



Janice Zitron Block

November 19, 1930 - May 13, 2011

Janice Zitron Block

11/19/30 – 5/13/11

Our mother, Janice Zitron Block, passed away on May 13th, surrounded by her children, after a lengthy and courageous battle with breast cancer. The battle began over twenty years ago, but never stopped her from engaging in an active and fulfilling life. In addition to being a homemaker and mother, Mom returned to college to fulfill her other goals in life. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Philosophy, followed by a Master's degree in Education Administration. All of her degrees were earned with honors and distinction, and included the additional awards of Phi Kappa Phi, Mortar Board, and Phi Delta Kappa. She was married to Irwin Block for 27 years, raising three children, whom she was proud to say were independent thinkers. She was a room mother, Cub Scout leader, swim team mom, and Camp Fire Girls leader throughout those years. Her professional career included a variety of positions at the Department of Education, Department of Defense, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Mom was particularly proud of her role in co-founding the innovative Alternative Education program for the Shawnee Mission Kansas School District, which later served as a model for other alternative education programs. The latter part of her professional career focused on real estate property acquisition and management, which allowed her to travel throughout the country. Her hobbies included tennis, gardening, and attending college and professional sports with her children. She became an accomplished artist and a skilled bridge player. She was a docent at the Nelson-Atkins Museum for nineteen years, sharing her enthusiasm and love of art with her children and grandchildren. Culturally, she enjoyed theater, ballet, art, the symphony, and world-wide travel, including trips to China, Africa, Europe, South America, and Israel. She was a member of Congregation Beth Torah, Hadassah, and National Council of Jewish Women, as well as other civic and community organizations. At age 70, Mom discovered Tai Chi Chih, becoming a certified instructor, and teaching three to four classes per week, even while receiving chemotherapy. She was a source of strength for many of her students who were dealing with their own physical issues. Our mother was never afraid to tackle any challenge, and she was successful at

almost everything she tried. We are so proud of her, and already miss her dearly. We will celebrate her life and her legacy with pride and love. She was born in Kansas City, Missouri, the daughter of Ida and Abe Zitron. She leaves sons and daughter: Steve (and Linda) Block, Randy (and Elyse) Block, and Cindy (and Sheldon) Singer; Grandchildren: Stacy Block, Tara Block, Pam (and Steve) Daube, Greg (and Sara) Block, Phil (and Melissa) Block, Sam Block, Daniel Singer, and Megan Singer; Great Grandchildren: Julia Block and Alex Daube; Brother: Stanley (and Barbara) Zitron; Longtime Companion: Wayne Lippman. Special thanks to Rabbi Mark Levin, Dr. Mark Davidner, Dr. Daniel Booser, Pam and Jill from Shawnee Mission Home Health, the entire oncology team at St. Joseph Medical Center, Dorothy Hampton, and the wonderful caregivers from Enhanced HomeCare. Services will be held Sunday, May 15, 10:30AM at Louis Memorial Chapel, 6830 Troost Ave., with burial following at Sheffield Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make a contribution in her memory to breast cancer research or the charity of your choice.

Comments



“ I reconnected with Janice as an adult when we met up in a Communiversity yoga class. We really took to each other. Until I read the obit, I had no idea of all her attributes and accomplishments. May you be comforted in your grief.

Yam Erez - June 09, 2011 at 01:41 PM



“ Dear Randy, Steve, and Cindy,

I am so sorry for your loss. I still have trouble accepting that Janice has passed. She was more than a cousin to me, she was a cherished friend.

Kindest regards,
Cynthia Berman

Cynthia Berman - May 26, 2011 at 10:26 PM



“ Steve, Randy

I was so sorry to read about your mother's passing. Its clear from the recap of her life that had a full and amazing journey. You and the rest of your family have some wonderful memories that hopefully will help to comfort you and keep her with you always. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Larry Weinstein - May 25, 2011 at 09:19 AM



“ My sympathy to the family. I met Jan when she worked at the Greater Kansas City Hadassah office. She was a lovely woman with a great smile.

Rita Shapiro - May 24, 2011 at 02:58 PM



“ i will miss janice and her friendly smile. my condolences. joe karbank

joe karbank - May 20, 2011 at 09:31 PM



“ I was very saddened by the news of Janice's passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family...some of whom I've known for many, many years.
~david leibson~

David Leibson - May 18, 2011 at 11:22 PM



“ Steve, Randy, Cindy and Families: I have such fond memories of your mom/grandma from when I was a child. She was beautiful both on the outside and inside. I so remember how her smile would light up a room. I did not see her many times in recent years, but I will never forget how special she was. I can only imagine how difficult it must be to adjust to life without her. I am so sorry for your loss.

