



Deborah Elizabeth Schatzlein

August 11, 1957 - January 15, 2019

Deborah Elizabeth Schatzlein, lovingly known as "Schatz," cultivated a rich and diverse community of friends and acquaintances who shared her love of food, good wine, sports and adventure. A master griller, winemaker, and home chef, she regularly gathered friends – and friends of friends – for intimate dinners and big backyard parties. A stoic New Englander at the core, Schatz possessed an easygoing nature and genuine interest in almost everyone she met.

Deb passed away at her home in Benicia, Calif., on January 15, 2019. She is survived by her wife of 27 years, Cynthia Paulson, brother Douglas Schatzlein and sister Dianna Schatzlein-Ahern. She was born August 11, 1957, in New Haven, Connecticut, to Bob and Jackie Schatzlein.

After graduating from Eastern Connecticut State College in 1980 with degrees in biology and chemistry, she spent many years crisscrossing the country as an environmental compliance specialist. Later, after studying enology at U.C. Davis, she became a full-time winemaker in 2001 and launched her own award-winning label - Bink Wines in 2002.

Deb and Cindy met in Denver in early 1991. Their connection was immediate, grounded in a love that lasted the rest of Deb's life. Together, they dreamed up countless adventures. After living in Boulder, Colorado for 10 years, they moved to California to turn their dream of a vineyard and winery into reality.

Over the last 20 years, Deb and Cindy revitalized an abandoned sheep ranch into a thriving vineyard and ranch in the Yorkville Highlands of Mendocino County, where they spent much of their time.

Schatz loved the community of Benicia, California, her home for 17 years. She could be seen most mornings walking the streets and paths along the waterfront with her dogs Reilly and Moki, while her kitties Murphy and Mickey patrolled the yard. Deb and Cindy enjoyed many a Thursday evening with friends, new and old, at the local sushi bar.

Deb approached her cancer journey over the last four years with a blend of grace, humor, and determination that in many ways exemplified how she approached life. Upbeat and doggedly optimistic, she helped friends and family throughout her own struggle while continuing to travel, play golf and entertain. Deb was known as the "bad-ass" patient among her cancer community, defying all odds to carry on. Her family will forever be indebted to the amazing caregivers who gave so much and eased their journey. Deb and Cindy packed a lot of life into the last four years regardless of circumstances — traveling together to Italy, Hawaii, Boulder, Santa Fe, Cape Cod, the Pacific coast, San Juan Islands, and more.

Deb had a remarkable life. She lived every day to the fullest, inspiring friends and family to make the most of their days, "leaving it all on the floor" before she departed.

Family, friends and others whose lives Schatz touched are invited to the Passalacqua Funeral Chapel, 901 West 2nd St., Benicia, at 3 pm on Saturday, January 26, 2019, to celebrate her life and legacy. A second celebration will be held at the Yorkville Store in the Anderson Valley area, near her Hawks Butte Ranch vineyard, at 4:30pm on Friday, February 1st.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Deb's name to:

The Ovarian Cancer Program at the Women's Health Resource Center
California Pacific Medical Center

Attn: Barb Silver, NP ^[L]_[SEP] 3698 California Street, San Francisco, CA, 94118 ^[L]_[SEP] <http://www.cpmc.org/services/women/whrc/giving.html>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN **26**. 3:00 PM (PT)

Passalacqua Funeral Chapel
901 W Second Street
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 745-3130
info@passalacquafuneralchapel.com
<https://www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Deborah Elizabeth Schatzlein*

November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ *Mary Lou Riddle purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Deborah Elizabeth Schatzlein.*



Mary Lou Riddle - January 24, 2019 at 07:04 PM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



DESIREE M ROLDAN - January 23, 2019 at 03:50 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



DESIREE M ROLDAN - January 23, 2019 at 02:44 PM

HJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Helen & Julie - January 22, 2019 at 03:56 PM

