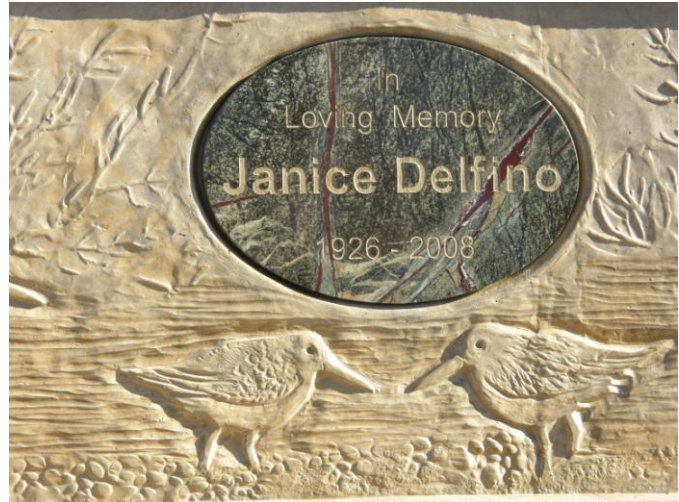


Dear Frank, Florence, Philip and all of Janice's Friends:

I really wish I could be there for the dedication of Janice's bench, a permanent reminder to all that venture up the refuge hill that one person can really make a difference in our natural and public world. Janice did just that with a passion and positive attitude that inspired refuge managers and staff, volunteers and citizen activists. From this hill top, you can see wetlands in every direction that Janice helped to protect, forever!



I knew Janice as a refuge volunteer and as wetland protector. She brought Frank along, to keep the conversation going when she stopped to take a breath, or to get some more delicious home grown fruit or Skippy peanut butter out of the back of Frank's tidy truck. I recall many volunteer events pulling weeds at Antioch Dunes or vegetation work with Janice. She gravitated to the botanical opportunities of refuge management. She worked so hard and made us all work harder just trying to keep up.

I also remember how kind and thoughtful Janice was, especially to my young daughters, Ann and Julie. She always greeted them at volunteer events and would help them be "helpful" in the cause, whatever the task. We have a great picture of the girls covered in mud after helping Janice and Frank with the first boardwalk construction to LaRiviere Marsh. Of course Ann and Julie loved the home-grown fruit as well, especially the raspberries, jewels from their garden.

Janice was the Bay Area walking encyclopedia on wetlands and pending development projects. Ask her anything about a bay wetland and she could recite the acreage, wetland type, vegetation and the pending threats to that wetland. She had a vast knowledge of contaminants and salt-making propaganda as well. During the campaign to double the authorized size of the refuge, Janice was always there front and center to make a public statement and encourage legions to follow her lead. I was one of those first to follow, as she never ceased to press on, to hope and to inspire all of us to dream bigger dreams and act on those dreams.

Most of all Janice was a friend, a warm hug, a big beautiful smile and she flashed a radiant gleeful glint in her eyes. We miss her and honor her today and always, as she made a difference, a legacy, that will last forever.

We also lift up Frank today, as the full partner in the Delfino - Delfino legacy. Thank you Frank for sharing Janice with us for all these years. We want to return the blessing, by sharing our love for you today and always.

Rick and Carolyn Coleman, Ann, Julie, Colin, Robin, Philip and Katherine.