



Susan Ambrose Shumway

April 26, 1943 - January 13, 2023

Susan Ambrose Shumway, formerly of Corvallis, passed away at her home in Albany, Oregon on Friday, January 13th following a brief illness.

Susan was born in Savannah, Georgia in 1943 to Alice and Henry Woodward. She spent most of her childhood in Arlington, Virginia, with the exception of a two year stay in Japan where she moved with her family when she was nine.

She had three daughters with her first husband, before meeting her soulmate Bill Shumway in Amherst, Massachusetts. They moved to Oregon in 1974, where she worked 14 years as a legal assistant for the Benton County District Attorney's Office. There she helped set up the Rape Crisis Center. She then worked as an advertising director for Rubber Stamp Madness magazine and continued to pursue her lifelong love of art and writing. At the age of 67, she graduated from Western Oregon University with a degree in psychology and spent her later years using the skills she'd gained to volunteer with Hospice and the Corvallis Art Center Arts Care program, helping people to put their life stories into words. Susan also served on the selection committees for Benton County Cultural Trust and Habitat for Humanity and as an arts coordinator for the Academy of Lifelong Learning.

Susan loved exploring the Cascade mountains and the deserts of the western US. She was also an avid reader and writer, especially of poetry, and enjoyed

sharing her writing with her book clubs, writing critique groups and close friends. She believed in the power of a strong family and devoted herself to creating that in her own life. In addition, she was community-oriented, participating in numerous social justice, gun control and environmental advocacy efforts and volunteer activities that supported women, children and families.

She considered her many friends and family members to be her biggest asset. Her greatest strength, perhaps, was her ability to bring her active imagination and sense of fun to everything she did with them. In her own words, she was “determined to love everyone, enjoy every culture and learn from everyone she met.”

She is survived by her husband, William (Bill) Shumway, the love of her life for nearly 50 years, her three siblings (Joan, Karen and Hank) and by their five children: Robyn Neupauer (Michael), Paige McReynolds (Michael), April Warburton (Henrik), Corey Shumway (Tawnya) and Crystal Neal (Joseph) and their 11 grandchildren: Nick (Krystle), Ben, Cymrych (Kat), Kayla, Josh, Alec, Wes, Adam, Trevor, Oliver and Maya. She is preceded in death by her parents Henry and Alice (Morde) Woodward.

A celebration of life is planned for Tuesday, January 24th from 1:30 to 4:00 at Lakeside Center in Mennonite Village, Albany, Oregon. Memories, stories, etc. can be shared on the De Moss-Durdan website.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 24. 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Mennonite Village, Lakeside Center
5353 Columbus Street SE
use the south entrance
Albany, OR 97322

Tribute Wall

CB

“ *Christine B. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Susan Ambrose Shumway.*



Christine B. - July 23, 2024 at 10:21 AM

LB

“ *I worked with Sue at RSM. She always brought a smile and an abundance of energy and patience each day. She and Bill always made me feel like family every time I saw them. May you fly with the angels.*



Liz Baker - February 22, 2023 at 05:13 PM

CS

“ *Susan's wry sense of humor and ability to seemingly always know just the right thing to say to make one feel better, prouder, happier will sorely be missed. Hugs to all who will have to carry on with just our memories now.*

Cynthia Specer - February 02, 2023 at 01:01 PM

AR

“ The people you are connected to while growing up help shape who you are, and Sue certainly did that for me. I will never forget her laugh, or sitting with her in front of the woodstove on 18th St in Corvallis. Her way of sitting like folded origami. How fun was the annual christmas wreath affixed to the front door, beribboned with candy and a pair of scissors so guests could help themselves to a treat? Magic. She put the television in a closet during summers- come back in the fall! It's time to be outside now. Sue was a joy and will be remembered with love and laughter. Amy, Jon & Max Reed

Amy Reed - January 27, 2023 at 01:58 PM

NL

“ Susan was one of the kindest people I have ever met. She was also generous, funny, honest and devoted to Bill. We will miss her shining star!
Nancy Loving82@yahoo.com

Nancy Loving - January 25, 2023 at 11:53 AM

CA

“ Sue was an amazing poet and gave a lot to our group Poetic License. While I wasn't able to know her more than that, it was enough to see how special she was, and how dear she must be to all who knew her. Sending hugs to family!
Cathy McGuire

Cathy - January 24, 2023 at 05:07 PM

JF

“ Sue, wherever you are, may you find ever more quirky, hilarious, and lyrical ways to express your love and exasperation for this gorgeous and now totally demented world you have left behind for awhile. May you be encountering your beloveds on both sides of the veil in unique and playful, loving ways, as is your practice. And may you be finding, and from time to time helping us to find as well, peace in the knowledge that all will be well, all will be well, and all manner of things truly will be well. With my deep love for you and for Bill, and so many others, and with a great deal of poetic license, Jesse. Blg big BIG hugs!

