



Suzanne "Suzi" Jane Birch

September 26, 1946 - February 3, 2025

Suzi Birch grew up in a loving family; she was devoted to her parents, Pauline and Hio, her brother Peter and her sister, Diana. She grew up in Culver City, California, and often expressed fond memories of her childhood. It was a special community where her elementary and high schools were in close walking distance from her home. Suzi often recalled the times together as a family going to Morro Bay and spending long days at the beach in Santa Monica.

When she went to Long Beach State, she majored in PE and history. It was at Long Beach State that she met Bill Birch, and they married in 1968. At a Young Life Camp, serving as counselors, Bill and Suzi both gave their hearts to Jesus right along with the campers. This pivotal decision set their life in motion as one of ministry to high school kids through Young Life. During their early married life, Suzanne also worked as a dance instructor in San Jose. The young couple moved to Mount Shasta in 1970 where Bill taught at Dunsmuir High School and Suzi taught at Weed High School. They lived there for nine exciting years enjoying the outdoors and ministering through Young Life. Suzi described this time as one of great revival for the local Young Life group with many students accepting Christ as their Savior. They also had their first two children there - Christian and Amy.

After moving to Scott Valley in 1978, Suzanne stayed home to raise their children, now numbering four, after adding Kimberly and Kyndall to the family. Their children were a blessing to her, and she focused her teaching on giving

them a strong foundation. The outdoors became an important part of their family life, too, as Bill and Suzi incorporated it into their daily lives - whether hiking or skiing or playing tennis. Suzi always loved gardening, canning and baking fresh bread for family and friends. She returned to teaching at Scott River High School where she began teaching art. Suzi loved the connections she made with these students; not only did she encourage them in their education, but the students loved her endless energy and creativity. It was during this time she also battled her first bout with cancer, but she didn't let it slow her down.

After teaching at Scott River High, she was asked to teach art at Etna High School. Suzi loved teaching art where she guided students to see the beauty of the outdoors and to develop ways to express it. She taught ceramics and weaving, too, developing her own skill as she did so. Wherever she went, whether while backpacking, at tennis tournaments or spending time in her yard, one would see her with sketch pad, paints and portable easel. Truly, her walk with the Lord was often captured in the landscapes she became well known for, and she was as generous with her talent as she was in sharing her love of Christ. She began to build a business, too, creating soaps and distilling oils and salves. These she sold at craft fairs all over the county, and friends and customers looked forward to purchasing these creations as well as her artwork.

Suzi entered her beautiful paintings in art shows and won a number of awards. She became a foundational member of the Fort Jones Gallery. Not only did she love painting and teaching it to others in classes she held there, but she thoroughly loved teaching the Bible and leading Bible studies as well. From young high school students to adult women, Suzi impacted many lives. Every morning, she could be found sitting by her fireplace, reading her Bible, taking notes, and collecting those thoughts in artform.

It was in losing Bill that Suzi's faith was put through another test, but she recognized even then that the Lord was at work. And when she was hit once more with cancer, she found new ways to focus on that faith through art.

During the months of cancer treatment, she spent one year composing a daily devotional art book with every page reflecting scriptures that spoke to her, enhanced by a sketch or watercolor. She later made a flip calendar of her watercolors and the words that inspired her.

Along with her love for art and teaching the Bible, Suzi found joy in being her husband's constant companion. For 53 special years, they were very close, not only as husband and wife, prayer partners and teachers, but as best friends, too. Suzi and Bill traveled everywhere together, whether overseas, to Alaska, or into the mountains, whether out hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, skiing, playing tennis, gardening or riding horses. Spent with family and friends, they connected with people through their love of God, nature, and life. Suzi's joy was also found in the precious time she spent with her grandchildren, whether in teaching them art, letting them ride her golf cart (though spinning doughnuts in the yard was not approved of, but granted!), or in taking trips to the creek or mountains. She loved watching them play sports and eagerly listened to them share their dreams of the future. Gigi, as she was known, was loved dearly by all of them and she will be missed.

Suzanne leaves her son Christian (Monique), daughters Amy (Jason), Kimberly (Will) and Kyndall (Brady), and her beloved grandchildren, Payton, Tycen (Alise), Boden, Damon, Haedon, Eiler, Ellie, and Luca, as well as her first great grandson, (Seb). She also leaves her sister Diana, brother Peter (Kay) and nephew Brandt (Kristi) and son (Captain), and sister in-law Sandy (Dave) and son David.

Suzi Birch leaves a legacy of immutable love for God, a zest for life, a warrior-like spirit, and a deep desire to encourage and inspire others. She will be missed.

