



## Janet Allen Esch

April 7, 1940 - November 11, 2018

Janet Allen Esch died Sunday morning November 11, 2018 at her home in Maumee, Ohio. She was 78.

Janet was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1940. She graduated from Willis High School in Delaware, Ohio and attended Ohio Wesleyan University, graduating in 1962. There she met her soul mate and husband Raymond Gates Esch, Jr. They were married that year in Delaware, Ohio. Janet and Ray then moved to Michigan where she worked as a second-grade teacher in the Livonia School System and supported Ray while he completed his law degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Over the course of five decades in the Toledo area Janet held an array of positions both paid and unpaid that underlined her devotion to community service. From 2010 to 2015 she was a member of the board of The Open Door, an organization devoted to providing men in recovery safe places to live based on the principles of honesty, unselfishness and love. As an educator with the Read for Literacy program of the Toledo Public Library Janet was committed to helping adults face the challenge of learning how to read. She guided people through the process of tackling the many obstacles that prevent adults from learning to read and helped several into receiving their GED diplomas. At the end of her life Janet was on the board of the Maumee Senior Center.

In 2007 Janet became active in the campaign to elect Barack Obama, forming part of the team that delivered Ohio for Obama. In that context she welcomed young organizers from across the country into her home. This work emerged from the decades-long commitment to racial justice that she shared with her husband and passed on to her children.

From 1991 to 1998 Janet worked at Westside Montessori where she was an early proponent of computer education. There she was known for teaching boys and girls how to knit – their starter project being neckties - Christmas presents for their fathers! Prior to going to Westside Janet was the Director of Development at St. John's Jesuit High School. From 1985 to 1989 Janet instituted features associated with St. John's to this day such as the magazine Titan Topics and the annual dinner auction. She helped create the logo still in use by St. Johns.

Before entering the paid work-force Janet worked unpaid and full-time in numerous capacities. Through the Junior League of Toledo, of which she was President from 1979-

1981, she worked in a child care center in downtown Toledo, brought Ralph Nader to Toledo to talk about consumer consciousness and safety (at a time when Nader was scorned as an advocate of seat belts in cars!) She presided over countless fund-raisers including for Planned Parenthood which she and her husband Ray supported throughout their lives.

Janet believed in personal growth, humility and second chances and tried to practice those commitments every day. She never left the New York Times crossword puzzle unfinished and usually did it in ink. She loved her cats, her children, her grandchildren, her husband and the many members of the fellowship where she found joy, happiness and freedom.

Janet is survived by her children Emily Esch and her son Alexander Gates; her daughter Elizabeth Esch and partner David Roediger; her son Thomas Esch and wife Cara Linehan Esch and their son Emerson Gates; her sister Barbara Keyes; brothers Jack Allen and Jerry Allen and many friends.

Friends may call at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. from 2:00 to 8:00 PM on Thursday, November 15, 2018. A memorial service will begin at 11:00 AM on Friday, November 16, 2018 at the Monclova Country Church on the Grounds of the Wolcott Heritage Center, 1035 River Rd. in Maumee, OH. Internment private.

The family extends its heartfelt gratitude and deep respect to the medical and professional staffs at the Oncology and Infusion Center at Toledo Hospital, the office of Dr. Garth Phibbs and to

the nurses from Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Donations in Janet's name may be made to The Open Door (<http://www.opendoortoledo.org>) and Read For Literacy (<http://www.readforliteracy.org>) both in Toledo, OH.

# Events

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**NOV** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 08:00PM

**15**

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Coyle Funeral Home

1770 S. Reynolds Road, Toledo, OH, US, 43614

**NOV** **Memorial** 11:00AM

**16**

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Monclova Country Church, Wolcott House

US

# Comments

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“ Janet will be very missed and Victoria will never forget her Nanny Janet



**Angi Esch** - November 14, 2018 at 11:54 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Janet Louise Esch.



November 14, 2018 at 04:34 PM