



## Susan V. Kuschell

May 23, 1947 - May 18, 2018

Susan V. Kuschell, passed away at her home on May 18, 2018.

She was the beloved wife of Richard Kuschell; beloved mother of David Tenorio (Lisa), Holly T. Bird (Percy), Andre Kuschell (Lisa) Sarah Kuschell (Chuk), and Emily Kuschell and beloved sister to Mike Moore (Karen), Jennifer Moore, and Rick Moore (Bonnie).

Susan was born in Trenton to Richard Emerson Moore of Michigan and Valerie Joyce Manley of England. She grew up in Redford and was a graduate of Thurston High School. Susan was a pioneer in the field of medicine, being one of the first saleswomen in medical testing and owner of Research Reference Laboratory, specializing in esoteric research testing, in Wyandotte.

After retiring from the laboratory, she moved to Traverse City where she and her husband have a successful real estate investment business. In 2000, Susan founded the Grand Traverse Area Children's Garden, located behind the Traverse Area District Library. She took great joy in bringing her passion for gardening and healthy food to the children of this area.

Susan was former President of the Friendly Garden Club and District Director of the Michigan Garden Clubs. She also served as a Board Member and State Photographer for Michigan Garden Clubs. During the winter, Susan could be found creating beautiful decorative trees for auction for the annual Zonta Festival of Trees. Susan was a former Brownie leader and devoted mother to her ten grandchildren, Lauren, Ian, Sonny, Harper, Willow, Mia, Giavanna, Annabella, Eden and Charlie. A friend to all and the "life of the party," Susan enjoyed the company of many friends and often hosted philanthropic and social events. Susan and Richard were married for 37 wonderful years and were constant companions. As the kind and loving matriarch of her family, Susan will be sorely missed.

Visitation will be Tuesday, May 22 from 7 until 9 p.m. at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and a funeral service will take place on Wednesday May 23 at 12 noon with a luncheon in the garden to follow at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

Donations may be made in her memory to the Grand Traverse Area Children's Garden.

# Events

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**MAY**   **Visitation**   07:00PM - 09:00PM

**22**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**MAY**   **Celebration of Life**   12:00PM

**23**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Reynolds Jonkhoff** - June 11, 2018 at 01:01 PM

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“ Dear Richard and family,

We were so very shocked and saddened to hear of Susan's passing. Susan was such a beautiful and kind woman. She will be missed by many!

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Lovingly,  
June and Anthony Palumbo



**June Palumbo** - May 29, 2018 at 01:43 PM

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“ Dear Kuschell family,

Susan was a wonderful and shining person. She will be missed by many. You are all in my prayers.

Marge Roman

**Marge Roman** - May 28, 2018 at 10:37 AM

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“ Kuschell Family,

Condolences from so many of us at Horizon Books who helped Mrs. Kuschell find books for her many projects. Her love of learning and sharing with others always came shining through when talking with her and hearing of her latest activities.

I will be thinking of her when I see pretty flowers anywhere but especially as I walk through the Children's Garden. I feel fortunate to have come into contact with her and catch some of the energy she shared.

Our thoughts & prayers are with you fine folk who will continue to spread her garden of good works.

Margaret S.  
Bookseller, Horizon Books

**Margaret** - May 26, 2018 at 07:17 PM

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“ Dear Emily and Family.

I am so sorry to learn of the death of your mother. It's my hope that you all can cherish having her as your mother and wife, as well as grandmother and friend. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you go on without her until the day all of you are reunited with her on His paradise, Heaven.

She was such an asset to all of us in TC, caring for the gardens at the Library.

Sincerely,

Mary Orth

**Mary Miller Orth** - May 26, 2018 at 08:03 AM

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“ Richard, Emily and family,

My thoughts and prayers of comfort and strength to you. May our loving Lord wrap His arms around all of you. So very sorry for your loss.

Darlene Miller

**Darlene Miller** - May 24, 2018 at 09:31 PM

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“ Richard and Family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Susan was always a joy in the interactions we shared. Dedicated in her passion for the Children's Garden and many other endeavors. Our thoughts are with you and family.

Mark J. Jensen

Mark J. Jensen - May 24, 2018 at 12:32 PM

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“ We were deeply saddened to hear about Susan's passing. She was the most incredible, intelligent, captivating woman. She had such positive energy around her and she accomplished much in her lifetime, truly an inspiration to all. Her family was number one, but she was nurturing to everyone that needed it. I have so many wonderful memories of visiting your family and always felt welcome in your home for there was much laughter and love. My heart is aching for all of you. Wishing and praying for peace to you Richard and your family.

