

CAROLYN 'BONNIE' ELLIOTT  
HELMIG SCHWARTZ

1943 - 2024

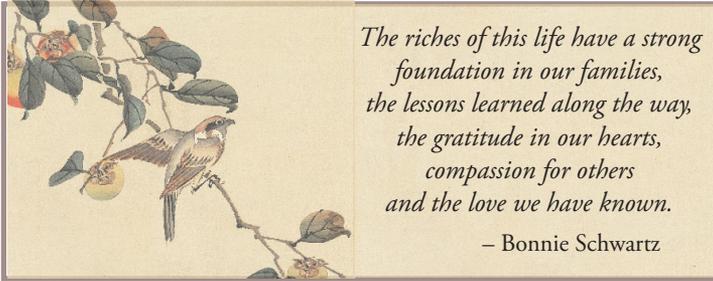


FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

2111 Camino del Rio S., San Diego, CA 92108  
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*The riches of this life have a strong  
foundation in our families,  
the lessons learned along the way,  
the gratitude in our hearts,  
compassion for others  
and the love we have known.*

– Bonnie Schwartz



In lieu of flowers, Bonnie's family requests  
that donations go to her preferred charities:  
San Diego Rotary Club 33,  
First United Methodist Church of San Diego,  
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, or KPBS.

*Preceding Bonnie in death were her loving parents, Marti and Jack Helmig. She is survived by her sister Charm Peterman (Pete), cousin George F. Elliott (Mimzi), niece Nikól Rogers (Chuck), nephew Karl Peterman (Amy), 2 great-nieces & 1 great-nephew, 3 step-children: Jeff Schwartz, Jenny Schwartz-Basom (Michael), & Jon Schwartz (Annette), 8 grandchildren & 6 great-grandchildren. Jon is the new "staff" for her beloved cat, Sara.*

*A Service of Thanksgiving to God  
for the life of*  
CAROLYN 'BONNIE' ELLIOTT  
HELMIG SCHWARTZ

Born in East Orange, New Jersey, on September 1, 1943  
Died in San Diego, California, on February 1, 2024

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO  
SANCTUARY & LIVE-STREAMED  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023 • 1:00 PM

**Gathering & Prelude** ..... Dr. Jaebon Hwang, *organist*

**Greeting** ..... Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

**Invocation**

**Scriptural Words of Assurance**

**Hymn**—No. 143, *On Eagle's Wings*

**Remembrances** ..... Jon Schwartz  
Rev. Dr. Wanda Wainman  
Nikól Rogers

**Hymn**—No. 572, *Pass It On*

**Scripture Reading & Homily** ..... Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

**Hymn**—No. 261, *The Lord of the Dance*

**Prayer of Commendation**

**Hymn**—No. 519, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**



*Bonnie's family deeply appreciates your presence,  
and looks forward to greeting you at a reception in  
Linder Lounge and the Patio to the east of the Sanctuary.*

Please share a memory or photo  
at [Legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com).

## PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
For his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley  
Of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil:  
For thou art with me;  
Thy rod and thy staff  
They comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me  
In the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou anointest my head with oil;  
My cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
For ever.

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### *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took his hand when I heard him call,  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I've found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I've savored much,  
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch.*

*If my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

– Anne Lindgren Davison

Born in East Orange, New Jersey, Bonnie's family moved to Baltimore, Maryland, then to the Philadelphia suburbs when she was a young child. She attended local schools, graduating from Springfield High School in 1961; and Pennsylvania State University in 1965, where she majored in art history and joined Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. She moved to California with her husband, David Buchanan. The first marriage ended after 2 years. She later met the love of her life, Clem Schwartz, when she applied for a job at Reed Miller & Murphy design studio where he worked. They married in 1971 in Kauai, Hawaii, while on a designing project and they began Schwartz Graphic Design in San Diego, California. In 1989 they were 2 of 40 designers throughout the country invited to attend a design conference featuring many new computer programs and formats. They understood the importance of learning this new technology and how it could rapidly change graphic design. They helped develop the San Diego computer graphics world, receiving many awards for their work nationally and internationally (Canada and Mexico).

She became an active member of the San Diego community and loved sharing her many talents. She was invited/recruited into leadership positions and always said "yes" with a strong sense of commitment and dedication. She was the past president of Rotary International - Club 33, The Executives Association of San Diego, and the National Association of Women Business Owners, San Diego Chapter. She was awarded the BRAVO AWARD - Women in Business Owner of the Year in 2001. January 31, 2024, she presided as President for the first time at the Women's Golf Association (WGA) of San Diego Country Club. She felt so honored to have been chosen for these positions of trust, responsibility and leadership, and nurtured countless great friendships. A member and past president of the American Institute of Graphic Artists (AIGA), she received the prestigious Paula E. Sullivan Outstanding Achievement Award.

To her friends and family, Bonnie was kind, loving, generous, supportive, patient, gracious, humble, a role model, mentor, and confidante. She loved dancing, especially at family weddings, and kept her radio on at home for those spontaneous moments of unbridled joy. She especially delighted in her family, and there were many wonderful gatherings in her home. Preparing food and decorating for family weddings, birth celebrations, holidays, birthdays, and graduations brought her great joy. In her "free" time she enjoyed many wonderful activities with her husband: rounds of golf at the San Diego Country Club, weekly physical training at Gills Fitness and fly fishing. After his passing, she joined the First United Methodist Church San Diego, and soon was asked to be head of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee. Also right after Clem's death, Bonnie began traveling with her sister and brother-in-law, having many adventures as a new birder across the U.S., South American and France. The first of 8 birding trips through Field Guides, Inc. was to Kauai, Hawaii, in 2015, where Bonnie and Clem had married. She, her sister and brother-in-law stayed at THE hotel where they designed the logo. Full circle.

Bonnie passed away in her sleep after a "normal" day, which means she lived it to its fullest! She began her Wednesday with fitness training, then a run to Sprouts for groceries, and lunch with Rev. Trudy Robinson as Bonnie was to be liturgist for Sunday's service. In the evening, while driving to the WGA meeting, she was rejoicing in her new vision after recent cataract surgery. Everything was so clear and colors were so vibrant! She ended her day by presiding for the first time at a meeting as President of the Women's Golf Association. What a day Bonnie had! Leading, as always, by example.