

In Loving Memory of Nanci Pompan

Nanci Pompan z”l, President of the Atlantic District (2016-2017) will be remembered as our sister, a friend, mother, grandmother and a committed, caring and enthusiastic member of WRJ. She cared deeply about Women of Reform Judaism, its mission and the people of the organization. She was a beautiful person, genuinely kind and caring and her loss is tragic.

Nanci was:

N ICE	P ASSIONATE
A DVENTUROUS	O PTIMISTIC
N OBLE	M OTIVATING
C OURAGEOUS	P ERSONABLE
I NDEPENDENT	A WESOME
	N OTABLE

There are so many positive attributes to describe Nanci, there just aren’t enough letters in her name to capture her patience, wisdom, thoughtfulness, intelligence, and energy. She was resourceful, honest, selfless, reliable, gentle, compassionate, soft-spoken, sensitive and unique. She was the calming voice in the midst of debate. Nanci cared deeply about Reform Judaism, social justice, Israel and was committed to making the world a better place however she could.

She was active in her synagogue, Temple Emanu-El in Westfield, NJ, the sisterhood, her community, and of course WRJ. She held almost every position in her sisterhood, where most recently she was “Treasurer for Life” as well as the first smile seen at the welcome/registration table for all events. Nanci also held many positions in the Atlantic District where she had been treasurer, area director, first vice president and most recently, President.

Nanci was a leader people wanted to follow and someone people knew they could count on. Like many of us, saying no did not seem to be an option. Nanci was always willing to do for others and wanted to be sure people felt comfortable and involved. She was a friend to many, and people sought her advice and felt comfortable in her presence. Nanci encouraged others to serve and was a great mentor, but she led by example.

Nanci was determined not to let her physical challenges hold her back, whether it be travelling or doing the things that mattered most to her. She loved her sons and daughter in-law and was so excited about becoming a grandmother.

Nanci passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2018 after many weeks in the hospital with a rare viral form of Polymyositis, a virus that attacked her muscles and robbed her of strength and mobility. In the early weeks of hospitalization, Nanci had an agenda, and a to-do list that were foremost in her mind. She graciously transitioned her responsibilities and delegated to others the things that weighed heavily upon her. WRJ, the Atlantic District and her sisterhood were almost as important to her as family. They were her second family. Her loss is painful and we grieve together because we draw strength from one another. Together we will find a way forward and we wish her family the strength to live with joy as Nanci would have wished for them.

There is a quote by William Shakespeare: “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” Nanci lived life with purpose; she had many gifts and shared them freely with all of us. She has left a lasting legacy to all those who knew her and she will be deeply missed. Nanci was a true Woman of Valor.

As a lasting tribute to Nanci, the Atlantic District has renamed our District scholarship fund in her memory. The Nanci Pompan Leadership Development Fund will provide scholarships to women who might otherwise not have the financial resources to attend District events where they can grow in their individual leadership potential. We will ensure that Reform Judaism remains strong into the future by continuing to train women to lead the way.