

Sue Janssen

1932 - 2022



Sue Janssen was an artist from Kansas who immersed herself in an international life with her husband Bill, who was a USAID Agricultural Development Officer serving in Indonesia, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, and Egypt. She also lived in Taiwan to be close to Bill while he worked in Vietnam under a USAID PASA with the Department of Agriculture.

Sue's impish smile and sense of humor endeared her to her friends and family. Her art was multimedia and varied from small to very large pieces. At one time she was a commercial artist working for Hallmark. She captured the images of the places she and Bill lived, especially the Asian countries. In Indonesia, the Janssens shared ownership of a boat they frequently used for weekend trips to uninhabited islands near Jakarta. In Honduras, she and a friend traveled to the Copan Ruins, and she incorporated its images into her art. She also frequently traveled with a group of women to Jack O'Neil Cay, in the Utila Cays in the Bay Islands of Honduras, which was a lasting memory for her.

She and Bill enjoyed their many adventures, and both had high powered BMW motorcycles, which they rode in various countries. After Bill retired from USAID, the Janssens settled in Sonoma County, California, and together spent several years raising the ceilings, moving walls, and other major projects to reshape their house as they wanted it. They also converted their sloping backyard into a lovely, multi-tiered garden and raised beds with a wonderful array of flowers, herbs, and vegetables. They would share each evening on the deck above the garden.

After Bill's death in 2007, Sue spent time with her many friends in Sebastopol, and for twelve years attended weekly Pilates sessions with a few old friends, led by their close friend Betsy.

Sue died on November 27, 2022, at the age of 89 just 13 days shy of her 90th birthday. She is survived by her children, Kyle Robinson & partner Marty Golden, Wendy Robinson, Rebecca Robinson & husband Ed Lytwak, Matthew & wife Peggy Robinson, Lalita Hernández & Husband Gil. Grandchildren, Sarah, Hannah, Benny, Angelo, and Aaliyah. Sue's stepchildren are William Janssen III (Bill), Heidi Koebernick, Jed, Branch & wife Beth Janssen. Sue's step-grandchildren are Chet, Greta, Brent, Andy, Sara, Harley, and Jed.