Sincerely,

Patti Levin and Family

Patti Levin - May 17, 2011 at 01:17 PM



“ Steve and Linda,
Our deepest sympathy and best to you and all your extended family. A life well lived and an enduring and wonderful imprint on all those lives your mother touched.

Dan and Flo

Dan and Flo Rosenfield - May 17, 2011 at 09:50 AM



“ Jan was always full of energy and a bright smile. Although we live far away, she always found a way to keep up with us and our kids. She has remained a part of our family and shared in our lives through the years, most recently at Ben's Bar Mitzvah last November. We will miss her, and our thoughts go out to the family.

Stan and Ann Forman - May 17, 2011 at 01:00 AM



“ Cindy, Steve, and Linda,

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the passing of your mother. I know you must be so proud of her accomplishments. I hope the love of your family and friends will bring you some measure of comfort during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Susan Foley

Susan foley - May 16, 2011 at 08:26 PM



“ Very sorry to hear of your beautiful mother's passing. Such a pleasant and vivacious person. Her energy was obviously passed on to her children. Glad to have known her. Alison Heisler

Alison Heisler - May 16, 2011 at 08:48 AM



“ Dear Cindy, Steve, Randy, and families, we are so sorry about Janice's passing. What a woman! She was so special and such an extraordinary role model! We have been out of town, but will see you in person soon. Love, Lisa and Lenny Cohen

Lisa Cohen - May 15, 2011 at 10:23 PM



“ We first knew Janice as Abe Zitron's daughter. In the mid eighties, Jackye's father, Allan Greenberg, used to drive Abe to the morning minyan at the Shalom Geriatric Center. Of course, we also knew Janice was Cindy Singer's mom.

She was always gracious and had a positive look on life. She also kept herself active, both in the community and with her exercise program.

She almost always kept a smile on her face. Her attendance at community events showed a wide interest in helping others and keeping involved with Jewish causes. Her intelligence and compassionate nature were always in evidence.

One other thing made Janice remarkable. She never let her illness dominate her life. Not even once did we hear her complain about it or feel that she had been given a bad break.

Alan and Jackye Goldberg - May 15, 2011 at 09:39 PM



“ Randy, Bill and I are out of the country; read about Jan's passing on the Internet. She was obviously very accomplished. I'm sure she'll be missed by many. We wish you and your family peace and strength as you face the future without your mother.
Warm regards, Pauline and Bill

Pauline Wasserman - May 15, 2011 at 04:20 PM



“ To all the family and to Wayne,
We send our deepest condolences to you at this difficult time. We will remember “Aunt” Janice not only as the beautiful, remarkable lady she was, but as the embodiment of one who has learned to experience and enjoy life to its fullest, with a persistent positive attitude that is nothing but contagious to all who have had the privilege of knowing her.

Craig Forman and Linda Brenner - May 15, 2011 at 04:15 PM



“ Dear family of Janice Block. Your mom and I joined the same docent class at The Nelson some 25 years ago. We not only worked together but enjoyed many social activities with our docent study group. She was such an active and positive person even through her health problems. She will be missed by many.
Jean Dalton

Jean Dalton - May 15, 2011 at 03:54 PM



“ To Randy and all of the Block family,
I know of all wonderful things your Mom did in her beautiful life, the most wonderful were her family. My thoughts and heartfelt sympathy are with you at this most difficult time. May your beautiful memories give you strength.

Minette Gordon

Minette Gordon - May 15, 2011 at 12:27 PM



“ Dear Cindy, Randy, and Steve,
We wish to express our sincere sorrow to you and your families upon the loss of your mother. Janice stood up with me at our wedding in 1949 and again at our 50th anniversary. Your dad grew up with Jimmie. Jimmie played the organ at their wedding. We last saw you children when you were pre-teens. We kept in touch over the years. We both cherish our memories and will never forget the special lady she was. Fondly Shirley and Jimmie Roselli

Shirley Roselli - May 15, 2011 at 12:00 PM



“ My daughter, Jenny, and I send our best to you and your family at this difficult time. I am truly sorry about your mother's passing and wish your memories of her give you strength for each tomorrow.

Ron Davis - May 15, 2011 at 11:36 AM



“ Dear Steve, Randy, Cindy & families,
I am with all of you in mind and heart. I pray the trauma of the last weeks will soon fade leaving only beautiful memories of your mother.
I am confined to West 129th with pneumonia but will be with you all in spirit.
In love and sympathy,
Patsy (Dunn Shanberg)

patsy dunn shanberg - May 14, 2011 at 08:00 PM



“ Cindy, Randy and Steve...we were so shocked to hear the news. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Your mother always seemed so positive to be around. Take care.

