



Suzanne Zelov

January 19, 1941 - March 31, 2026

Wantage - Suzanne Zelov, age 85, passed away on Tuesday March 31 at her home of 53 years in the presence of her loving husband and son. Born in Buffalo, New York to the late Martin and Georgia (Hess) Gleason, Suzanne was the oldest of seven children and spent many hours helping in the care of the younger children in the family. While working full-time as a secretary she pursued her education in the evenings. She attended Seton Hall University and went on to earn her degree from Rutgers University. She lived with her family in South Orange before moving to Sussex County in 1968. She began her career there as a Social Worker with the New Jersey Bureau of Childrens Services in Newton, working with families in need.

Suzanne devoted her professional life to social work, where she made a lasting difference in the lives of many in her work with different Social Service agencies. She later retired from Project Self-Sufficiency in Newton, where her compassion and advocacy helped empower individuals and families. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Suzanne gave generously of her time as a volunteer with DASI (Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Intervention Services).

A gifted gardener and certified Master Gardener, Suzanne found joy and expression in gardening. Through her business, "The Plant Lady," she brought beauty to many local businesses by caring for their plants. She also spent many hours planting and weeding her flower beds at home. She loved feeding

the birds and enjoying the wildlife that would come into their yard. She transformed the old farmhouse they bought in 1973 to a place of beauty that visitors always enjoyed. It was a reflection of her beauty, filled with blue items, her favorite color.

Suzanne especially cherished Thanksgiving, her favorite holiday.

Thanksgiving at the Zelov residence hosted as many as 40 people. The table overflowed with food, warmth, and love—bringing family and friends together in celebration and gratitude.

Sue will be remembered for her warmth, generosity and compassion

Suzanne is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, Robert; her son, David, his wife Danielle, and their children, Sebastian and Aden; her siblings, Kathy Reda and her husband Dan of Sunnyvale, California, Marty Gleason and his wife Lenore of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, John Gleason and his wife Lori of Holland, Pennsylvania, Tony Gleason and his fiancé Bo Dai of West Palm Beach, Florida, Peggy Goss and her husband Bill of Jacksonville, Florida, and Chris Gleason and his husband Graham Berwind of Greenwich, Connecticut; and numerous cousins, and nieces and nephews.

Friends may pay their respects to the family on Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Funeral services will immediately follow at 2 p.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Suzanne's memory to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Avenue, 16th Floor, NY, NY 10001. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.pinkelfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.
31 Bank Street (Route 23)
Sussex, NJ 07461
(973) 875-3272
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

Service

APR 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.
31 Bank Street (Route 23)
Sussex, NJ 07461
(973) 875-3272
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

Virtual Service

APR 11. 2:00 PM.

<https://youtube.com/live/FIY02wTT0hA?feature=share>

Tribute Wall

PG

“ Sue was my oldest sister and we were 15 years apart. Her giving nature was always on full display all throughout my childhood as she took the three youngest of us seven on outings to zoos, the beach, to see Santa, car rides, anything she thought we would enjoy, And she was busy! Putting herself through college while working, she would delight in exposing us to new experiences whenever she had the chance. We knew we were lucky then, and especially cherish those memories now.
I will always remember her kind ways, her willingness to listen, her absolute love of nature, her overflowing creativity, her humor and relentless drive to help others. I miss her so much but will carry the light she left us always.
Peggy Gleason Goss

Peggy Gleason Goss - April 11 at 03:51 PM

TO

“ Sue , we love you and you will be forever missed but remembered in our hearts as an amazing sister that loved nature , helping others and the importance of family. You demonstrated by living your passion you and Bob have hearts of gold lived

Love Tony & Bo .

tonybleason - April 11 at 12:55 PM

GL

“ I'll remember this truly gracious and accomplished woman who always gave a welcoming smile. Sincerest condolences to Bob,David and all sue's family.

Gael Lawlor - April 11 at 10:12 AM

KR

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



kathy reda - April 11 at 12:34 AM

KR

Please skip the first 6 photos above. A senior moment on my part

kathy reda - April 11 at 01:52 PM

KR

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



kathy reda - April 11 at 12:14 AM

KR

Dear Sue, my loving big sister, Dan and I love you and miss you so much. We have so many wonderful memories. You have always been such a big part of our lives, from our days at Rutgers, to all the wonderful trips we took with you and Bob. All these photos are just a sample of the lives we have shared. I miss you already and find myself still talking to you. Love, Kathy

kathy reda - April 11 at 01:49 PM

KR

“ 17 files added to the album Tribute Wall



Kathy Reda - April 10 at 07:20 PM

JG

“ Justin, Kelly and Billie Gleason planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Suzanne Zelov.

Justin, Kelly and Billie Gleason - April 10 at 01:12 PM

JG

“ Justin, Kelly and Billie Gleason purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Suzanne Zelov.



