

Good-Bye, Janice Warner—We'll cherish the memories you gave us

The L'Arche Clinton community is mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Janice Warner (5/14/60 – 12/3/20).



Janice was one of the first two core members to move into our Arch II home in August, 1981, and she lived there as a beloved L'Arche Clinton community member for over 39 years. Janice enjoyed

collecting angels, looking at cook-books, drinking Pepsi, saving pop tabs, watching the Iowa Hawkeyes and Wheel of Fortune, and eating at Subway. She enjoyed participating in Special Olympics and winning ribbons. She was active in the First United Methodist Church: Parishioners there will tell you with a smile that Janice often was truly active in the services she attended.

Janice taught us many things, but more than anything else she taught us how to welcome. Janice embodied welcome! Janice was the first to make a stranger feel like they were a longtime friend. Janice's love for life and others was unconditional. She taught us all about what it means to love and what it means to live with joy. She hugged, laughed, sang, danced and prayed. She loved posing for pictures!

Janice had many catch phrases: When introducing herself it would be "My name is Janice Marie Warner. I live at Arch II. My birthday is May 14th." Working in the kitchen or leading the singing, she would say to a housemate "you and me like a team." A term of endearment to an assistant was "you're my sugar plum pot pie." When arriving back to Arch II she would often say "home safe." Perhaps that is what she will also say about her new home in Heaven.

The Janice I Knew

Editor's note: Lisa Gerwulf started working for L'Arche Clinton in March of 2020. She shares some of her observations of Janice.

As I started working for L'Arche, everyone seemed to want to remember the "old Janice" and how she "used to be". Well, I never met that Janice. I knew the Janice that could sit at the dining room table in complete silence and focus all of her attention on organizing a pile of dominoes. I knew the Janice that liked to eat



boiled eggs when we would go for walks around the block. I knew the Janice that quietly hummed, Jesus Loves Me while I sang it to calm her while cutting her toenails. I knew the Janice who'd smile as she drifted off to sleep while listening to me read Little Women. I knew the Janice, who on the last day we shared life together, washed my hands instead of me washing hers during her evening routine. I knew the present Janice.

She was a shining example of God's love & she loved going out to eat.
-Kay Brown

Janice had a happy soul and it was contagious. She will be missed.
-Beth Brandt

When Janice gave me a hug...I felt like it was a hug from Jesus.
-Karen Steffen

Janice Warner "The Pose"



My favorite memories with Janice Warner

By Hannah Nurrieum

Janice could make joy in any moment and was so often free to dance and sing with me. It became one of our last ways to communicate together. Janice could appreciate anything I put on, but I loved bonding over enjoying John Denver together. I often cook and play tunes on Saturday mornings, and she would be in the kitchen with me jamming. She could always add to a vibe. I loved watching *Touched by An Angel* with her, she would often show me her signed pictures with the cast. She really enjoyed angels, so I like to think that God is going to give her that job. She's got great skills to be an angel.

George must be so glad to see her in heaven. I loved how much George loved Janice. He had an 8 by 10 of her in his room for years. He and Janice had a thing for a while, and she was his "one who got away." I remember when she got a "new honey" but George still prayed for her every night. She also loved Shasta and I bet Shasta was also there in heaven to greet her with tail wags and love, Lady too. Janice often spoke of missing her Mom, and I'm so glad they're reunited as well.

I will miss Janice so much, but I can only see her celebrating all of the love she had in her life. She was a light of welcome and hope, and I pray everyone who met her, carries that torch with them.



Obituary for Janice M. Warner
 May 14, 1960-December 3, 2020



Janice M. Warner, 60, of Clinton, passed away Thursday, December 3, 2020 at the Pearl Valley Rehab Center – Muscatine.

Janice Marie Warner was born on May 14, 1960, the daughter of Harlan and Fern (Tallman)

Warner. She enjoyed working at the Skyline Center.

Janice was a member of the First United Methodist Church where she enjoyed singing and signing for her church family. She enjoyed participating in the Special Olympics and was very proud to show off her many gold medals. She loved to go bowling; sing and dance with her Arch family. She loved rooting for the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Janice is survived by her sisters: Joyce (Jeff) Vath of Clinton, Gayle (Todd) Treadwell of Snellville, Georgia, her brother: Russ (Vicky) Warner of Sioux City, Iowa, many nieces and nephews, and her very special friend: JoAnne Horstman and the Arch family that she was a member of its community for over 40 years. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Memorials can be made to the Arch or First United Methodist Church.

*Rest in Peace, Janice
 Your family at L'Arche Clinton*



My heart is broken. Janice was such a sweet, loving and caring soul. She always brought a smile to my face. May she have endless songs, Dairy Queen and dances in Heaven.

Mary Mathieu

I will always remember the first time I met Janice at Arche II. She met me with a hug I will never forget!

Laurinet Spalding

I trust that Janice is now at home with the angels. She taught me so much about unconditional love. Missing all of my old friends at the Arch.

Carmy Luke



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Life is made up of *special moments* which make it worth living. Don't miss the good stuff in 2021. Slow down and remember how precious it is to be alive and to love.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

CONNECT WITH US

JOIN A VIRTUAL COMMUNITY NIGHT

Interact with core members and staff as we celebrate each others anniversaries and birthdays. Email ddc@larcheclinton.org to find out details.

SHARE A MEAL WITH US

Prepare, buy take-out or purchase a gift card to share a meal with a home. You can also schedule a video chat to get to know us or reconnect with our community.

DONATE TO L'ARCHE CLINTON

Make a tax-deductible financial gift, enabling us to provide relationally centered companionship, personalized healthcare coordination and a community of belonging for people with intellectual disabilities. Go to <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/ArchInc/donate.html>

For more information contact Jean Bormann at ddc@larcheclinton.org or 563-249-2569.

*Good-bye to our friend, Janice Warner.
You may be gone . . .
. . . But you will never be forgotten!*

