



On February 20, Bonnie Irene Landerdahl passed away peacefully after having suffered a massive stroke the week before.

Bonnie was born in Topeka, Kansas on January 26, 1937 to the great joy of Nellie and Earl Shoemaker. She reveled in her time spent every summer on her Aunt and Uncle's farm where she developed a love of animals, the outdoors, and gardening; she especially enjoyed feasting on cucumbers, beefsteak tomatoes and ears and ears and ears of corn.

Having graduated from Seaman Rural HS, Bonnie continued her education at Washburn University in Topeka. She planned on graduating from the art program, but a certain airman swept her off her feet and into the life of an Air Force wife during her junior year.

Bonnie's parents didn't want her dating an Air Force lad. However, on a mother/daughter outing, Mrs. Shoemaker spotted a picture in the photographer's window which provoked her into exclaiming, "Why don't you go out with a nice looking man like him?!" Well, she had and she did and they wed.

John and Bonnie's life in the Air Force was full of travel and grand memories. Highlights included their years in England, trips to Europe and Singapore and Washington D.C., where in each change of venue Bonnie adapted and flourished. She was the woman people wanted at their parties and in their homes. She brought a sparkle and an open heart.

Upon John's retirement from the Air Force in 1975, Bonnie and her family, which included her four children, Julia, Steven, Lisa and Peter, moved to their dream town of Bozeman. Bonnie again jumped into her new life with relish. She grabbed friends by the handful. Bonnie took great pleasure in the women of the Bridger Canyon Women's Group (with whom she created the "Bridger Canyon Cookbook"), a plethora of bridge groups (a day without bridge was rare!), the First Presbyterian Church (a home in which she acted as deacon, elder, youth advisor, helped with renovations), a smorgasbord of gourmet groups and the Bozeman Symphony Society. Bonnie became the consummate hostess paying attention to every detail of food and presentation, and created an atmosphere of warm welcome in her many homes.

Bonnie was not only an exceptional friend and talented woman, she was the most caring and inspiring mother. As she wrote to her grandson, "[I] won't always be with you as you go through your life – but believe it in your heart ... I'll always be holding your hand."

Bonnie is preceded in death by her parents, Nellie and Earl Shoemaker, and her precious daughter Lisa Parish.

She is survived by her beloved partner in life, her husband John; her children Julia (Scott) Anderson of Bozeman, Steven (Carrie) Landerdahl of Bakersfield, CA, Peter (Tana) Landerdahl of Duvall, WA, son-in-law Rob Parish of Port Townsend, WA; and grandchildren Patrick Anderson, Cooper and Oliver Parish.