



™ The ABC's of Suzanne
(from a long-time fan)

I have the pleasure of relating to you
While recalling the memories that I can
Some Awesome statistics of an All-Star
The real "ABC's" of Suzanne

Being left handed, Suzanne sees the world
From a different point of view
So, I will go from Right to Left
As I mention those ABC's (or CBA's) to you

C is, of course, for Cincinnati
As if you could know her and not know her home town
C is for Connell..the name that she took
When she married Miles in '67 and wore a white gown

Can you believe it? 40 years!
That's how long I have known Suzanne
Back in 1970 that Cincinnati Reds follower
Met up with this St. Louis Cardinal fan

She had left behind the team of Pete Rose and Johnny Bench
And missed the Riverfront Stadium, home of "The Big Red
Machine"

I had left the team of Stan Musial, Red Schoendienst, and Bob
Gibson

And the first Busch Stadium was still new on the scene

She, in Newington, and I, in West Hartford

Each new to our own neighborhood
Husbands at work, one baby son at home
And Welcome Wagon had a plan that was good

C is for the Children who brought us together
Through Welcome Wagon babysitting we took care of each
other's boys
Even when each boy had a brother
And eventually doubled the noise

We both joined National Council of Jewish Women
And, we both bowled in their league each Tuesday morning at 9
Suzanne was powerful and tough to beat
That energy and ability was surely a sign

Cheerfully, always loving a Challenge
It would surely surprise no one here
That Suzanne could have and would have
A Choice of many a Career

Meanwhile we now go from "C" to "B"
As I tell you more of Suzanne
And how we continued to Bond in our lives
As I grew to Be even more of her fan

Years after Babysitting I found myself off to work part time
And was hired by my then favorite Bookstore
Book Worm buddies we soon Became
It was Suzanne who first welcomed me in the door

"B" is for Books of every kind
No matter how hard I would try
I could never figure out how Suzanne read them so fast
Unless she read one whole Book with each eye

She greeted customers at Bookworm with Bubbling enthusiasm
Always with a welcoming smile
Balanced the register, Brought home-Baked treats to the staff
And adeptly ordered all needed Books she had noted on file

Chatting about Child raising Challenges and our Boys' Bar
Mitzvah plans

We shared serious Concerns and many a laugh
Then, I was proud to be asked for a Co-worker's recommendation
When Suzanne was Considered for The Emanuel staff

"B" is Being the real Boss she Became
Behind The Emanuel door
While her office held Bags and Bundles of Bric-a-Brac
And sometimes even looked like a store

There were Baskets for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs
Bowls and Bottles of Bon-Bons in many a cranny and nook
There were Bobby pins and nursing Baby signs
And, of course, on her desk was always a Book

There were Baseball Banners from Cincinnati
But her awards on the wall were not to be missed
And somewhere on her desk in a prominent spot
Was her on-going BJ's shopping list

The awards showed a Chaye Olam recipient
Sisterhood's installing officer and then Minyonaire of the Year
And a framed reminder I was at her adult Bat Mitzvah
An event that replaced her once dreamed of rabbinic career

Suzanne may have taken many of those items home with her
But we realize, come what may,

This A+ lady of All talents
Will leave memories that will certainly stay

Accomplished with many Ardent Admirers
Suzanne's shoes will be hard to fill
Although, we know she's ready to relax now
In many ways, she will be with us still

21 years of hours have added up
Many days from morning to night
Overtime wasn't something we Always Acknowledged
Nor the late hour she turned off Emanuel's light

Amiable, with an affable attitude
This Achiever with a bit of sarcasm in an infectious laugh
Always helpful, Always there to greet and welcome
Twenty-one years of new members and new staff

There were a lot of people
For whom Suzanne had to be All ears
It is no wonder the number is Awesome
Of All she managed to listen to over the years

Antique dealers and Auctioneers
Bar and Bat Mitzvah parents and Caterers galore
Dues payers and holiday ticket seekers
Joined Equipment salesmen parading through her door

Her Computer held Board meeting minutes and Budgets
And newsletter Columns in Careful detail
Calendars were filled to Capacity
As she reminded you of every deadline without fail

From a Cash Box meticulously kept

She sold Emanuel scrip from every Company and store
Always she lent time and energy
If it meant for The Emanuel even one dollar more

She was the official Emanuel shopper
She could be found regularly at BJ's and Crown
Of course, she knew which Dollar Stores carried what Bargains
And would frequent them in all parts of town

Crown, BJ's, and the Dollar Stores need not worry
That now their wares will remain on the shelf
Instead of all the Emanuel shopping
Suzanne can spend more money and time there for herself

Suzanne, the mistress of time-management
The mighty multi-tasker of many a realm
What will you do with so much time on your hands?
When you are no longer at the Emanuel helm?

Read more books? Watch more baseball games?
Or teach little Phin how to read fast and bowl?
Whatever you do, we can count on you
To successfully reach every goal

Continue to manage as well as you do
You have the right key to unlock
The secret of creating winning moments
With all that extra time on your clock

We wish you extra innings in your big game
May you have pennant-winning days from sunrise to dark
And every time you step up to the plate
May you slug one for us out of the park

Recalling times smooth or rough, no thanks are enough
Today all team caps are off to you, Suzanne
We appreciate you from A, to Z, all the way
In each of us here you have found a friend AND a fan

*With love and gratitude for having you in so many parts of my life,
Judy Silver, June 6, 2010*