PT

“ *Deb your smile will always shine bright in all of our hearts. You will be missed my friend but I feel so blessed to have had your wonderful spirit in our lives xoxo*



Patty Tulloch - January 20, 2019 at 06:40 PM

“*Deb and I worked for NTI in Colorado Springs back in the late 80’s. We shared an office together; she was the process engineer, and I was the quality engineer. I had purchased a new pick-up truck that required a quick weekend road trip to Austin, Texas to bring it back to Colorado, and Deb graciously agreed to help me drive.*

Along the way I discovered Deb’s propensity to drive fast. I don’t mean just a few miles per hour over the speed limit ... I mean FAST. Nighttime, daytime – didn’t matter. We were booking! Late that first night we were jetting across west Texas and passed a busy little honky-tonk where a local police officer was exiting the parking lot. Deb quickly backed down towards the speed limit like a good girl, but that cop rode right on our tail for what seemed like hours (it was actually only a few minutes), all the way to the county line where he gave up and turned around. No siren, no flashing lights, just following us closely. Deb was freaked out the whole time ... choking the steering wheel, trying hard to control her speed and not swerve ... she just knew we were gonna get busted.

The trip back to Colorado generated a similar memory. We had just driven through Clayton, New Mexico with Deb at the wheel of my brand-new truck. On the horizon, about two miles ahead of us, we could make out the blue and red flashing lights of a highway patrolman who had nabbed some other driver. Either we were too busy chatting, or just tired from the long weekend, but by the time we reached that spot on the horizon we were already back up to 90 again. And yes, the highway patrolman noticed and promptly pulled us over.

Deb’s conversation with the cop was priceless. “Well gee, officer, we were so involved in our conversation and, you know, it just doesn’t FEEL like you’re driving that fast in a truck, and it IS brand new and I’m just getting used to it”. After she batted her eyes a few times and threw in a few “gosh, golly’s”, the cop let her go with just a warning.

I used to tease her for a long time afterwards that if it had been me driving us through that stretch of highway at 90 mph, I'd probably still be in jail. I've driven that 900 miles to Austin more times than I can remember, and the fastest I've ever been able to accomplish it in either direction is about 14 hours. She and I made that return trip in less than 13 hours ... and that includes stopping to eat breakfast that morning!

I had some emotional, dead-end relationships during those years. I'd beat myself up over these breakups, but Deb was always there to pick me back up with her big, beautiful smile, and reminding me in her sing-song voice that "there are plenty of other fish in the sea". She liked to tease me with a faux marriage proposal, saying "but just remember: what's mine is mine and what's yours is mine".

I grieve with you and your extended families and friends, Cindy, and cherish all the great memories I have of Deb, thankful that she is no longer suffering.

Mark Laborde

Mark Laborde - January 19, 2019 at 04:06 PM

BF

“ *Beverley Fillmore lit a candle in memory of Deborah Elizabeth Schatzlein*



beverley fillmore - January 19, 2019 at 12:32 PM

DJ

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Donna Josephson - January 19, 2019 at 10:59 AM

SA

“ I remember Deb dearly. Her smile and good will prevailed. I was and I am honored to have her friendship. I love the twinkle in her eyes. What a wonderful woman.

saffron - January 19, 2019 at 02:04 AM

AS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



ashley - January 19, 2019 at 12:25 AM

AS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



ashley - January 19, 2019 at 12:20 AM

VP

“ There are certain people in this world who ar special, who bring light, who make the world more interesting Deb was one of those people. My heart is heavy but I feel very lucky to have known her and to have seen her smile. I will miss her. Vicki Patton

vicki patton - January 18, 2019 at 09:30 PM

MF

“ Debbie as I insisted on calling her was a one of a kind woman. No judgement only kindness and tolerance and patience. Working with her at Bink Wines was a joy and to be a part of the Bink Wines dream was a privilege. I will never forget her and all she taught me. Monika Fuchs

Monika Fuchs - January 18, 2019 at 06:32 PM

JC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



jenean campos - January 18, 2019 at 03:45 PM