

Janice Jones



March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1968 – Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# Memorial Program

1:00 pm Sunday, November 23, 2025

The Spruce Pine Lodge, Bahama, NC

- Welcome, Tom Transue
- Donna Swanson, childhood friend
- Virginia Transue, mother-in-law
- Joe Transue, brother-in-law
- Simon Transue, son
- Sheldon Lanier, friend
- Cynthia King, like a sister
- Tom Transue, soulmate

## Celebration of Life

Immediately following the Memorial, please stay (or go and come back) and take some time to simply connect with Tom, the boys, other family members, and friends from childhood, college, graduate school, and Durham. Light food, water, soft drinks, beer, and wine will be provided.

3:00, 4:00, and 5:00 – At the start of each hour, Tom will invite anyone who wishes to say a few words to do so, expressing a sentiment or telling a story. Spontaneity, sadness, emotions, tears, music, and humor are all welcome.

5:15 – Last call for beer and wine.

6:00 – Departure

# Notable

- '82-'86 Wyoming Seminary High School: played Emily in Our Town; Editor of the school paper; Varsity field hockey (4 years); Winner of the Declamation contest, Oratorical Contest, President's Award, and more.
- '86-'90 Oberlin College: B.A. in Geology and Environmental Studies; Varsity field hockey (4 years). Co-taught an "Exco" class on World Peace.
- '87: Certified PADI Dive Master.
- '88: Underwater lobster research the Darling Center, Walpole, ME with Bob Steneck.
- '89: Marine mammal research under Jon Lien, Newfoundland and Labrador Sea (aboard R/V ARGO-Maine).
- '91: Assisted in dismantling of the Irvine-Michigan-Brookhaven proton decay detector more than 1/3 mile under Cleveland, OH.
- '93-'96: Competitive ballroom dancer, international style.
- '97-'01: Evaluated and shipped several Malinois and German Shepherd dogs to Indiana and Durham sheriff or police.
- '00-'05+: Home renovation, hands-on: wiring, plaster repair, wood restoration, and much more.
- '01-'05: Volunteer with Preservation Durham office and field work.
- '01-'05: Key partner with Iron Paw Akita Rescue saving over 100 dogs in NC, SC, GA, and TN.
- '03: Project manager for an 1865 historic home renovation.
- '05: Co-founder of Durham Community Preschool.
- '08: Project manager for a 1920 historic home renovation.
- '08: National AKC Agility Invitational with "Machias".
- '10-'23: hundreds of hours volunteering with Durham Public Schools.
- '14,'15: National AKC Agility Invitational with "Lehigh".
- '15: Planned a PTA event raising over \$10,000 for E.K. Powe Elementary.
- '19-'20 Planned Brogden Fall Fun Day and Community Days.
- '99-'24: Hundreds of dog training awards and titles.

# Obituary

Janice Jones of Durham, NC, passed away peacefully at Duke Regional Hospital at the age of 57, on September 19th, 2025, following a stroke.

Janice was born in Scranton, PA on March 3rd, 1968, and was brought home to her adoptive parents April 4th. Janice grew up in Forty Fort, PA and attended Wyoming Seminary grades K-12, graduating in the Spring of 1986. Janice received a B.A. in geology and environmental studies from Oberlin College (Ohio) in 1990. It was there that Janice met Tom Transue. In the Spring of 1991, Janice was admitted to Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) Master of Public Policy program in Bloomington, Indiana. Ultimately, a more important result of this time was falling in love with Akitas, dog training, and meeting life-long friend, Cynthia King who with daughter Eleanor are chosen family!

In February 1996, Janice and Tom moved to Belgium for his work, but they used the geographical challenge to plan and have their wedding on June 22nd, 1996, at Janice's parents' farm in Hunlock Creed, PA.

In the Spring of 1999, Janice and Tom moved to Durham, NC where Tom pursued a second post-doctoral fellowship. In the summer of 2000 Janice and Tom bought and began renovating a 1920 four-square American craftsman style house which soon became a labor of love for both of them. Janice quickly embraced communities of preservation, neighborhood improvement, pre-schools, and schools, bringing thoughtful, careful wisdom as to how to set and achieve goals with each, rarely with any interest in getting paid or getting credit. The love of her boys (Owen born 2004 and Simon born 2008) and dozens of other kids led her to pour endless energy into making their individual and collective lives better.

In her final years, one could say that Janice had succeeded in life, and the lives of everyone she touched became more successful and enjoyable. Janice would have wanted everyone to carry on, do good things (especially for children), and not fret that she is gone. She did it for us and accepted credit in her quiet way.

Janice was preceded in death by parents, Robert L. and Marcella "Marcie" A. (Kozmoski) Jones (Sweet Valley, PA). She is survived by husband Thomas "Tom" R. Transue, sons Owen R. and Simon R. Transue (Durham, NC), sister Jennifer Jones and her life partner David Rittenhouse (Upper Dublin, PA), and birth parents and half siblings.

Janice's ashes and those of four dogs will be interred in Maine in the summer of 2026.

Visit <https://janice.jonestransue.net> for an ongoing connection to Tom and other friends and family members.