

Memorial Tribute to *Jean (Joanie) Woltz Robins*

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Presented by Martha Moore

Compiled by Martha Moore and Tricia Sauer

In her 70 short years on earth, Joanie Robins made a real impact on all who knew her. She leaves behind her beloved family, her husband Randy, three children, Rand, Spotty and Berkeley and seven beautiful grandchildren.

Joanie joined Tuckahoe Garden Club in 1986 and served as President from 1996-1998. She had great skills as a hands-on gardener, but also had extraordinary skills as a cultivator of people and a positive attitude that made her a perfect leader for our club. Sue Thompson has been quoted as saying, "She was the best president we ever had". During her busy term as President, TGC installed a microclimate wall in front of the Science Museum of Virginia. This was a wakeup call for our club and we subsequently began to support many other initiatives in our community. During her 38 years of membership in TGC Joanie served as the head of almost every committee in our club.

Joanie also shared her many talents with the Garden Club of Virginia. She served as Treasurer not only of GCV but also Historic Garden Week and The Kent Valentine House. She helped the organization develop systems to make their finances more transparent. She had the ability to diplomatically lead an organization to the next level without ruffling feathers. She commanded respect and worked well with the other clubs and officers in the GCV.

Joanie helped lead the altar guild at St. Mary's Church for 17 years and served as a Board member or President of many nonprofit organizations. She was a strong supporter of women's education which led her to become President of The Woman's Club.

We fondly remember going to Joanie and Randy's house in Mooreland Farms and learning how to make osmanthus wreaths. Emma Oppenheimer, one of the past 'queens' of TGC, taught us how to make these beautiful Christmas wreaths and scent of the osmanthus in bloom was heavenly. Joanie generously opened her home for club meetings, workshops, cocktail parties, plant sales and anything else the club requested. She was usually one of the first to arrive at our meetings and one of the last to leave, always with a smile. She loved getting to know younger and newer members of TGC and encouraged them in subtle ways. A native of Mt. Airy, NC, Joanie never lost her Carolina graciousness and Southern charm. Even with her health issues, she attended almost every TGC event over her years in the club and was a continual cheerleader and supporter of the club. She and Randy could always be counted on to support the plant sale and help clean up extra inventory. They also never missed a club cocktail party! This past spring, Joanie attended the Past President's luncheon at Kelly's and when asked for a snippet of advice for our new President, Ellen Buoyer, Joanie smiled and said, "Just have fun"! We were all thrilled that she came to support the spring sale with Berkeley and her daughter in law, Lucy. She was forever a supporter of all things TGC.

Everything Joanie touched was made more beautiful. She loved roses and had an affinity for peach roses. She and Randy turned their garden on St. Andrews Lane into a personal oasis and the garden reflected their passion for plants. She just had a knack for putting the right plant in the right place.

We will miss Joanie's kindness, sense of humor, intellect and energy. She was an anchor for this club for over 35 years and kept us focused on moving forward in the right direction while having fun every step of the way. She was so giving of her time and talents and was a dear friend to all. Her efforts to contribute to Tuckahoe Garden club were undaunted by her cancer. We know that she is now in a beautiful place. Hopefully she has an osmanthus hedge full of heavenly fragrance and an abundance of peach roses. We will miss her. Rest in peace, dear Joanie.

Jean Woltz Robins' positions with Tuckahoe Garden Club, GCA and GCV

Member 1986 -2024

TGC Positions

- Awards
- Conservation
- Constitution and ByLaws

- Finance
- First Vice President
- Flower Committee-Rose
- Joint Meeting
- Membership
- Nominating Chair
- Past President, Ex Officio
- President
- Programs
- Projects and Long-Range Planning
- Treasurer
- Newsletter

GCA Positions

- Annual Meeting Badges and Registration Chair

GCV Positions

- Annual Meeting Co-chair
- Finance Committee
- HGW Advertising
- HGW Hospitality
- HGW Publicity
- HGW Richmond Steering Committee (Advertising)
- HGW Treasurer-Richmond Tour
- KV House Treasurer
- GCV Treasurer

Joan Woltz Robins ' Awards

TGC Awards

- The Janet Patton Lewis Bowl-1997, 2009 and 2016
- The Charlotte Taylor Massie Award-2005 and 2008
- The Hylah Boyd Conservation Award-2012
- The President's Award-2018

GCA Awards

- Medal of Merit-2006
- Club Communication Award-2008