



Susan Jane MacMillan

February 28, 1947 - April 30, 2026

Susan Jane Aldridge MacMillan, 79, of Lake Bluff, Illinois, passed away peacefully at home on April 30, 2026.

Susan was born on February 28, 1947, in Highland Park, Illinois, and was raised in Ravinia. She was the beloved daughter of Alfred and Mabel Aldridge who preceded her in death. Susan attended Ravinia Schools and graduated from Highland Park High School.

Susan built a life centered on loving her family, celebrating with friends, and enjoying music, nature, and animals. She worked at the Lake Forest Post Office where she met the love of her life, Charles Cook MacMillan, of Lake Forest. Susan also worked at Jewel Foods, the Shields Township Assessor's Office, and proudly owned her own deli. Her business brought her tremendous joy, allowing her to cook, create, and share her gift of bringing people together through food within the Lake Forest community.

Susan was a lover of music and encouraged this appreciation in both of her children. Susan and Charlie proudly instilled the MacMillan clan's Scottish values into their children's lives and supported their love for music through Midlothian Scottish Pipe Band. Susan was always on the sidelines, cheering on MSPB at many Highland Games around the U.S., Canada, and even in Scotland at the World Pipe Band Championships at Glasgow Green. Whether

it was listening to her children practice the bagpipes, singing along with Frank Sinatra, or playing Christmas music in July, Susan always had a soundtrack playing in the background.

Susan also had a deep love for cooking, gardening, and entertaining. She enjoyed reading her cookbooks and magazines, spending time with family and friends, and caring for her beloved dogs—as well as the many neighborhood dogs that she always had an extra treat for. Her garden was beautiful and a source of great pride. She loved watching birds and always had a rare variety of very well-fed birds visiting her home. Susan found great peace in nature, a love that was cultivated by her father from a very young age.

Above all, Susan found her greatest happiness in her grandchildren. Her face would light up at the sound of them rushing through the door, eager to share their latest stories, achievements, and everyday moments during their visits to Nana's house that was just up the street.

Susan was preceded in death by her devoted husband of 48 years Charles Cook MacMillan. She is lovingly survived by her children, Angus (Monica) MacMillan and Mary (Chad) Corpier; her brother, Alfred Aldridge and her cherished grandchildren, Charles Liam MacMillan, James Griffin MacMillan, Connor Mac Corpier, Ella Susan Corpier, and Nancy Ann Corpier.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. at Gus's Grille, 28800 N. Waukegan Road, Lake Bluff, IL. Interment will be private.

Susan was an active supporter of The Parkinson's Foundation and The Anti-Cruelty Society. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to www.parkinson.org or www.anticruelty.org

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 23. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Gus' Grille
28800 N. Waukegan Road
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Tribute Wall

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“ I met Sue around 1971. She was 24 years old. I was 12. She was dating my Uncle Charlie.

To set the scene on that, gatherings would occur at my grandparent's house on Cherry Avenue in Lake Forest. A little house, with a tiny kitchen and tiny living room. When you were there, visiting, everyone was pretty much in a tight circle of people, interacting with everyone. I was the only kid in the room the vast majority of the time.

It was a world of ancient Scottish people, with pure white hair, sipping tea and puffing cigarettes. They seemed so very old at the time. Grandpa was 66, Grandma was 61, Grandma's half-sister Margaret was 51. To a 12 year, they were way up there age wise. Then there were my parents, in their late 30's. And your parents always seem so serious. And if my Aunt Doris or Elliot were around, they ALWAYS seemed serious. Nice, but they didn't drink, they went to church A LOT. To a kid, it was a older, serious crowd. There was Charlie. A fun loving, young Uncle. He was often sprawled on the couch, resting from his adventures the night before. But now, all that was set to change. Charlie had a girlfriend.

Sue Aldrich entered that scene. She was blonde then. And had the massive laugh that we all know so well. She was a big splash of energy entering that room. And she and I hit it off right away. There was something amusing going on, not even sure what exactly it was, but she and I got it like some sort of inside joke and we would make eye contact, smile and laugh about it in that setting all the time.

After they got married, there would be times when I would stay over at their house. Not baby sitting, just me hanging out around them for reasons I can't even remember now. Sue was so generous in her spoiling of me. There would be massive amounts of snacks. I kidded her that the "Sky was the limit" around her. For the last 55 years, whenever she and I saw each other at any family events, our

greeting to each other would always be, "The Skys the limit". It was our secret code to each other.

My Mom would have a family party and there would be a big spread of food. When Sue had family parties, there would be a big spread, and then there would be another room with ANOTHER big spread. It was insane how much food would be out. She always had amazing lavish parties.

There are other tidbits of memories. Like going to Sue and Charlie's, and in the upstairs bathroom there was a bidet. I never saw one of those before. Who were these people with such fancy plumbing? What was going on? And when I was a kid, they had Playboy magazines just laying out in the living room. And cool rock albums. They were in their twenties and it was the 70's.

During the holidays, in Sue's close family, people were unique in that they would give the gift of a large unexpected animal to one another. That always blew me away. So unreturnable. I always figured Sue thought big dog, big friend, big love.

When thinking of Sue, a first impression for many was her very red hair. I do the family tree and asked her what she knew about her branch. "We are German", she said. I did her tree and she is German, but she also goes right back deep into Sweden through her mother. Sue is our family Viking and that is where the red hair came from.

Sue was always happy. That was her personality. But losing Charlie hit her so hard. I am so very sad that she is gone, but hopeful that they really are back together and enjoying the afterlife now. I imagine their heaven is a giant party, lots of food, and very loud laughter. With some impossibly large dogs getting in every once in awhile.

- Tom MacMillan



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Tom MacMillan - May 05 at 05:39 PM