honesty; two brothers Truman Sudler and Duane Sudler; three grandchildren William Erik Honesty II, Nuri Monnette Honesty, and Zyri Monet Honesty; a maternal aunt Marlene Robertson and other family, as well as an extensive and diverse community of friends, collaborators, students, and fans. She was preceded in death by her mother Lea Goldstein and her brother Warren Sudler.



# Life Story

# Order of Service

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

Saturday, September 3, 2022

Public Viewing 9:00 AM | Service 11:00 AM

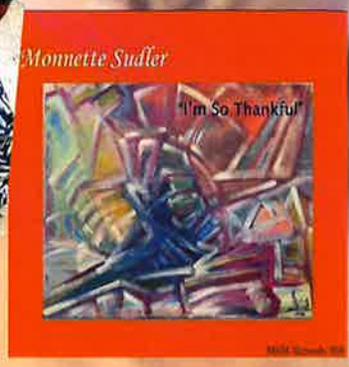
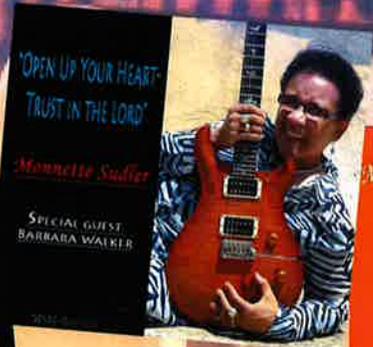
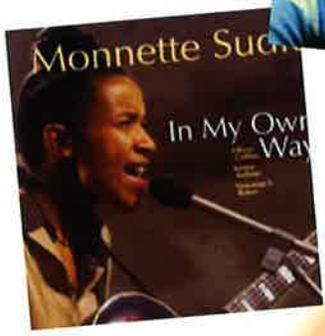
First United Methodist Church of Germantown

6001 Germantown Avenue

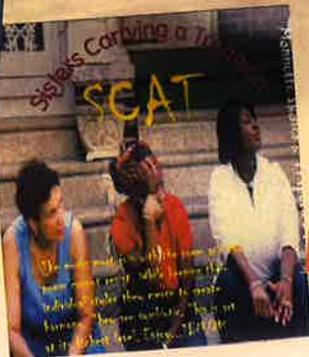
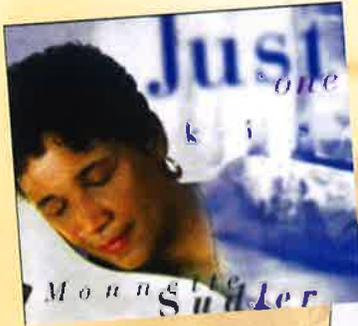
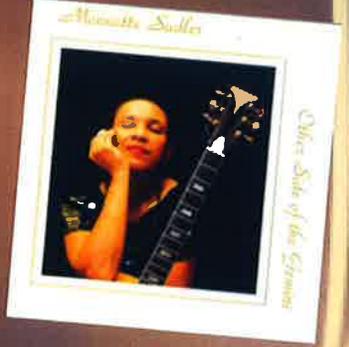
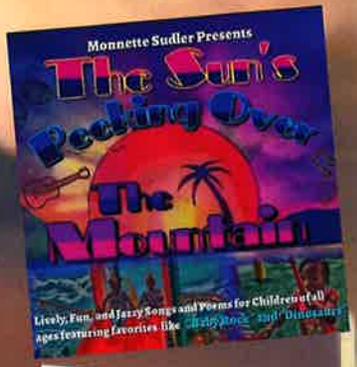
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144

### PASTOR VIOLET LITTLE, THE WELCOME CHURCH, OFFICIANT

VIEWING MUSIC .....	Organist: Jodi Bohr, FUMCOG
PROCESSIONAL .....	<i>"Blessed Assurance"</i> (UMH #369 - Blue Hymnal)
FINAL VIEWING (Immediate Family Only)	
GREETING AND PRAYER OF COMFORT .....	Pastor Noe Gabriel Lopez, FUMCOG
SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 30 .....	Cathi L. Sudler
MUSICAL/DANCE/POETRY SELECTION .....	Diane Monroe – Violin Trapeta B. Mayson – Poetry Germaine Ingram – Dance
SCRIPTURE READING .....	Romans 8:31-39, Denise Spaulding
MUSICAL SELECTION .....	<i>"Up Above My Head"</i> Sherry Butler – Vocalist Sumi Tonooka – Piano Nazir Ebo – Drums Lee Smith - Bass
WORDS OF REFLECTION .....	LaTonya Grant Webb Thomas
RESOLUTION	
MUSICAL SELECTION .....	<i>"Mary Don't You Weep"</i> Barbara Walker – Vocalist Sumi Tonooka – Piano Nazir Ebo – Drums Lee Smith – Bass
FAMILY TRIBUTE .....	William Erik Honesty Duane Sudler Pamela Bacon
MUSICAL SELECTION .....	<i>"No Love Dying"</i> Sherry Butler – Vocalist Sumi Tonooka – Piano Nazir Ebo – Drums Lee Smith – Bass
LIFE STORY .....	Beth Feldman Brandt
SERMON .....	Pastor Violet Little and South African Spiritual – Sharon Katz
COMMENDATION	
RECESSIONAL .....	<i>"I'll Fly Away"</i> (The Faith We Sing Hymnal #2282)



A  
*Guitarist...*  
A  
*Vocalist...*  
A  
*Bandleader...*



# Stay Strong

-Monnette

To all my sisters  
in the world shining so bright-  
stay strong!

To all my brothers  
in the world shining so bright-  
stay strong!

When all folks stand together  
we all will be better;  
don't be silent any more  
speak out  
reach out  
stay strong!









## *Pall Bearers*

William Erik Honesty  
Lamar Honesty  
Truman Sudler, III  
Vernon Gardner

Napoleon Robinson  
Warren Sudler  
Mark Palacio  
Adam Faulk

*Interment*  
PRIVATE  
LAUREL HILL CEMETERY

## *Repast*

Immediately Following  
the Service  
CLIVEDEN CARRIAGE HOUSE  
6401 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

## *Poem by Monnette*

Have you ever witnessed the morning sun  
Rise, bursting fire ball in the east  
My spirit welcomes its warmth  
Stretching, I awaken  
I am so grateful  
For life and love  
God loves me  
Hugs my  
Soul

## *Thank You*

Monnette Sudler-Honesty's family would like to take this opportunity to extend their sincere appreciation for the many kind expressions of sympathy, words of comfort, and prayers extended during our time of bereavement. May each of you be forever blessed and held in God's tender loving care.

A special thank you to the people of FUMCOG for their welcome and hospitality, and to the village of friends, family, and supporters who contributed to making this day memorable and beautiful in honor of Monnette.



Professional Services:

**Alfonso Cannon Funeral Chapels**

2315 N Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19132

(215) 225-5088

[www.alfonsocannonfuneralchapels.com](http://www.alfonsocannonfuneralchapels.com)

Florence M. Cannon, Supervisor

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