Justin, Kelly and Billie Gleason - April 10 at 01:12 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Suzanne Zelov.*



April 10 at 11:25 AM



“ *I was so sorry to hear about her death--and yet I believe that this has released her from a mind and body that in no way reflected her true self.*

She was always so vital, kind and focused on social justice. Her love of nature deeply inspired me, though I've always lived in apartments and never has a garden of my own.

She was a creative and welcoming hostess whom I've always referred to as the "Martha Stewart of Sussex County".

She will be missed by many. May she rest in peace.

*With love,
Janice Cohn*

Janice Cohn - April 08 at 04:08 PM

LG

“ We had so many wonderful experiences with Sue and Bob over so many years either at restaurants or at their home-she was wonderful at enteretaining in the kitchen and her garden was a joy to behold!. We so miss her.



Len and Sue Goran - April 07 at 05:39 PM

JC

“ I met Suzanne while working at DASI. She was by far the best volunteer the agency had. She was always willing to lend a hand for whatever was needed. I can recall sitting at my desk one day on a call, looking out the window and seeing Suzanne shoveling the sidewalk in front of the outreach office! It's been years since I saw her but I remember her fondly and always will.

Jennifer Castner - April 06 at 01:20 PM

KK

“ Sue possessed an almost Zen-like quality of calmness, kindness, and friendship that was a gift to all who knew her. I was fortunate to know her as "Neighbor."

Ken Karnas - April 05 at 07:15 PM

SS

“ David so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. We r on the west coast so we haven't seen yu in a while.I remember sue and I talking about lady gouldian finches as she had an aviary. I raised many and sold several pairs when we moved. Im excited about a facility which should be built her in orange co calif for dementia and alzheimers.It will be a research hospital for both. We have a wealthy patron here that's parents died from this disease and she is pursuing this. Its vrry much needed Cousin sue and jeff

Sue and jeff singer - April 05 at 04:47 PM

BW

“ We are so sorry to hear of Sue's passing. We have so many wonderful memories of times together. All the family outings and many celebrations. She was a warm, lovely, giving person who will be very much missed. May her memory be for a blessing.
Love Bonnie and Joel

Bonnie Wolfe - April 05 at 12:27 PM

MZ

“ Aunt Sue was the kindest.
So many memories of visiting her and Uncle Bob at the where I call the farmhouse and Zelov Mountain with dogs and cats running or lurking around. One thing I think about is Aunt Sue's voice. Something about her cadence or accent or something I just can't describe it but it was sweet like a southern accent mixed with an English accent (but not that). It was unique. For some reason I picture her with flowers in her hair. She had a flower child demeanor to me. The sweetest Aunt. I miss her.

Marc Zelov - April 05 at 11:10 AM

“ *Remembering Sue: Cherished Memories and Lasting Bonds*
Finding the Words for Loss

I am struggling to find words that capture the depth of loss I feel today. Sue was my cousin, and though not a blood relative, she felt just as close. Over the years, we shared countless events and experiences that wove our lives together.

Adventures and Travels

Our travels created unforgettable memories. There was the trip to Minnesota with Arthur and Ginny, where Sue insisted on finding a special waterfall. That adventure unexpectedly led us over the border into Canada, leaving us worried we might be arrested for trespassing. Another memorable journey took us to Cape Town, where I pushed for us to visit the town center to witness the lighting of the streetlamps for the upcoming Christmas holiday, even though we were advised to hold tightly to our handbags and wallets—and perhaps not to go at all. Our week in Cape Cod was pleasant until news of an approaching hurricane sent us rushing home to bail out our basements.

Family Gatherings and Traditions

For many years, Thanksgiving was celebrated at Sue's home with her brothers and sometimes a sister or two. Jackie would arrive with two turkeys, stuffing, and her special cranberry mold. Hugh pumpkin filled with soup, and the table was always set beautifully for the holiday. Rosh Hashanah became a tradition at our home, with Bella joining us. Jackie hosted Passover as usual, until she decided to bring the celebration to Valley Cottage.

Springtime and Special Places

Nearly every spring, we would visit Sue's beautiful garden, where she spent so much time planting, weeding, and arranging everything to perfection. We made trips to Port Jervis, High Point with Marion and Harold, several visits to Milltown, and even enjoyed a Broadway play together.

Enduring Memories

So much time, so many memories that will stay with me as long as I'm here.

Rest in peace, cousin. You were loved by many.

Sending Love and condolences to Bob, David, Danielle and boys.

Roberta Seitzman - April 04 at 07:51 PM

DK

“ *Dan & Kathy purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Suzanne Zelov.*



Dan & Kathy - April 04 at 05:54 PM

CS

“ *Clarence & Lois Shub purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Suzanne Zelov.*



Clarence & Lois Shub - April 04 at 05:44 PM