



Susan Lynn Menzel

June 21, 1953 - October 1, 2022

Susan Lynn Menzel passed away peacefully on October 1, 2022, at the age of 69, from complications due to hemorrhagic stroke on July 17th.

Born June 21, 1953, in Chicago IL, third of six children to Edith (née Kincannon) and William Menzel (both deceased). Sue moved to Hayward WI in 1972 and was briefly married to Clarence Espersen and had two daughters. She graduated from Lakeview High School (Chicago IL) in 1971 with honors. She received degrees from Davenport College (Grand Rapids MI) and LCO Ojibwe College (Hayward WI). She returned to Chicago after retiring in early 2022.

Being a teen during the tumultuous sixties, Sue's passion for human rights and environmentalism were sparked. She often referenced being a part of the first Earth Day Demonstration in 1970. Throughout her life she also had a hunger for history, politics and education, volunteering at polling stations and protesting injustices on street corners until the very end. Highlights of her broad array of lifetime careers include Sustainable Agriculture Manager and Educator at LCO College Farm (Hayward WI) until retirement, 20+ years in EMS as an EMT, Paramedic, and EMS Instructor at WITC (Hayward and Rice Lake WI areas), Dam Keeper (Radisson WI) and Librarian at the Carnegie Library (Hayward WI). Her vast volunteer work, to name only a few, included AmeriCorps, Sawyer County Dems, WOJB tribal radio station, Sawyer County Historical Society, Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Peggy Norbert Nature Museum and First Nations Gardens. Sue spoke on many panels for Native

American issues and education. She was also a master gardener, bee keeper, seed preservationist, historian storyteller, musician and art lover.

She will be dearly missed by her daughters Buffy (Jerry) Mohlman (Chicago IL) and Lynn Bruggeman (Radisson WI) and her four grandchildren Katie, Kyleigh, Jacob, and Julian. Surviving siblings are Judy Menzel (Alva OK), Donna (Wayne) Witthuhn (Belvidere IL) and Danny (Deb) Menzel (Lombard IL), plus many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her older brothers, Gene (Jonel) Menzel (Joliet IL) and Daniel Louis Menzel (Chicago IL).

Sue had a truly kind, knowledgeable, and driven soul. She lived every day purposefully and touched many lives in a variety of ways. She had her community she loved in Northern Wisconsin, as well as the new friends she was making upon her return to Chicago. She talked very fondly about her neighbors at Ravenswood Manor and at her various volunteer positions. She had big plans for them!

Celebration of life will be announced at future dates. Expressions of sympathy to the family can be directed to her daughters or siblings or as a donation to one of the places she volunteered.

Tribute Wall



“ *Susan Lynn Menzel*

October 08, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Sue truly made the LCO farm such a pleasant, welcoming, and beautiful space. I always think fondly back to the summer of 2020 when our little farm family would sit down and make the most decadent lunches. We later found out Sue didn't like kimchi when we tried making kimchi dumplings. Memorable lunches with the farm crew and any elders who would join us! Thank you Sue for introducing me to so many types of heirloom beans and corn and for all the world music recommendations. My music taste has been broadened thanks to you.*



Anangookwe Wolf - November 06, 2022 at 09:38 PM



“ *Sue was my EMS instructor when I started with Sawyer County EMS. From there we became friends, with lives that passed close by many times, especially when she was the “damzel” in Radisson. We then shared our love of music, food dehydrating (!) and she taught me electric bikes were a thing! I will miss her, and her unique perspective on life.*

Peggy Byrnes - October 14, 2022 at 08:13 AM

TN

“ Sue was a great friend. She even had a birthday cake for me one summer. She left to return to her home with plans to return to visit me. So very sorry. She will be missed.

Thelma Nayquonabe - October 12, 2022 at 10:24 AM

BR

“ Sue helped many people in her life. She was kind and thoughtful. I keep thinking I'll run into her, at the library, coffee shop, and I will see her glorious smile. I'm so sorry.

Buffy Riley - October 11, 2022 at 10:12 PM

KB

She spoke so fondly of you and your partner. Very proud mother and looked forward to her Chicago trips for the world food market and spending time with you. Sorry for your loss. Magical things in nature, being green and bees along with many other things will continue to remind me of her happy soul.

Kim Beaudin - October 11, 2022 at 11:55 PM

DW

“ I always looked up to Sue growing up. I was her sidekick on numerous memorable adventures through the years. Our trip to Canada was my favorite. We attended a 3 day folk festival filled with incredible performers & camped out at national parks in a 2 man tent nighty. She was always there for me & I reciprocated. We were Kinks, Scrabble & Dr Who buddies. Our birthdays were a week apart & we always had a special celebration together. With retirement on my horizon, we were about to spend tons of time together finally. Sue passing has taken a piece of my heart that can never be replaced.

Donna Witthuhn - October 11, 2022 at 05:52 PM

TF

“ Sue found this land we call home forty years ago. She introduced me to PeeWee Herman, Laurie Anderson, and the Landing. She beat me in Scrabble over coffees many times. She was funny and kind and I already miss her terribly.

terri fuller - October 11, 2022 at 04:54 PM

NJ

“ Sue could do it all! Not only was she an incredible and dynamic volunteer, but a teacher who instilled a passion and curiosity in all who had the privilege to learn from her. We are so grateful we were lucky enough to have her in our lives. May she rest in peace. Love to her family, from all of us at Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary.



Nikki Janisin - October 11, 2022 at 04:39 PM

DM

“ Sue and I butted heads for decades, but I have to say the last ten plus years we as brother and sister became very close friends. I will miss teasing her and learning from her (usually at the same time). God Speed Suzy a big giant hug to you from your widdo brudder Dan



Dan Menzel - October 11, 2022 at 04:20 PM

DM

The photo is of Lake Pacwehwewong on The Namekagon River (the site of an ancient Ojibwa settlement).

Dan Menzel - October 11, 2022 at 04:23 PM

LJ

Heartfelt words from a widdo brudder to his sister. May the closeness that you two found bring you peace.

Laura Jamrozik - October 11, 2022 at 04:26 PM

KS

I had the good luck of knowing Sue since the day she was born. We were born the same year. My aunt married her great uncle. Will never forget how much she cared for humanity. Kathy Sammartino

Kathleen Ann Sammartino - October 14, 2022 at 07:40 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Barr Funeral Home - October 11, 2022 at 01:02 PM