

**In Memory of**  
**Susan Groth Ketchledge**  
**(1942-2019)**

Susan Groth Ketchledge, née Russell, was born March 28, 1942 in Akron, Ohio, to John and Ruth Russell, née Kindig. Susie died in the early morning hours of December 9, 2019, at Sharp Grossmont Hospital, near her home in San Diego due to complications from a kidney infection.

Susie attended Buchtel High School in Akron, Ohio, and graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1964 with a B.S. in Psychology. She was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and the Junior League for most of her life.

Sue lived in North Carolina, San Diego, and Maryland just outside of Washington, DC. Her biggest joy in life was the birth of her son, John, with her second husband in 1980. She met her current husband Edward Ketchledge through their Bethesda, Maryland, Bahá'í community and they married in a Bahá'í ceremony in New Orleans on August 27, 1999. Ed was a devoted husband and the love of Susie's life throughout their 20 years of marriage, and a blessing for her as a caregiver in her later years.

Throughout her life Susie held a great appreciation for fine art, and she worked for a time at the National Endowment for the Arts. She loved movies and Hollywood, and as a little girl had coloring books of her favorite actress, Elizabeth Taylor. When she grew up, she won a contest to have dinner with Taylor and her husband John Warner in their home, a highlight of her life. Her enthusiasm for film was contagious. She knew her family's favorite films and actors and whenever they were on TV, she'd give them a call to let them know.

Sue loved to travel and enjoyed planning every detail. It began with cross-country trips as a kid with her parents and sister, Patricia, and continued with international excursions with friends as an adult. She planned dozens of road trips through National Parks of the Southwest with her son, John, and regular romantic getaways to Alaska and across the country with her husband Ed. She favored visits to historical and iconic venues like The Broadmoor in Colorado, The Breakers in Rhode Island, Windows on the World in New York and The Hotel del Coronado in California. No matter the venue, Susie savored every meal and wanted them all to be a one-of-a-kind experience.

Sue adored people and the opportunity to make new friends, especially when she was new to a city or social circle. She made a point to remember thoughtful details upon first meetings, and then later,

finding the perfect little gift that showed she cared. From Christmas ornaments with a pet's names to clothes from an ancestral country, Susie was always thinking of others. She expanded her interests to enjoy more time with those close to her, finding a love of tennis with friends in San Diego, taking her son and his friends on ski trips while drinking hot chocolate in the lodge, and learning the Bahá'í faith from her friends in Bethesda. She cherished her dogs, from her beloved Maltese Terriers to her strays Yaqui and Rascal, and most recently the spunky Sparky who passed away some years ago.

As her health deteriorated later in life, travel became difficult. Susie was thrilled to be able to attend her son's wedding in Iowa in 2014. She delighted in her two-year-old grandson Weston during the family's visits, and loved to celebrate special occasions with her sister Pat, who was always there for her. She was a strong woman who faced life's myriad challenges with a spirit of Love.

Susan is survived by her family: husband Ed Ketchledge; son John K. Groth and daughter-in-law Chelsey Christensen of Washington, D.C., their son Weston; and her sister Patricia Russell and her son John Russell of Los Angeles, California.

Funeral Services for Susie will be 2:00pm, Friday, December 27th, at Mt. Hope Cemetery, located at 3751 Market St, San Diego, California. Directions to the grave site will be posted on the bulletin board to the right at the Market Street entrance. A remembrance lunch will follow. Please visit Sue's page on the Cali Home Funeral Services website for updated details and to express online condolences:

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

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any donations be directed to the San Diego Bahá'í Center via email at [finance@sandiegobahai.org](mailto:finance@sandiegobahai.org) through either Zelle or PayPal, or to an arts organization of the donor's choosing. All Bahá'í donations will help defray the cost of her burial expenses.