



## Joani Whinston

April 3, 1943 - February 3, 2020

Joan Lenett Whinston (Joani) passed away peacefully on Monday, February 3 with her beloved family and her showtunes by her side. She was 76 years old. Loving wife of 41 years to Stephen Whinston. Devoted mother to Stephanie Portnoy and her husband Sean, Brian Arasim and his wife Jennifer, and Josh Whinston and his wife Liz. Devoted grandmother to Maddie, Sam, Max, Gabe, and Sadie. Dear sister to Scotti Guren and aunt to beloved nieces Debby Silverman (David), Cheri Rafferty (James), Susie Nantz (Lee), Nancy Guren Palumbo (Ken), Andrew Courtney (Dominique), Allison Clark (Kevin), and Adam Courtney. She was “mom” to many of her children’s family and friends. Joani was a renaissance woman who had many different careers over the course of her lifetime. She was an entrepreneur, a theatre producer and director who had a play produced Off-Off-Broadway, a published author and playwright, a macrobiotic chef and owner of a children’s drama school. She was a lifelong champion for people with disabilities and was the first ombudsperson for the disabled in Cherry Hill.

A gathering of friends and family will be held at Givnish of Marlton, 398 E. Main Street, on Thursday, February 6th from 10:00am to 12:00 pm to share food and greet the family, followed by a service to honor Joani at 12:00 pm. Interment will follow the next day in Virginia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to the Amputee Coalition <https://www.amputee-coalition.org/>, the Special Olympics <https://www.specialolympics.org/> or United Cerebral Palsy <https://www.cerebralpalsyguidance.com/>.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 6. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Marlton  
398 E Main St  
Marlton, NJ 08053  
(856) 452-5090  
info@givnish.com

## Funeral Service

FEB 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Marlton  
398 E Main St  
Marlton, NJ 08053  
(856) 452-5090  
info@givnish.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Givnish Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joani Whinston*



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**Givnish Funeral Home** - February 05, 2020 at 04:17 PM

LM

*Broke my heart and made me laugh all at the same time. Love you, Joani. -Lynne*

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**Lynne Mishele** - February 05, 2020 at 10:19 PM



“ *Joani Whinston*

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September 09, 2022 at 01:27 AM

JS

“ *I feel so blessed to have met and participated in chorus with Joani. She always had a smile, a laugh, and clever banter for any situation.*

*Peace and healing to Steve and family!*

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**Jean Slover** - February 05, 2020 at 07:42 PM

DJ

“ *Debbie, Mike and Joseph Jones purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joani Whinston.* ”



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**Debbie, Mike and Joseph Jones** - February 05, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joani Whinston.* ”



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February 05, 2020 at 08:03 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joani Whinston.* ”



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February 05, 2020 at 08:01 AM

AS

“ *So sorry. Joani was the sweetest lady and always kind. She was a GREAT friend to my parents George and Lindamarie Hunt. She will be missed* ”

*Alexis Shepp*

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**alexis shepp** - February 05, 2020 at 05:36 AM

SS

“ *Deepest condolences. Joanni always had a welcoming smile and warm conversation to share. Many Simcha's remembered and enjoyed. She inspired.*

*Warmest wishes,  
Shelley and Rob Sax*

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**Shelley Sax** - February 04, 2020 at 09:22 PM

SA

“ *My mother in law, Erna Anolik, lived across the street from Joani and Steve on Viking Lane. Joani was such a caring friend to her. I remember her making a delicious meal- a special chicken recipe for Erna when Erna's husband, Bernie, passed away. It was such a comfort to the whole family to receive this meal. I will always be appreciative.*

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**Susan Anolik** - February 04, 2020 at 08:36 PM

BM

“ *I will miss her. She had such a creative spirit. She would not let her disabilities squelch her drive. She would always be looking for the next project.*

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**beverly miller** - February 04, 2020 at 04:44 PM

SP

“ *I will always remember Joani's wonderful welcoming smile and way of including everyone. I will miss her and hope she is playing Canasta somewhere. Love, Shirley*

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**Shirley Portnoy** - February 04, 2020 at 03:36 PM

AS

“ *She was a very dear friend for over thirty years and will be missed . We will always remember the fun time and trips we had, and of course the flea market. There are just too many memories and simchas to list. Our hearts go out to the entire family and share the pain of your (and our) loss. May she rest in peace with mom-mom to take care of her. May her name be forever a blessing. We love you guys!!*

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**A'nde & Phil Sax** - February 04, 2020 at 03:12 PM