



Susan B. Berneis

December 31, 1950 - May 22, 2023

Susie Berneis of Dexter, MI, died Monday, May 22, 2023. Susie was born Susan Quinn, December 31, 1950, in Torrington, CT, to parents Richard and Mary Eva Quinn. After growing up in New England, Susie came to study theatre in Ann Arbor, where she met the love of her life, Paul Berneis, and they were married for 53 years. She is survived by Paul and their two daughters Alexandra Berneis (Andrew) Hoag and Victoria (Nathaniel) Madura, her two grandchildren, Isaac and Roslyn Madura, her brother, nieces and nephews plus a large family of choice. Susie performed with several local theatres, mentored high school students in costume design, and her amazing voice led her to a career narrating audiobooks. She was known for her incredible vocabulary, sharp wit, and famous laugh, all of which are greatly missed. There will be a celebration for all who loved Susie at a later date, and in lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Alzheimer's Association.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ I am so sorry for the passing of Mrs Berneis. She was a fabulous narrator. I only found out as I could imagine any other person narrating some of series Ex Bibliophile Mysteries by Kate Carlise. So sad for her family , friends and followers. Many condolences and prayers.

Joan garrison - February 17 at 10:23 AM

BN

“ How can anyone decide upon the best memory to share? It's not possible. But a few do come to mind. First, when my darling son needed surgery at 7 mo, I called Susie before anyone else. We'd only known each other about 5 months, but she was already that close of a friend. And, of course, there's the time at Pokagon State Park in Indiana. We were arms around each other's shoulders, heads together, sighing " Oh look at the badgers in the field". There are no badgers in Indiana . And the batches of strawberry jam. As the level of the wine bottle went down, the jam went from lovely thick jam, to kinda runny jam, to syrup. But it was delicious!

Above all, Susie, and her dear husband ,Paul, are perfect examples of true friends. The space she has left empty cannot be filled.

Betsy Noren - May 22, 2024 at 07:03 PM



“ *Susan B. Berneis*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM

MC

“ Susie was so kind and fun - I worked with her on *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. She worked so hard on that show (and gave a wonderful performance). She was absolutely the definition of "a delight"... I'm so grateful I got to meet her in this life.

Mary Conley - May 31, 2023 at 02:52 PM

AJ

“ I met Susie in a AACT play . She was a ball of energy. She had a great sense of humor. In each scene we kept trying to top each other in ways to crack each other up in character. I was always grateful for her help she gave freely.
My heart goes to the family and my prayers.
When I heard the news I was sitting in my car and I had a flood of memories of Susie. She always had the energy. Then Tina Turner pop in my head . Susie and Tina were similar in energy in my mind.
In my mind I saw Susie and Tina singing proud Mary together but the lyrics were sung to proud Susie. I laughed I hope she is laughing too.

Andy Jentzen - May 31, 2023 at 11:03 AM

BW

“ I met Susie close to 20 years ago when AA2 Civic theater cleared out some of their costumes which she donated to my newly established theater program at Madonna University. Even though we only met up once or twice after that donation, I still remember her cheerfulness, her pride for her daughters, and her fun, loving spirit. Over the years, I always thought about her each time I received, a A2 Civic Theater audition or show notice. I was so sad to receive this latest notice today. My condolences to her family.

Barbara Wiltsie - May 31, 2023 at 10:30 AM

SS

“ I was always excited when I knew I would get to work with Susie. She knew her stuff and was so delightful to work with. So sorry for your loss.

Shelly Smith - May 31, 2023 at 09:41 AM

BR

“ I have so many fond memories of Susie, but I especially love that she named our friend group. Three decades ago, Susie asked Alix who was coming over, and after hearing the list, she said “oh, the usual suspects.” We’ve been *The Usuals* ever since, and we will certainly all miss Susie.

Bridgit - May 28, 2023 at 11:06 PM



“ I was new to Ann Arbor and Susie was the costumer for Big River. So helpful and awesome. She was part of the Berneis team at the theater that included Torey and Alix. What great strength and love whenever she was around. So great to be in several shows with her. Her advice on a parents duty to not completely embarrass your children was a priceless moment I’ll never forget. Love to you Torey and Alix, thanks for sharing your mom.

David Rowe - May 28, 2023 at 09:20 PM

MK

“ I have so many great memories of one of my Michigan sisters. For years, Susie and I had lunch every Thursday and would try new restaurants all the time. Before Alix and Libby started school, we would take them to Chuck E Cheese. While the girls played, Susie and I would play Ms. Pac-Man. I was always amazed at Susie’s Trivial Pursuit knowledge. I am sure the fact she always had a stack of books near her helped. Her ghost stories at our yearly family-of-choice reunion at Pokagon were something we all looked forward to every year...she was the best storyteller.

My deepest sympathy to Paul, Alix, Torey, and family.

-Marcia Kehn

Marcia Kehn - May 27, 2023 at 11:04 AM

WS

“ To be remembered for your great joy and laugh it’s such a gift that she passed on to all of us. I will always remember. Suzi are her infectious laugh at rehearsals. Susie will be missed.

wendy sielaff - May 27, 2023 at 07:22 AM

JO

“ Susie had the best laugh ever ! She was always up beat and full of energy. She will be missed the most in September at Pokagen. Hugs to the family.

Joyce - May 26, 2023 at 11:53 AM

OL

“ I will miss Susie and her ghost stories! Glad Abe got to experience it.

Olivia - May 26, 2023 at 11:39 AM



“ *Susie was and is my sister. Listen to the river as it speaks sweet songs to rock you home....* ”

Rick Quinn - May 26, 2023 at 10:23 AM



“ *Susie was my first theatre friend. She used to speak to me in accents and our conversations would crack me up. She truly was a beautiful, lovely and talented woman. I have so many fond memories. She will be missed.* ”

Darla Miller - May 26, 2023 at 07:26 AM