

Susan A. Walton



Susan Walton Obituary

Susan A Walton Susan A. Walton of San Francisco, CA died Friday, Nov 30, 2012. She was 63.

Born and raised in Doylestown, PA, she was the daughter of the late Harvey R. and Lucy (Bishop) Walton. She graduated from Central Bucks High School, Doylestown, and Gettysburg College (1970). Sue lived and taught children in Philadelphia, PA after college, then moved to Los Angeles, CA to find work in children's creative arts. A year later she moved to San Francisco and found her niche in children's theater. She wrote, directed, performed, and taught musical theater for children since 1975.

Sue received six California Arts Council Artist-in-Schools grants in the 1970's and 80's, produced plays at Cazadero Performing Arts Camp for more than 30 years, and created an instructional video for preschoolers. Besides writing and directing musical plays for her First Stage Children's Theater, Sue helped create and perform science theater outreach for Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, Berkeley, managing their Science Show Department until 2010.

Throughout her career in the performing arts, Sue's energy, creativity, and love of music, dance, and playing were infectious to the young people she drew into her performance ensembles. Many adults returned to First Stage Children's Theater and Camp Cazadero so that their children, the next generation, could participate with and learn from Sue while play-making and feeling every bit "the star" that came from the confidence and joy Sue imparted through her personal style of writing and directing.

"Big Sue" will be greatly missed for her recurring dramatic characters and her larger-than-life voice and personality. The Bay View Boat Club, where she was a member, enjoyed the gardens she tended as an avid gardener, the potlucks, the fishing/sailing outings, and the music she enlivened with her singing. She was a great friend to many and tried to visit them as she traveled frequently.

Susan is survived by four sisters, Barbara Nutter of Vernon Hill, VA, Patricia Young of Harleysville, PA, Katherine Gingerich of Hershey, PA, Virginia Walton of Chaplin, CT, four brothers-in-law, seven nieces and nephews, their spouses, and six great-nieces and nephews.