Jesse Ford - January 24, 2023 at 12:30 PM

JT

“ Some like Sue defined her own life's mold which she filled with grace, kindness, flexible determination and purposeful goals. At her core Sue's mold was her love and understanding of others and always Laughter...Loud Laughter.

Her mold will never break or be forgotten.

Jim & Jacki RoofMates

jim Thigpen - January 24, 2023 at 11:39 AM

WS

“ Sue's sensibility and spirit have deeply graced our longstanding poetry critique and support group Poetic License. The image of her and Bill reading one of my poems in bed and savoring it heartened and sustained as did her own unique takes on the world in poetic form. I am aware of just a fraction of what and who she gave her energy and life force to but recognize the hugeness and bounty of those gifts. Her turn of phrase and wry humor and, most of all, her love live on in the vibrational field we all share. Deep gratitude!

Wyn Schoch - January 24, 2023 at 09:45 AM

PW

“ Thank you Sue for seeing into who I really am and for helping me to see too. To be thankful for all the moments that are me and to laugh aloud even as I cry. God speed good and faithful friend



Pam Wilson - January 24, 2023 at 01:06 AM

LG

“ I've been missing Sue and her wit and insightful comments in our Thursday Zoom book group. I've missed her gentle and wise comments at Poetic License, our poetry critique group. I'll continue to miss heartfelt interactions with her that have gone on for MANY years.

Her kindness, quick smile, delightful sense of humor, hugs, and deep spiritual connection are now just memories, and I'm so grateful that I have those memories. I'm glad I have copies of many of her fine poems as well. What a fine writer she was.

Sue was such an amazing person, and she and Bill were an incredible team, and so, so creative. They have both contributed so much to the community, to friends and family. The world is a better, bright place because of their contributions, and their way of being with others. My heart goes out to all her family she leaves behind, and to her large circle of friends.

Linda Gelbrich - January 23, 2023 at 09:30 PM

LG

“ *Linda Gelbrich lit a candle in memory of
Susan Ambrose Shumway*



Linda Gelbrich - January 23, 2023 at 09:17 PM

“ Sue Shumway stories

Our first visit to Mennonite Village we met Sue and Bill at their home. We were accompanying our dear friend, Annclaire on her official tour to see if she'd like to consider moving to the Village. Annclaire's association and knowing of Bill & Sue greatly predated ours, so we joined Annclaire when they invited us into their home so we could see firsthand what it felt like to live in the Village.

We felt like we'd just walked into the home of our family. Sue and Bill gave us such an instant sense of camaraderie. We put in our application to the Village that same day. And here we are, living very happily as part of Mennonite Village. And every time we've met Sue or Bill down at the Community Garden, or at the Village Library, instant warmth has issued forth from both of them!

Another time that we saw Sue and Bill Shumway in tandem was at the Philomath Museum when they had their gallery showing of Sue's poems and of Bill's paintings that spoke to each other. It was an experience of walking in the midst of the grace that the two of them shared that issued forth to us.

I share Karen's statements and observations regarding Bill and Sue. It is our bent to ask questions as we seek to learn about the lives of folks new to us. The answers from these two reverberated with the depth of their own knowing about themselves and their world. Bill's come with images and a view into the broad world of representation through oil and art. Sue's were written in the words she so artfully assembled to give insight and wonder from a different source. And her canvas was evident foremost on her face, her smile, in the unique timber of her voice. Bill's magic is like discovering a garden full of flowers; Sue's in smelling the magic of their fragrance. Together, they carry me into a place I would not have seen or noticed otherwise. Thanks so much to you both!

Blessings on us all as we live this life further with Sue in our hearts,

Karen Kennedy & Joe Whinnery

Karen Kennedy - January 22, 2023 at 06:50 PM

RM

“ *I miss my lovely friend and the best possible neighbor I could ask for. I will always remember our delightful conversations.*

Regina Millard - January 21, 2023 at 01:54 PM

BA

“ *My best friend forever and always.*

Barbara - January 20, 2023 at 08:41 PM

CD

“ *Sue's infectious laugh rings in my ears when I think of her. Her love for those around her was so blinding (even in stern moments) that you could not but feel a lightness and comfort that there is a way through the wild ride that is life.*

Christopher Dymond - January 20, 2023 at 12:04 PM

AV

“ *Sue was the epitome of kindness and enthusiasm for others. Her smile and positivity bubbled out and blessed everyone around her. She was a talented writer and role model of "how to life a full life." I'm so glad to have been touched by her loving spirit. Her memory will be eternal. Angie Voss*

Angelyn Voss - January 19, 2023 at 08:04 PM

RM

I always felt she only wanted to be with me when we met. Such a gift I will try to embrace.

ruby moon - January 24, 2023 at 11:41 AM

KF

“ *What can I say about Sue? I love her and I wish I could have been there for her. Bill, we are here for you 24/7. We will see you on 1/24. Love to all, Karen & David Force*



Karen Force - January 18, 2023 at 07:51 PM