

Liz Buis

Obituary

Ventura, CA

Mary Elizabeth Buis - "Liz" to her friends - was born in Redlands, California on April 23, 1936, the daughter of Merle Theodore Schilling and Floriene Elizabeth Plummer. After graduating from Redlands High she attended Redlands University, and decided to pursue a career in education.

In 1960, Liz tied the knot with a fellow teacher at Barstow High School, Lowell Jean Buis, to whom she remained happily married until his death in 2009. The newlyweds spent their first years together in Sicily as instructors at the Sigonella Naval Air Facility, and took the opportunity to visit the rest of Europe, as well as Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. In 1964 the couple moved to Ventura, settling there permanently.

Liz then focused on raising a family and pursuing a wide variety of interests. She became an avid collector of antique furniture, always on the hunt for a vintage chair, table or armoire that she could refurbish. She designed and collected doll-houses, miniatures, and puppets, and was an expert on the toys and clothing of the Victorian era. She enjoyed nineteenth-century novels and classical music - which she played on the piano - and never missed a TV broadcast of figure skating or gymnastics.

Her most abiding love, though, was art, especially painting. Liz was constantly brimming with ideas for art projects, and developing new skills. Particularly stimulating for her was her time learning trompe l'oeil techniques from the novelist and painter Barnaby Conrad. Over the years her paintings won numerous ribbons at the Ventura County Fair, and later in life she was extremely proud to be involved with the Bell Arts Factory in downtown Ventura, where she rented a studio.

Liz was a devoted wife and mother, known for her friendliness, sense of humor, and honesty. She died of a heart attack on May 15, 2017. In accordance with her wishes, no memorial service will

be held. She is survived by her daughter Gina, son Kip, son-in-law Johnston, and grand-daughters Jessica and Kelsie. Her friends, students, and loved ones will never forget her.

Published in Ventura County Star on June 11, 2017