



Suzanne Pruchnicki

July 24, 1929 - August 28, 2017

Suzanne Smith Granzow Pruchnicki, 88, of rural Bourbonnais, passed away peacefully Monday (Aug. 28, 2017) at Riverside Miller Rehabilitation in Kankakee.

She was born in Chicago, July 24, 1929, the eldest daughter of Edmond and Dorothy Schilling Smith.

Suzanne and Harry Granzow II, U.S. Navy, were united in marriage in 1951. The couple had two children, a daughter, Charlotte, and a son, Harry Granzow III. They divorced in 1967. She and Paul John Pruchnicki married in 1981.

Surviving are her husband, Paul; her children, Charlotte, and son-in-law, Alan Caron, of Port Orchard, Wash., and their children, Edward and Lydia; her son, H.J., and daughter-in-law, Lynn Granzow, of Sioux City, Iowa, and their children, Elizabeth, Alex and Austin; nine great-grandchildren; six nephews; and one sister, (Mary) Elmira Smith Wilkey.

Suzanne grew up in Manteno, graduated from Our Lady Academy, completed her BS degree in Education at the University of Illinois and earned an MFA from the Institute de Allende, San Miguel de Allende Guanajuato, Mexico, in 1967, with post-grad study at the Art Institute of Chicago. She was the art

director at Bishop McNamara High School, Kankakee, from 1964 to her retirement in 1984.

In 1977, Suzanne and her sister, Elmira, co-founded the Bronte Press, a limited editions press devoted to producing books on literature and the arts. Suzanne's husband, Paul, a retired educator, became a partner in 1981.

Throughout her lifetime, she was a dedicated world traveler, building her itineraries around her considerable art interests, research for books and acquisition of rare prints. This passion culminated in the creation of a museum featuring exhibits of 550 years of history of fine printing, illustrated books from 1800 to the present, along with presses, tools and materials used at the Bronte Press. The Bronte History of Printing Museum opened to the public in 2001.

She was a volunteer in support of the original Kankakee Concert Series; a several-decades member of the area Great Books; a co-initiator of the George Grey Barnard Lecture Series-Kankakee Historical Society; active in the Manteno Historical Society, for which she designed, edited and illustrated the society's historical Journal and was the recipient of a "superior" award in 1989 from the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies. She held memberships in the Grolier Club, The Caxton Club, The Dickensian Club (Chicago) and The Miniature Book Society. She is a listee in Marquis Who's Who in American Women, 2000-2001. In her final years of engagement, she enjoyed being a volunteer docent at the restored Bloom School, relocated to the grounds of the Manteno Historical Society. In 2015, she received its Lucille Thies Personal Lifetime Achievement Award.

Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Manteno. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manteno. Interment will follow in Bloom Grove

Cemetery in Rockville Township.

Memorials may be made toward a financial gift to a deserving graduate at Bishop McNamara Catholic High School who is attracted to and skilled in art.

Cemetery Details

Bloom Cemetery

W. 8270N Rd.
Manteno, IL 60950

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 30. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Manteno - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
291 N. Main St.
Manteno, IL 60950
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

AUG 31. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Church
207 S. Main St.
Manteno, IL 60950
(815) 468-3403
<http://www.stjosephmanteno.com>

Tribute Wall

JP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John William Peterson - July 24, 2020 at 03:40 PM

CB

“ Christine Breese lit a candle in memory of Suzanne Pruchnicki



Christine Breese - September 12, 2017 at 02:43 AM

SF

“ Dearest Mr. Paul Pruchnicki & Family of Mrs. Suzanne Pruchnicki: After being out of town last week, I have just learned of the passing of this wonderful Lady whom I grew to know as a dear patient and as the wife of a great man. Rarely does one see a more dedicated couple throughout all of their years and knowing Mr. Pruchnicki as we do, he will be devastated at her loss. However, may he find comfort in the knowledge that many, many are praying for him, and in the contentment of knowing that her suffering is over. Apologies for not being able to pay respects at her services. May God bless you during this most difficult time... Sincerely, Dr. & Mrs. Steven D. Williams, MD FACS, & Staff



Steven D. Williams, MD FACS - September 06, 2017 at 08:14 PM

LA

“ *Laura Anderson lit a candle in memory of Suzanne Pruchnicki*



Laura Anderson - September 01, 2017 at 07:23 PM

MR

“ *A truly great lady from the time she was my freshman art teacher at Bishop Mac to the time I was able to share with her and her amazing husband at Riverside Senior Living. A truly inspiring couple. My condolences to the entire family . Michael Raef*

Michael Raef - September 01, 2017 at 07:05 PM

MD

“ *Maria Dion-Morriscal lit a candle in memory of Suzanne Pruchnicki*



Maria Dion-Morriscal - September 01, 2017 at 09:35 AM

MH

I am so privileged to have known Suzanne. My thoughts and prayers are with you Paul and all of your family during this time of Suzanne's passing. I know she is looking down on you from heaven.