Jim and Debbie Nichols and family and Josephine Knight

patricia nichols - May 23, 2018 at 08:41 PM

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“ To Richard and the Family ,

My deepest condolence to you in the death of your wife and Mother. Susan was one of the sweetest people I have know through the years, and really am shocked that she has left this earth. Had the pleasure of staying in her home many times when I was the State President of Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, (now Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.) ,, and she was a terrific hostess and always made you feel so welcome. She was also instrumental as the administrator of the gift from the Edna Rosenfield estate from the Traverse City Community Foundation to FGCM to establish their first Website. We are so thankful for her help in furthering our mission of reaching more people in the community, about the benefits of being involved in garden club work throughout our State.

Susan was so excited to get the Children's Garden established, and remember coming to the opening of the Gardens. She was so proud that her dream had finally arrived and this would be there to help to educate the children in the community for future generations.

Believe me, she made an impact on all of us and will never be forgotten. Please know that prayers are being said for you today. Again, my deepest sympathy.

Sharon Yantis  
Former MGC State President - 1999-2001  
Portage, MI.

**Sharon Yantis** - May 23, 2018 at 09:12 AM

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“ So many wonderful moments shared with this warm-hearted always smiling friend. I was so glad to be one of your Zonta sisters for many years. My deepest sympathies to the family in the loss of this warm giving lady. Marsha Dew

**Marsha Dew** - May 21, 2018 at 09:55 PM

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“ Oh my, it was such a shock to hear that Susan is gone. She was the best kind of friend - the kind who, despite the separations life sometimes demands, could pick up after an absence and make you feel as though no time had passed and that the bonds of friendship were as fast as ever. I remember with clarity, the laughter shared in NMC pottery studio, the silly elf tree we built together for the Festival of Trees that actually won first place the year we did it, the energy with which she threw herself into everything, the children's garden plant sales, tea and cookies in her kitchen. So many, many good memories... Susan, dear you will be sorely missed - the other half of "Double Trouble," Susan Cooper

**Susan Cooper** - May 21, 2018 at 03:31 PM

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“ To know Mama Kuschell was to love her. I certainly did. She was such a kind, loving, generous and insanely smart woman. My heart cries for the entire Kuschell Family. But, Mama K can rest assured that I will be here for my darling friend, Holly. Sending so much love to the entire family. You all remain in my heart and my prayers. The memory of this amazing woman lives on in you and in all of the other lives that she touched. She certainly had a great impact on mine. If there is anything at all that I can do, please don't hesitate. With love and admiration, Kathleen Tiffany (Adrianna).

**Kathleen E Tiffany** - May 21, 2018 at 12:13 PM

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“ We are shocked and saddened to hear of Susan's death. I have so many fond memories of visiting with the Kuschell's when my daughter Erika was a child and stayed with Sarah and Emily in their room. I am grateful we got to reconnect with Richard and Susan the last time we were in Traverse City in August of 2016. Being in Susan's presence was like being outside on a beautiful sunny day. She was smart, funny and extremely generous. My heart goes out to Richard and the rest of the family.  
Tricia Soderberg, Mike Olson and Erika Sestok

**Tricia Soderberg** - May 21, 2018 at 11:18 AM

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“ I worked for Richard & Susan many years ago and also babysat occasionally. Susan was a wonderful mother who made those around her laugh and smile and at ease. I would see her occasionally here and there throughout the years and she always had a hug and well wishes. She will be missed, my prayers will be with her beloved family, which I know she cherished.

**Jeanie Houchin Mallison** - May 21, 2018 at 08:33 AM

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“ Susan was a dear friend and neighbor for so many years, my love, prayers and hugs to richard, her children and grandchildren. Susan was the kindest and most caring friend to me and my children. She will always be remembered as a beautiful, loving and funny woman.  
My heart is aching for your family...

**Marilyn Foren** - May 20, 2018 at 06:22 PM



“ Thank you Marilyn. She liked you so much. Thank you.

**Sarah Moore** - May 21, 2018 at 12:14 AM

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“ Holly T. Bird lit a candle in memory of Susan V. Kuschell



**Holly T. Bird** - May 20, 2018 at 08:52 AM

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“ We love you Mom! Many prayers and much love for your journey.

**Holly T. Bird** - May 20, 2018 at 08:52 AM



“ She will always be my beautiful & loving Aunt Susan.

**Freddie** - May 20, 2018 at 02:17 PM



“ A bright light from the Boardman Neighborhood seems to have gone dim, however, I think it has just moved to a place we can no longer see it. I know Susan will shine on through her family and friends. Blessings to all.

**Melissa** - May 22, 2018 at 07:55 AM