Julie and Ron Altman - May 14, 2011 at 06:27 PM



“ I moved away from K.C. in 1998 and had not seen your Mother in all this time. We were friends years ago and lost touch with each other. Her obituary totally fits Janice Block and her accomplishments throughout her life. What a great tribute. I wish the family well and know you will dearly miss her.

An old friend.....Hanna Apple (Las Vegas Nv)

Hanna Apple - May 14, 2011 at 06:02 PM



“ Jan was my Tai Chi instructor for five years. She was always welcoming, friendly, and caring. Her students left her classes feeling happy and peaceful. Jan was a bright light in the world. Her passing will leave a hole in the universe.

I want to extend my deepest sympathy to Jan's family and friends.

Evelyn Dixon

Evelyn Dixon - May 14, 2011 at 01:51 PM



“ Randy, Cindy and family,
I was so sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. What a wonderful tribute you wrote about your mother. She obviously was an amazing woman.
My deepest sympathy.

Debbie Griffin

Debbie Griffin - May 14, 2011 at 01:42 PM



“ Jan truly lived her life espousing the values of NCJW. She improved the quality of life for at-risk students by turning her progressive ideals into action and safeguarded individual rights to ensure that students would not drop out of school. She was a courageous woman who dared to make a difference! On behalf of the NCJW Greater Kansas City Section, we celebrate her life and extend our sympathy to her family.

Teri Sackin - May 14, 2011 at 01:05 PM



“ Donna and I were saddened to hear of your Mother's passing. Our thoughts and prayers remain with you during this time.

Alan and Donna Gallas - May 14, 2011 at 10:35 AM



“ Hildy and I are so sorry for your loss. We are out of town this weekend but will see you when we return. May your mother's memory be for a blessing.

Joel and Hildy Goldman - May 13, 2011 at 08:50 PM



“ Cindy & Family,
Our thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time, your Mom's obituary is a magnificent tribute to her. May her memory be a blessing for all who knew and loved her.
Salli & Art Katz

Salli Katzman Katz - May 13, 2011 at 08:18 PM



“ I first met Jan taking Tai Chi Chih from her about two years ago. She was a great teacher and a classy lady. I gave her a ride home several times after class while she was still teaching after her third bout diagnosis. I always enjoyed her company.
My deepest sympathy to her family
Bev Newman

Bev Newman - May 13, 2011 at 06:07 PM



“ I was very sorry to learn that your mom passed away. Although I know she had not been well it is always a shock and a sorrow to lose a loved one. You are all in my thoughts. Love Rochelle

Rochelle Tannenbaum - May 13, 2011 at 05:47 PM



“ Cal and I are saddened by the news of Jan's passing. She was an amazing woman with many diverse talents. Whenever I saw Jan, she always had a smile on her face. Cal and I are thinking of her and her greatest joys in life-her family. Marilyn and Cal

Marilyn Lerner Cohen - May 13, 2011 at 05:14 PM



“ Cindy, Our deepest sympathy to you and your family on the loss of your precious mother. May she rest in peace.

Jody (Gottlieb) Ervin & Family - May 13, 2011 at 04:26 PM



“ Stan and I were indeed sadden to learn of the passing of Jan. She will always be remembered for her numerous activities she was interested in and her children whom she spoke of with great love. Our sincere sympathy to all of you. May you always cherish memories and may she rest in peace.
Marlene and Stan Katz

Marlene and Stanley Katz - May 13, 2011 at 03:59 PM



“ Janice was a lovely, classy lady. I always enjoyed visiting with her. My condolences to all the family.

Judy Meyer - May 13, 2011 at 03:27 PM



“ To Janice's children; We were so sad to hear the news about your Mom. She was a beautiful lady, both inside and out, and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family!

Robert and Elissa Goodman - May 13, 2011 at 02:28 PM



“ we send our love to all

Bill and Jan Daniels - May 13, 2011 at 02:18 PM



“ Steve, Randy and Cindy and your families: So sorry to hear about Jan. She was such a unique person, always greeting me with a wide smile and talking about the interesting things she was involved in. I will never forget the first time I met her and all of her kids in about 1966 in your matching yellow velour shirts. I am not sure if that was one of you who initiated that or if it was her, but it certainly made a lasting impression on me. I am sure she will be greatly missed; my deepest sympathy to all of you.

Bev Agron - May 13, 2011 at 12:19 PM



“ I am in shock. I recently saw Jan and she looked just fine. But Mark and I know she was fighting. She was exemplary in her attitude, ALWAYS -- before, during, and after treatments. We are out of town and will miss being with your family, but we share your sadness and send our wishes that relations and friends will help comfort you now, and in the future.
Love, Mark and Karin

Karin Lichterman - May 13, 2011 at 10:24 AM



“ To the family:
I am very sorry about your loss and give my best to your family.
rick mann

Rick Mann - May 13, 2011 at 10:15 AM