

Susan Wilson



Susan Ellen Wilson was one of the original members of the International Rose O'Neill Club. She had the distinction of attending every Kewpiesta since its inception, when she would attend with her parents. The stories she told about the early years were always interesting and informative. Susan passed away on March 31, 2026 just prior to Kewpiesta.

Susan was instrumental in organizing and executing many aspects of Kewpiesta. As a past president and member of several committees, Susan was responsible for organizing the rooms, organizing the tables at our banquet, purchasing refreshments for our All Affiliate night, serving on the Scholarship and Asset Committees and serving as our Curator of Assets. She also made the centerpieces for our banquet for the past several years, spending many hours sewing, crocheting, and coming up with ideas based on our theme. If Susan wasn't in charge, she was always helping. She was particularly helpful to the Presidents that came after her....offering advice, keeping you on task, and reminding you what you needed to watch for and what you shouldn't forget to do. Susan also started the Luthur Gillett Scholarship fund in honor of a dear Kewpie friend.

She was the consummate teacher! Due to her demeanor, some people found her to be a little intimidating at first, but once you got to know her, she could make you laugh just by listening to her giggle. She was always so excited to meet new members and wanted to make sure they felt welcome in our organization. She was, however, bossy after having dealt with elementary children all her life; and she knew it.

Susan loved doing research and wasn't shy about asking for information. She visited Castle Carabas, tracked down one of Rose's maids, and asked many questions while listening to the maid's stories. Susan also visited Villa Narcissus on Capri. Her knowledge of Rose's art was encyclopedic. She could tell you what paper Rose used, the size and the texture of the paper, how it was typically cut, and how you could tell if the piece you were examining was an original, photo lithograph, or a copy. Susan also knew, based on the signature, approximate date or subject matter, what magazine the piece most likely appeared in or where (or if) it was published.

Susan's favorite Kewpies were the jointed leg babies. She couldn't pass one up! But she had many different Kewpies in her collection and she would purchase more of specific types if she was doing research that would be presented at Kewpiesta. She was happy to share whatever she could if you were doing research, or she could direct you to others that probably had what you were looking for.

Susan will be missed by many. A memorial will be held at Bonniebrook during next Kewpiesta. Information will be forthcoming.

By Susan Strauss