



Suzanne Kay Skinner

May 21, 1960 - April 18, 2024

Suzanne Kay Skinner, 63, of Cape Coral, Florida, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Born May 21, 1960, in Huron County, Ohio, to Ray and Patricia (Frame) Skinner, Suzanne grew up in Athens, Ohio, graduating from Athens High School in 1978 and from The Ohio State University in 1982 with a degree in music education.

After working at schools around Ohio, including as band director at The Colonel White High

School for the Performing Arts in Dayton, she moved to Southwest Florida, where she spent the

majority of her professional career in Lee County. Carrying on a family tradition, she worked in

public schools nearly every school day since she was 22 years old and was a Golden Apple

Teacher finalist.

She taught music and band at Mariner High from 1993-1995; music and reading at Orange

River Elementary from 1995-2000; music at Hancock Creek Elementary from 2000-2001; pre-K-

8 music and drama at The Sanibel School from 2001-2005; drama and music

at Lexington

Middle from 2005-2015; and drama and music at Estero High from 2015-2017. She was a

countywide gifted resource instructor and innovator from 2017-2024.

As evidenced by her career, Suzanne was a lifelong music lover and was passionate about

instilling that same love of music in young people. She was in marching band in high school and

marched with the Kilties and 27th Lancers drum & bugle corps.

Suzanne was a phenomenal singer. She loved seeing musical performances and shows,

including multiple shows on Broadway in New York City.

Over the years, she enjoyed guiding her students in putting on many productions of their own in

her drama teaching and advising roles. She also worked with the Alliance for the Arts and kept

score for girls and boys basketball teams for many years, another testament to her devotion as

an educator and supporter of young people.

A lover of travel, Suzanne took frequent trips throughout Southwest Florida, the U.S. and

abroad, including favorite vacations to Rome and China.

She was a talented crafter who enjoyed making beaded jewelry for her loved ones. She also

loved the dolphins in Southwest Florida where she made her home.

Suzanne and her sister Sarah Jane were the absolute best of friends, and residents of their

Cape Coral neighborhood will know them as the pair who drove around town in her Prius with

her two Puli dogs.

Suzanne was deeply devoted to her family, many of whom still live in Ohio

where she grew up.

She loved to visit her cousin Patty Blaine and her nieces Emily, Katie and Jessica, cheering them on at their dance recitals and graduations. She was also deeply devoted to her many friends and colleagues, as well as an animal lover with a special place in her heart for the many dogs who were part of her family throughout her life.

Suzanne is survived by her sister, Sarah Jane; cousins, Patty Blaine (Jim) and Jamie (Vicki); nieces, Emily, Katie and Jessica; several extended family members and friends; and her beloved dog, Bengal. She rejoins her parents, aunt Jane and uncle Mark, brother-in-law Charlie, and many beloved dogs, including Buckeye and Maestro.

In line with her wishes, no public services will be held. A private family ceremony will be held at a later date.

In Suzanne's memory, the family asks for donations to Blue Buffalo, The Animal Rescue Site or iHeartDogs.

Tribute Wall

MF

“ Remembering Suzanne fondly as a kind, sweet, talented lady who made a musical difference in the lives of many children.!
Condolences to her family - may she rest in peace !

MARY B FISCHER - May 31, 2024 at 03:28 PM

AT

“ Suzanne was a delightful friend and co-teacher. We teamed in the classroom and working on musical productions at Mariner High School. Her talents, dedication, and love for her students and her music brought joy and satisfaction to her students and to her fellow educators. She talked of family, especially her sister, Sarah Jane, and shared loving stories of their relationship. Suzanne's speaking voice was gentle and soothing, and her singing voice was beautiful. My husband and I enjoyed getting together with Suzanne even after Suzanne and I both moved on from Mariner High School. I have some cherished memories of our teaching collaborations as well as of our friendship. Heaven gained another angel and we have another star in the sky. Andrea J Thom

Andrea Thom - May 31, 2024 at 06:23 AM

MW

“ Suzanne was such a light to the world. She was a kind person and helped whenever she could. I loved hearing about her family and their adventures. She had a very busy life spreading joy every where she went constantly advocating for children!



Maggie Walters - April 25, 2024 at 10:20 PM