

Suzanne Bowler
Villages of Kensington

Speaking with Suzanne Bowler, she comes across as a warm and kindhearted person. She loves talking about all her life experiences and puts a great deal of thought into every word she speaks. Suzanne grew up in a small village in East Sussex, England with her mother and sister after World War II. Although she does not remember much about her childhood, some of her most prominent memories are of enjoying time at the seaside as a kid and eating Cadbury chocolate biscuits at teatime. Her first job after college was as a secretary at Wilkinson Sword, Ltd., a company located in South East London before moving to Paris to work at NATO. In later years, she provided technical assistance and conducted research and evaluation of Federally funded public health programs for minority and other populations at risk of substance abuse addiction and other health problems in Washington DC.

Suzanne loves to travel and has visited a number of European countries including Italy from where she brought back ceramics, and France where she lived for some time. She also visited Austria, Germany, Greece, Spain, and Turkey. Of all the places where she has lived, Suzanne describes the San Francisco Bay Area as her favorite. While she was living in France, she had American friends who encouraged her and a close friend to visit the Bay Area, and both of them ended up staying in the United States. She obtained a PhD in Medical Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley in the late 1980s and then moved to Washington, DC where she had conducted her dissertation research. Suzanne describes her university years as one of the most interesting and influential experiences of her life, in particular studying with two brilliant female professors.

Currently, Suzanne lives with her poodle, Coco Chanel, and enjoys walking her dog, cooking (she likes making dinner for friends), spending time with friends, learning languages (she is presently learning Italian and she can speak several other languages), going to the theatre and concerts, and watching programs on public television.

If she could describe herself in three words, she would say she is funny, talkative, and useful. Her favorite memories are the years that she spent with her two late husbands and her friends and spending time at the beach. If she had any advice to give to the younger generation, she would say to travel to other countries, meet and learn about the people—their languages and cultures, and appreciate similarities and differences between them and us. Currently, she looks forward to traveling with a friend to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware and visiting old friends in the San Francisco Bay Area and Sonoma later this year.