Service will be held at Scott Valley Berean Church on Saturday February 22nd at 4:00 pm. In lieu of flowers the family requests you donate in memory of Suzi to two organizations very dear to her heart, Kidder Creek Camp <https://kiddercreek.mounthermon.org/> or Rockside Ranch <https://rockside.org>.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Girdner Funeral Chapel - April 27 at 03:31 PM

KA

“ *it's with sadness I have learned of this news. Had the privilege of meetin Suzi and Bill as a canoe guide in northern Canada some years ago. Their warmth and sunny energy and their love for others, horses and their home and family radiated out from them like warm California sunlight. They were beautiful people. May they rest in peace. My condolences.*

Katie - April 12, 2025 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ We met in dance class in Culver City CA so many year ago as eager youngsters full of energy and promise. Who was to know that we would travel together through grammar school, junior high, and the "big one" -- High School - CCHS Centaurs, Pep Squad (Pom Pom Girls), Ja-Ketts (the popular girls), boyfriends, marriage, family, and yes even in to "old age" (but we were never really "old")? And, through all these years, you never changed from that little person I first met at dance class: Your dimpled smile, giggle, charisma, charm, talent, and always a caring, loving, helpful, loyal friend. You will always be in my heart. You have created and beautiful family and memorable legacy. RIP Suzanne. Love, Candy Spendlove Van Schoyck (and Jack too).



Candace (Candy) Spendlove Van Schoyck - February 16, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Bill and Suzi Birch and "Young Life" highschool ministry were integral to my faith in Christ. Suzi's joy and outreach to us 70's kids has made a lasting impression. My memories of Suzi were kindness, support and love. She was always smiling!

Lori (Madison) Holmberg - February 16, 2025 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ Suzanne has been an amazing friend since 7th grade and she and I and all our buddies visited at our friend's house at a northern lake. Suzanne and I prided ourselves on the game of jacks and believed that we needed to play each other and see who triumphed. We sat down on the floor and started to play and it was close but I won. I will play her again when I get to heaven some day and maybe it will be her turn to win. ❤️ Paulette
I will miss that beautiful smile.

Paulette Diamant - February 16, 2025 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *To the Birch Family
It was a pleasure to know Suzi & your entire family
She was such a wonderful teacher
Of Christ & Bible-study back in 1980
& we all enjoyed sharing special moments & family spending time at
the Birch house & the smell of homemade bread & watching each
one of the BIECH CHILDREN grow up
As well as share times mending wounds of families
BOTH SUZI & BILL will be dearly missed our condolences to you all*
❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️
*Susan Bigham-Lanning
& Families*

Susan BIGHAM-LANNING - February 16, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *What a sweet lady!*

Jan Corrigan - February 16, 2025 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *Suzi and I intersected first at women's Bible studies at Scott Valley
Berean Church, and later at Marble Rim Gallery, though her
watercolor classes, where her respect and love for a wide variety of
people greatly piqued my interest and admiration. I would say this
quality was key in launching me on a better trajectory of letting
Jesus flow through me.*

Susan Houg - February 15, 2025 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ I was saddened to hear of Suzi's passing. I really enjoyed working with her for many years at the Marble Rim Gallery, an artistic community cooperative endeavor in Fort Jones. She displayed so many different incredible creations at the Gallery and was always willing to share her talent by teaching classes to others in Scott Valley. Her laughter was infectious and her smile could light up a room. She will be sorely missed by her beautiful art will live on.

Tina Chenevert - February 15, 2025 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ We met Bill and Suzi looking for water for our camp on the other side of the creek. Not only did we get all the water we needed over the years, but we met believers in Jesus who shared the Living Water with us every time we saw them, through their smiles and abounding joy. We glorify the Lord Jesus because of His work of grace in them. They told us they were believers. They acted like they were believers. They were believers in Jesus. We saw the image of Jesus in them. May their tribe increase, and the imprint of their witness be ours.

Bless the LORD, Oh my soul, and all that is within me.

Greg and Cheri Smith - February 15, 2025 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ I will never forget Suzi. She was my art teacher at Scott River High. She was such an incredible, kind and talented lady who I will forever remember and respect. Thank you Mrs. Suzi for enriching all our lives with your amazing spirit!

Holly Seibold - February 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ I'm so saddened to read this. Suzi was a great artist and a lady I really admire and will miss. 🌸👍🌸

Charlene Broce - February 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Ski on.. and I will keep smiling in your honor! Bless be the tie that binds.

Carol Weekley - February 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

FE

“ Very sorry to hear this! Bill and Suzi leave a legacy of love for God, family, and community that will live on! They are rejoined in God's trustworthy hands until the promised reunion just ahead!❤️❤️

Fred Eastman - February 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ I first met Bill and Suzi at Kidder Creek Camp Auctions out in the fields. My friend Wanda Quigley and I would collect and transport treasures for the auction. Their love for God and kids was so evident. When I attended Scott Valley Berean we hugged and remembered those days with Jones when Kidder Creek was young. Their son Christian and our David loved tennis. Prayer hugs for their family and friends. God said job well done reflecting me Suzi. Those love birds are rejoicing with God.

Gary And Kathy Preszler - February 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel

A Memorial Tree was planted for Suzanne "Suzi" Jane Birch - February 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ *My deepest condolences to her family and friends.* 🙏🙏

Kristen Naylor - February 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. She always had a beautiful smile on her face.*

Angie MK - February 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ *She was a beautiful person
I only knew her for a short time.
I would stop at her home and buy eggs from her.
She was always so nice
Makes me tear up reading this
Sending prayers of strength to her family .
Rest in peace Suzi.*

Patricia Schott Goss - February 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ *So sorry to hear this. My deepest condolences to the whole family.*
🙏🕊️

Alison Lang - February 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM