



Janice Roth

June 24, 1950 - October 5, 2019

Marilyn Shafran got the biggest surprise of her life on June 24, 1950, when the then-21-year-old found out via an x-ray at the hospital that she was pregnant with not just one, but two babies. Both born with dark hair and bright brown eyes, Janice Susan Shafran beat out her twin, Joyce, by minutes.

At the outset, Janice was a typical first-born child: practical, organized and reliable, and also the well-intentioned (if occasionally bossy) leader of Joyce and their younger sister, Carol. Janice grew up in Cleveland in a tight-knit community that included cousins living next door. The Shafran sisters often starred in and hosted plays, talent shows and other games on their back porch for an audience of friends and neighbors. While they were regularly confused for each other when wearing matching outfits, Janice and Joyce only engaged in twin trickery a few times, which may have been all they could get away with because their distinctive personalities set them apart.

Life eventually pulled Janice to The Ohio State University and Columbus, where she was introduced to her beloved, Jack, by future brother-in-law Chuck Shenk. Lives ever entwined, the twins and their husbands all ultimately settled in Bexley. Eventually, though, Janice and Jack ventured to Minnetonka, Minnesota, for Jack's work, and to build an idyllic life that centered on friends and adventure. Years later they came full-circle by returning to Bexley, where Janice relished the opportunity to re-kindle old friendships and forge so many new ones. After losing Jack in 2004, she moved to German Village and immersed herself in the community.

Outside of family, Janice touched the lives of endless students and colleagues in her professional life as a JCC pre-school teacher, kindergarten teacher at Cassingham Elementary, and then private tutor. She stayed in regular touch with former students who were always eager to share with her the positive ways in which she impacted their lives. The love and respect she prioritized in the classroom nurtured people for far longer than a single school year.

Volunteerism was also one of Janice's callings. A regular at the German Village Society and an avid volunteer at Frank Fetch and Schiller Parks, Besa, and the Short North Theater, she awed the entire community, too, for a fierce commitment to raising money for the Jack Roth Fund benefitting The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center — Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute, and the Jack Roth Camp Netaim-Ramah Noam. Her long-time dedication to finding a solution instead of living in the problem culminated in a 2015 Women of Valor award.

Whether it was students, family or friends, strength was the hallmark of the bonds Janice held. She used birthdays and anniversaries as one way to continue expressing affection for those with whom she kept in touch as well as others she once knew. Her uncanny way of connecting with others, and the sincere interest she took in their lives, was palpable. Janice gave much and expected little, and had too generous a spirit to pass judgment; she met people wherever they were at in life. Even on her most difficult of days, she trained her focus on listening to people tell their stories.

When Janice wasn't soaking up fresh air on her patio, she was out and about at art openings, plays, and seeing live music. She had an abiding passion for music, with ticket stubs from hundreds of concerts from up-and-coming singer-songwriters to some of the all-time greats. Above all else, Janice relished good talks with people she loved, and her loquaciousness was legendary in that she was impossible to drag away from almost any conversation. Whether acting as matchmaker for Maren (pre-Marc) or serving as the honorary press agent for Maren's downtown Columbus boutique, Rowe, Janice was never too shy to start talking anywhere or to anyone.

Janice was a bonus mom to her nieces (and a bonus grandma to her grand-nieces and — nephews), an easy favorite when it came to sleepovers, and a port in the storm when tough decisions needed to be made. As a duo, Janice and Joyce's enduring passion for dance saw them jitterbugging well into their 60s, even if the consensus is that the music stopped far too soon. The last few years brought Janice vibrant days filled with concerts, volunteerism, and time spent with friends and family, especially her beloved granddaughter, Lennon, and sister Carol, who moved to Columbus after Janice's diagnosis to keep each other hip and current on anything and everything. The highlight of the past half-decade was easily the marriage of Maren and Marc, and having Lennon bestow on her the great honor of becoming an official JaJa.

When Janice passed away on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019, following a Wonder Woman-like, epic battle with cancer, her loving family embraced her tightly. She leaves behind an unimpeachable mark from Columbus to Minnetonka and beyond. So many people from so

many places grew to know, love and depend on her, and while the void in her wake is immeasurable, memories of her will endure, especially if everyone can endeavor to live like Janice.

Janice was preceded in death by her adoring husband, Jack; father, Alvin Shafran; brother-in-law Ray Young; and grandnephew Max Shenk Genshaft. Her absence will be felt acutely, especially by daughter, Maren Roth (Marc Desrosiers); granddaughter Lennon Desrosiers-Roth; sisters Joyce Shenk (Chuck) and Carol Young; mother, Marilyn Shafran; loyal companion Kaptain the Teacup Persian; and a vast network of brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and –nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Jack Roth Fund, a cause meaningful to Janice, Maren, and their entire family: The Jack Roth Fund, c/o the Columbus Jewish Foundation, 1175 College Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43209. A celebration of Janice's life will be held on Sunday, November 10th from 2-5pm at Columbus Museum of Art, 480 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH 43215

Events

NOV	Celebration	02:00PM - 05:00PM
10	<hr/>	
	Columbus Museum of Art	
	480 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH, US, 43215	

Comments



“ We are so sorry for the loss of your beautiful sister, Janice. It was a pleasure to be in her company as she cared about so many things so deeply. We know Janice will be missed always.

Paige and Mike

paige crane - October 10 at 09:51 PM



“ So very sorry for your enormous loss.

Doris Korda - October 10 at 06:14 AM



“ My heart is beyond broken for you, Maren, and your entire family. May you all find comfort in your memories, in each other and in all of the love that surrounds you. I am so deeply sorry for this incredible loss. Much love to you all.



angela mugler - October 09 at 09:37 PM



“ I am so, so sad to hear this. Janice was my tutor when I was in 2nd-7th grade. It was a very hard time for me, but knowing that I'd get to see her every week was such a thing of happiness those years. School was so hard, but Janice made learning so much fun. 20 years later I still remember some of the stories we read (I also remember the jolly ranchers and laughter). But perhaps my favorite memory was after completing some task (I can no longer remember what) she offered to take me to a movie. I choose Titanic. In retrospect, what a choice!

When I came to Janice I was struggling badly in school. By the time she moved away from Minnesota I was flourishing. She played such an important role in changing the trajectory of my life. Janice has (and always will) hold such a special place in my heart.

I'm so, so sorry to hear that she is gone. Sending so much love to all of her family.

Tim Geoffrion - October 09 at 12:06 PM



“ Thank you for these beautiful words.

carol young - October 25 at 02:12 PM



“ To all of you, but especially Maren, I am so very sorry for the loss of such a wonderful woman. You were blessed to have her as a mother, sister, friend and confidante. She will forever remain in your hearts and mine.



Barbi Tuckerman - October 09 at 09:06 AM



“ Maren, Joyce, Chuck, Carol & family,
I'm so sorry for your loss, I loved Janice and she will always be in my heart. When I was going through my own stuff almost two years ago and was ready to quit, I called Janice. We spoke a half dozen times and after speaking with her I always felt better. She wanted me to stick it out and her advise got me through some very tough times. I'm happy I was able to see her one more time at my 50th high school reunion, a school she did not attend but had so many friends at Heights that she fit right in.
David

David Skoke - October 09 at 08:50 AM



“ Thanks david. She really was an inspiration.

carol young - October 25 at 02:15 PM



“ Maren we are so sorry for your loss. Your mom was such an amazing woman. I met her when I worked at Basi. We moved to CO 8 years ago to start our business RORO Juice. Your mom always kept in touch and encouraged me along the way. I'm truly grateful for her positive energy and am deeply saddened to hear this news. Erik and I send our love to you and your family. You are in our thoughts during this trying time.

Jenn Waltermire - October 09 at 12:25 AM



“ So sorry for our loss. She was a delightful woman.

Doris Phelps - October 09 at 12:20 AM



“ Janice will be remembered as an always smiling, enthusiastic and genuinely warm person. She had an incredible knack for making anybody feel welcome and at ease, and her joy for life and those she loved was beyond compare.

Sending warm thoughts and prayers to her family and friends. We will all miss Janice and her indelible spirit. ~ Ashley, Ryder and Rafael Bersani

Ashley Bersani - October 08 at 03:19 PM



“ What a loss to all of us. Certainly, she was adored! Janice modeled a way to live that I will keep with me forever. I'm smiling as I think way back to the time she enrolled Maren at camp and I watched her as a mama and as a twin. I feel blessed to come to know her as a friend.

I hope that during this difficult time, the Roth/Shenk/Shafen tribes find comfort in the memories of all parts of her.

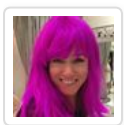
Laurie Scoblionko Katz

Laurie Scoblionko Katz - October 08 at 01:06 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear about Janice. She was an amazing woman, beautiful inside and out- and a light in so many lives. We are thinking of all of you and sending so much love. Carrie and Andy Madison

carrie madison - October 08 at 11:42 AM



“ I am so very sorry to hear this news. I am sending love and prayers. I will always remember her smile. She always brightened my day and added so much to so many lives. I will try to lead by her example.

Blessings,
Sarah Fairchild

Sarah Fairchild - October 08 at 11:22 AM



“ We are saddened to hear about Janice. She will be missed. She was an inspiration to everyone who knew her. Our condolences go out to the family. May her memory live on by her loved ones

susie and jonny diamond - October 08 at 12:12 AM



“ I am so very sad to hear this news. My heart goes out to all of you. Janice, was such a lovely woman. Love, Megan Agriesti

Megan - October 07 at 08:58 PM



“ Maren, Joyce, Chuck, Carol & family,

We are sending you all lots of love and our deepest condolences. Janice will certainly be missed. We only hope that all of Janice's happy memories will live on in all of you and help you through this difficult time.

Love to you all,
Loni, Evan, Hailey and Anna Kraut

Loni and Evan Kraut - October 07 at 06:27 PM



“ Sorry for your loss, prayers to the whole family.

BarrySiegler - October 08 at 05:23 PM



“ Sending my sincere condolences to the Roth family. .Carolyn Katz

Carolyn Katz - October 07 at 04:10 PM



“ Sol and I are so deeply sad to hear of Janice's passing. She was such a light - always made time to say hi and speak with us anytime we ran into her, and always asked after our family. No matter what she was going through, she always had a smile on her face. I know she delighted in Lennon and never failed to tell us what was new at Rowe. She and Jack were good friends with Sol's father and we know Chuck also appreciated their friendship. Losing a parent is always hard. Our thoughts and love are with you, Maren, and your whole family at this difficult time.



“ Love and condolences to the entire family. Janice was definitely one of a kind and her spirit and brightness will shine on and on! She will be missed and remembered by everyone that was fortunate enough to know her. Her memory will always be a blessing.

Nancy & Barry Eisenman

Nancy Eisenman - October 07 at 10:18 AM



“ Stan and I send our deepest sympathy to the entire Roth Family. My her memory be a Blessing.



Pj and Stan Maybruck - October 07 at 10:03 AM



“ Thank you to Janice's family and friends for enriching Janice's life with your embrace of love, attentiveness and care throughout her years of health challenges. She gave so much of herself to each and everyone of us. Our entire family adored her. Somehow, with unbounded warmth and authenticity, she made each of us feel special and valued. Janice's had such a big heart and modeled how to live your best life and leave this world a better place. She will always live in our hearts, along with Jack, whose memory also continues to inspire. We miss them both. Gigi and Sam

Gigi Fried - October 07 at 09:37 AM



“ Sad news! Can't believe you are gone Janice, you will always be missed and in our hearts. I'm grateful to have known this beautiful in and out woman ! Love you Janice, you were always there for me, my kids and everyone who met you in life! Sending love and prayers to all family

shahinaz - October 07 at 09:37 AM



“ Janice was an amazing women, beautiful in every way. My deepest condolences to all who mourn. May her memory forever be a blessing.
Stacey Gaines

Stacey Gaines - October 07 at 08:32 AM



“ My sincere condolences to all your family. The Shafran women are so strong, and always together in spirit.

Peggy Davidson Post - October 07 at 08:29 AM



“ I am sorry for your loss, Maren and the rest of your family. I met Janice and Joyce together and they quickly introduced you to me, upon your arrival back to Columbus and as you were opening, Rowe. Your mom was incredibly proud of you and loved you and her family with such incredible openness. As a fellow journeywoman in ovarian cancer, she inspired me to live life fully and embrace the love that surrounds me. I am honored to have known her. Carol Clinton

Carol Clinton - October 07 at 08:02 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers to the entire family. Janice was so amazing with her students and their parents!! She had always been a very special person to our family. Janice truly was an inspiration to all of us. She will be so missed.

Love and prayers,

The Schnitz Family

Susan B. Schnitz - October 07 at 07:47 AM



“ One word to describe Janice-Superwoman! My heart is heavy and I will miss her. My deepest sympathy to Maren, Marc, Lennon, Carol, Joyce and Chuck. Janice will always be in my heart: Sending loving thoughts to all who mourn!

tobi furman - October 07 at 07:34 AM



“ I am so very sorry to learn of Janice's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
Rita Silverstein

Rita Silverstein - October 07 at 07:14 AM



“ Anita Goldberg lit a candle in memory of Janice Roth



anita goldberg - October 07 at 06:46 AM



“ janice was the bravest person i was ever privliged to know. no matter how much heartache and pain she went through the last years of her life,she was always full of life and enjoyed it to the fullest. she will be missed. we are so sorry for your loss,
anita and michael goldberg

anita goldberg - October 07 at 06:45 AM



“ Janice always had a warm hug to give coupled with a beautiful smile on her face. She had the unique ability to always put a smile on my face. Maren, Joyce, Chuck, Carol & family, I am sending you all my deepest condolences. We have lost a real treasure.

Janice's memories will live on forever & her smile in Maren & Lennon.

Love to you all,
Bret Robins

Bret Robins - October 07 at 06:34 AM



“ Maren- We are so sorry for your loss. I imagine no words can comfort in this awful time, but know that your mom was loved by many and her life was a blessing in this world. She was so proud of you and loved being a grandma. You brought her so much joy. Sending you the courage to mourn in all the ways that you need to. Much

Alison Brody - October 07 at 12:34 AM



“ My deepest condolences to Janice's family. I treasure the time I shared with Janice at the German Village Society where she volunteered regularly. Her kindness, dedication, and love of life were infectious, a bright spot in so many ways. -Nancy Kotting

Nancy Kotting - October 06 at 10:53 PM



“ Janice, you were one of the strongest people I have ever known. NCJW was so proud to name you its WoMen of Valor. Our paths did not cross that much but when it did, it was your genuine smile that I will always remember. My prayers and thoughts are with you, Maren, Joyce, Carol and family.

Bobbie Shkolnik - October 06 at 10:05 PM



“ I am stunned and sad for myself, but even more so Gigi, Maren, Marc and Lennon, Joyce and Chuck and Carole, and all her dear nieces and nephews. Janice always has been and will continue to be a "heart sister." She will continue to be a shining light, a loving spirit and a force for goodness. My deepest empathy to all. I send waves of love and hold you in my heart.

Marjorie Adler - October 06 at 09:35 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Janice was so sweet and had such a positive energy. She will be missed in German Village and by the rest of the community.

Brad Kitchen - October 06 at 09:34 PM



“ Maren, Lennon, Joyce, Carol and extended Family -

Loss, whether expected or not, is always difficult and enormously painful. After Jack's passing, Joyce put up a valiant fight meeting her fate with grace, love compassion and determination to the very end of her own earthly journey. Her love for her family, students, the arts and community energized her very being.

May each of you find comfort in the beautiful memories you created together and may they bring you laughter and comfort now and in the future. May Janice's life be for a blessing.

