



## Suzanne Kiesz

July 16, 1944 - October 6, 2018

### OBITUARY OF SUZANNE B. KIESZ

A life filled with smiles, family, love, service, friends and faith ended with Suzie's death on October 6,

2018. Diagnosed with cancer in 2013, she lived upbeat and active through most of the 5 years of

treatments, with the last few months showing the strain, until she died at home, surrounded by her loving

but sad family. Suzie's life was devoted to her family and helping the community over the years. She

volunteered at her children's schools, coached soccer, led a flock or two of Bluebird girls and a group of

Cub Scouts, and was on hand for all the sports, plays, and other activities of her family.

Helping others

and carrying her positive outlook was a need Suzie fulfilled in many ways. She was active in the

community, serving on numerous volunteer boards and service groups, several as president, including

the Advisory Board of the Area Agency on Aging, Mobile Meals (where she was also one of the initial

group of drivers, lasting until her health prevented her from continuing), The Little Art Gallery

(Wenatchee's first gallery), Wenatchee Junior Hospital Guild, the Children's Foundation Guild, and others.

Being active in the First United Methodist Church was something she also loved, serving on and heading

many committees and volunteering for a number of projects over the years. She had a need to be

helpful and lift others up and carried out that need.

Her social activities didn't suffer, including her participation in the Zetetic Book Club, a couples Bridge

group (for over 45 years), and her “UnBridge” group of ladies who decided that playing cards interfered with their socializing. She loved skiing (and had a season pass for at least 25 years, including while going through chemotherapy), and really enjoyed getting together with her good friends. Her energy exhausted others as she breezed through household activities, attended to a large and well appointed yard of flowers and plantings, and always found time to walk and play with her beloved dogs. Suzie never missed an opportunity to be generous, sending gifts for most any occasion, and is famous at the school where her daughter Shanna teaches in Santa Cruz for the packages of gifts Suzie sent to the children in Shanna’s classes on many holidays. The love and devotion Suzie gave her family was immense. She was actively involved not only in her children’s lives, but also in her grandchildren’s lives, attending nearly every birthday, going to most all plays and sporting events, holding tea parties and spending countless hours being a wonderful Mom, Grandmother, Aunt, and Spouse. Suzie was born in Annapolis, Md. and moved with her family to southern California when she was very young, graduating from high school in Santa Barbara, Ca. She was active in school, activities, and sports being a graceful water skier, earning awards for her basketball skills, and receiving a trophy for the number of times her sailboat “turtled” (flipped over) during races. In part because of her love of water and trees, remembering her youth at the family’s summer home in the California mountains on Lake Arrowhead, she chose college at the University of Oregon in Eugene, which was to the good fortune of her future husband, Bob, as they met at the University the first or second week of their freshman year, and were married 4 years later in Nov. of 1966. Suzie was active on campus. She joined Alpha Phi sorority and was a Homecoming princess her junior year, among other things. In early 1967

the pair moved to Menlo Park, CA where Bob worked for a bank and Suzie taught elementary school until June of 1968, when they moved back to Eugene for Bob to attend law school. Suzie gave birth to 2 children, Nicole and Todd, while in Eugene, and served as assistant manager of a well worn student housing project, often toting around 2 toddlers as she responded to tenant issues. In 1971 they moved to Wenatchee where Bob worked as a lawyer. Their third child, Shanna, was born in 1973. Suzanne is survived by her husband of almost 52 years, Bob, her Daughter, Nicole Grayson, in Lake Oswego, Or. (and Nicole's 3 children: Bailey, Nicholas, and Remington); her son Todd Kiesz, in Wenatchee (and Todd's wife Amy and their 4 children: Parker, Elliot, Ava, and Celia); her Daughter Shanna Kiesz in Santa Cruz, CA. (and Shanna's fiancé Ian and his daughter Naiya); her sister, Barbara Metcalf (Jim) in Santa Barbara; her brother Rob Bollay (Ann) in San Luis Obispo; and her sister Kathy Bollay (Fred) in Alabama, along with Suzie's devoted dog, Summer. Suzie's life was well lived, if far too short.