Marianne Heinzl - September 01, 2017 at 07:41 PM



“ *Great teacher. Loved Art. Remembered her students years later. Prayers and peace.*

Bill McCabe - September 01, 2017 at 08:19 AM

PF

“ Fifty years ago, Suzanne introduced my classmates and me to Shakespeare and Dickens, to words like "perspicacious" and "sagacious," and to the idea of writing prose with sentences of varying length to maintain a reader's interest. She did all of these things with true zeal.

My deep condolences to all of you who mourn this unforgettable woman.

Patrick Foster

Patrick Foster - August 31, 2017 at 02:04 PM

KM

“ *Suzanne was the first true artist I ever met. By this I don't mean someone who draws, who paints and appreciates the visual arts as she did. By artist I mean someone who lived an artist's life. Who embodied expression in literature, art, poetry music and, I dare contend, every expression of the aesthetic.*

To young 14 year old boy, I found her quite odd. Certainly different. But she was unlike any other teacher one might encounter in a small mid-western. Her measure of what was joy, humorous, ironic, and bliss were a polar opposite to those sitting in her freshman English class or beginning art class or mandatory homeroom.

But she was what she was and we had the opportunity to learn and observe a view of life that was totally different from our own.

Ah, but I was fortunate. I was able to return to my old school and serve alongside her as a colleague. She was the same. I saw her differently then, after the eight years whence I sat in her classroom at a kid. Now, I was ready to understand the beauty she saw in the greatest writers, poets and artists of our civilization. I was much more artistically akin to her then I was at fourteen - when her words, impressions and expressions seemed so foreign to me.

God bless her for bringing her vision of the world into our classroom and into our minds and hearts. She was a great artist and teacher. She was a gift to all of us who knew her.

Kevin McNulty, Sr.

Kevin McNulty - August 31, 2017 at 01:41 PM

RG

“ With heartfelt sympathy to all of her family. Suzanne was an inspiration, a wonderful teacher, and an amazing friend. I feel honored to have had the pleasure of knowing her.

Rebecca Gonski - August 30, 2017 at 03:20 PM

TH

“ Mrs Granzow (as I remember her from high school) and Paul ...Wonderful people ! I have them stored in my heart. It saddens me of Suzanne's passing. I will always cherish memories of her and how she shared her interest in art with her srudents..I always looked forward to art class. She made sure we had a variety of experience from calligraphy to drawing, painting,sculpture,printing techniques,and jewelry making.
I was blessed to be invited to several events at her home and served on the board of the museum of print.
Hugs to Paul and her family for she will be sorely missed.
Terri Hult

Terri Hult - August 30, 2017 at 11:13 AM

CW

“ Blessed lady live well with God!! Such a wonderful woman!! She was always a beacon of love, hope and joy!!!
Claudia L'Ecuyer Wandless BMHS Class of '75

Claudia Wandless - August 30, 2017 at 10:48 AM

Nansi
Norum

“ Blessings to my artistic mentor, Mrs Pruchnicki! Suzanne was an amazing instructor during my Bishop McNamara years; always sharing her talents and enabling her students to bloom! She will be sharing her passions with the angels now and I do hope she and my mom enjoy a cup of tea together! Bon voyage Suzanne, be at peace!



Nansi Norum - August 30, 2017 at 10:43 AM

DS

Mrs. Granzow Pruchnicki was a wonderful art teacher while I was at Bishop McNamara. She helped me discover art. Thank you. Rest In Peace, Suzanne.

Denise Chandler Smith - August 30, 2017 at 11:03 AM

MC

“ Sweet, sweet Suzanne. It was a pleasure to visit with you at Miller Center and I will miss you. Sending prayers and hugs to your family.

Mary Clark - August 30, 2017 at 09:55 AM