Fondly,

Eydie and Don Garlikov



Eydie - October 06 at 09:08 PM



“ I am heartbroken to hear of Janice's passing and send my love to Maren, Joyce, Carol, mom and the entire family. Janice taught me so much about love, living, hope, and courage. She lived life to the fullest on her terms and inspired me and so many of us on a daily basis. Her memory will continue to be an inspiration and a strength. I am so grateful to have known her.

Amy Wharton - October 06 at 08:26 PM



“ Joan Levine is following this tribute.

Joan Levine - October 06 at 07:46 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Joan Levine - October 06 at 07:32 PM



“ Janice was young at heart, a wonderful teacher and role model, and always fun to be with. She will be in our hearts forever.

Joan - October 06 at 09:09 PM



“ A true Woman of Valor .when I was going through a spell with cancer. Her words to me were of comfort and compassionate..
She will be missed but never forgotten.

Steve Shkolnik - October 06 at 07:16 PM



“ Maren, I am so very sorry for your loss. Your mother was always so kind and joy-filled. I'm sending love and prayers.
Connie Leal Ballenger

Connie Ballenger - October 06 at 07:15 PM



“ Janice was always determined to bring her best game to all that she undertook. She is to be admired!

Jill Winer - October 06 at 07:14 PM



“ While I never met Janice, I know all about her and the family from my dear friend Linda Shafran. I send all my deepest condolences and love and am praying for you through your sad times. With great love and respect to the passing of a great woman, Kathy Posner

Kathy Posner - October 06 at 07:06 PM



“ I have no words! Janice was a sweet, thoughtful, selfless, beautiful person! She will be missed by so many who loved her! Joyce, Chuck, Carol and Maren-I pray you find some peace in your many, cherished memories! Please know you are in our hearts and prayers.
Jodi and Howard Cohen

Jodi Cohen - October 06 at 07:02 PM



“ May her memory and smile always be a blessing and the family find comfort.

The Zacks Family
Ben & Mary Beth
Randy

Sally & Marc Dunn
Arinn

Benjamin Zacks - October 06 at 06:57 PM



“ A life well lived! My deepest sympathy to Maren, Marc, Lennon, Carol, Joyce and Chuck. Janice will always be in my heart Sending loving thoughts to all who mourn!

Shelley Samuels

shelley samuels - October 06 at 06:40 PM



“ I was very fond of Janice. Loved seeing her smiles and encouragement when she she would come into our office for treatment. And after I was diagnosed with cancer, she gave me positive motivation and love. May she Rest In Peace.

David Sandusky - October 06 at 06:55 PM



“ Just as fortunate that you all had Janice in your life as long as you did, this is so sad. She will always be such a beautiful lady. Words are so unfitting an just ow that she an all of you are in or prayer. All the love

Shirley and Jay - October 06 at 07:02 PM



“ My sympathies. I worked for Jack at My Back Pages. Got to know Janice then. Way too young. I will miss her in spinning class!

lee smith - October 06 at 09:13 PM



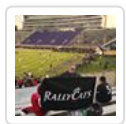
“ I am so very sorry.

Barbara Davis - October 06 at 10:32 PM



“ Resa and I deeply regret Joyce's passing, and the pain that now envelops the lives of Marilyn and Maren, Marc, Lennon, Carol, Joyce and Chuck. Her strength, her love for family, her commitment to making the world a better place will become her enduring legacy. May God bring comfort to all of the bereaved among the mourners of Zion - and may Janice's memory come in time to be a source of healing and consolation. Stan & Resa Davids.

Stanley Davids - October 07 at 02:08 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Maddy Katz - October 06 at 06:37 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to the family.
Cheryl Anderson Velotta
Charles F. Brush 1968

cheryl anderson velotta - October 06 at 06:36 PM



“ I am so very sorry to learn of Janice's passing. Her obituary is a beautiful tribute. My thoughts and prayers are with her loving family.

Kay Helman - October 06 at 07:33 PM



“ I have known Janice since I was 8! She was my school tutor and then I was on the boards for the Jack Roth Race! She brought SO much light into the world, positively and fun into everything! She will be missed!

Maddy Katz - October 06 at 06:35 PM