Funeral Services will be at First United Methodist Church at 2:00 pm on Friday, October 26, 2018; which will be followed by a Celebration of Suzie's life at the Wenatchee Golf and Country Club. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Suzanne's name to: Wellness Place in Wenatchee, or the Seattle Children's Hospital Research Foundation.

# Events

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**OCT 26**   **Celebration of Life Service**   02:00PM

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First United Methodist

941 Washington, Wenatchee, WA, US, 98801

# Comments

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“ Dear Bob and family:

It is with deep sorrow that I write my condolences to you. Suzie will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Suzie lit up a room when she entered it. It was remarkable. There was literally a lightening of spirit, a clarity in the air and a feeling of joy. Her beautiful smile will always be remembered.

Fondly, Jan and Wayne Tanaka

**Jan Tanaka** - October 22, 2018 at 01:01 PM

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“ A bundle of lifetime joy was Suzie-you always were uplifted being in her company-God has taken one of his angels, a very special one

**david and nancy petrone** - October 22, 2018 at 12:50 PM

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“ Dear Bob and Family,

I thought about your dearest Suzy very recently and fondly this past summer. It was at the swimming pool in the community where I now live in Seattle. I thought about Suzy arriving at the club pool in the summers of the 70's and 80's, most typically in the late afternoon to pause from her work at the house to join the kids. I always noticed Suzy's fabulous sun hat and radiant smile coming from around the corner and down the steps greeting all with kindness. Her genuine joy and enthusiasm for life was felt in those entrances. I remember Suzy's spirit just like summer sunshine so reliably bringing cheer, warmth, and great presence to all with such magnitude and grace. I'm terribly sorry for your loss.

With much love and appreciation for Suzy and you all,  
Trina Pickens

**Trina Picens** - October 20, 2018 at 02:09 PM

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Dear Bob and family,

It was with great sadness that we learned of Susie's passing. What a fighter she was! But what was most incredible was her never ending smile, her generous spirit and obvious love of her family, friends and giving to this community, even while she was so ill and fighting such an awful battle. She touched everyone's heart and that in itself is a tremendous tribute. I first met Susie in the mid-80's when I got involved in the Little Art Gallery and always felt welcomed and lucky that I had landed in this town, because of people like Susie. I know your hearts are broken as our ours with losing her.

With our deepest sympathy,  
Tom and Kris Bassett

**Kris Bassett** - October 18, 2018 at 12:05 PM

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Susie was an amazing, humble person who cared about all people.

As an employee of North Cascades National Bank where husband Bob sat as a Director, I would witness Susie making a point of visiting with ALL employees regardless of job position...from the newest hired teller to the Branch Manager at the Christmas Parties normally held at Sun Mountain. It was SO obvious she cared about people...that everyone was important....that everyone had a life story. Feedback at staff meetings after the Christmas parties was appreciation of her making such an effort. But then, that is what the Kiesz's were about. Bob, an amazing "Lincolnesque" lawyer and Susie, who made the world a better place. My father graduated University of Oregon in 1935 and was a passionate alumni all his life. Both he and Susie are no doubt celebrating Oregon's win over my beloved Huskies last Saturday.  
Hugs to Bob.

**Tib Plughoff** - October 14, 2018 at 11:02 PM

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Dear Bob and family,

We were very saddened to hear of Suzie's recent passing. We have very fond memories of her from our years in Wenatchee and know what a wonderful lady she was. We share in your loss as do her many friends there.

With deepest sympathy,  
Sharon and Kirby Primm  
Wake Forest, NC

**R Kirby Primm** - October 14, 2018 at 06:19 PM

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“ Suzie was the best neighbor and friend anyone could ask to have. Her smile began in her heart and spread to her mouth and eyes.

I have many fond memories of Kamp Kiesz, of celebrations with family and friends and always, Suzie being the hostess with the mostest.

My heart goes to Bob and family. I know you are all sad at this loss, but let that wealth of memories of love and laughter keep your spirits lifted.

I have not doubt that she has gone to where she most wanted to be. Welcomed with the words, Welcome, my good and faithful servant.

Much love to you all,

Pam, Danny & Tommy Aguilu

**Pam Aguilu** - October 10, 2018 at 11:20 PM