

In Memoriam

Janie Breckenridge

Executive Administrative Assistant, San Diego Theatres

San Diego Theatres mourns the loss of Janie Breckenridge, whose warmth, wit, and tireless dedication enriched our organization and the lives of everyone fortunate enough to work alongside her. Janie passed away peacefully last week after a brief illness, leaving behind a legacy of service, passion, and unwavering positivity that will not soon be forgotten.

A Life of Service and Purpose

Born and raised in National City, California, Janie graduated from Lincoln High School and later attended Brigham Young University. Her professional life was as varied as it was accomplished. Before entering what would become a long career in civic and arts administration, she taught piano lessons, worked as a real estate agent, and served with the IBEW electricians' union — each chapter reflecting a woman who brought skill and full commitment to whatever she took on.

Janie joined the San Diego Convention Center Corporation early on, before the convention center was even built, serving as a Board Administrator and a trusted assistant to Carol Wallace, who led the Convention Center until 2015. When Carol was appointed President and CEO of San Diego Theatres in 2018, she brought Janie back from retirement to help her — a testament to the depth of their professional partnership and the confidence Carol placed in her. In her role as Executive Administrative Assistant, Janie was indispensable: precise, proactive, and genuinely committed to the organization's mission.

Janie was not one to slow down. After her formal retirement from the Convention Center, she returned part-time as a concierge before joining San Diego Theatres. True to form, she was checking her work email just two weeks before she passed — making sure, as she always did, that nothing fell through the cracks.

The Person Behind the Desk

To know Janie was to know someone who was fully alive. She loved to dance — always had, always would. She played the organ and delighted in performing for an audience. She adored the theatre,

and in a fitting final request, she asked that a medley of show tunes be played at her memorial service. It was the kind of choice only Janie would make: joyful, theatrical, and completely herself.

She was equally at home marching in a political protest and quietly picking up trash she came across on her daily walks. She sewed clothes for her three children, and then for their dolls. She baked cookies and rolls for her grandchildren, attended her church faithfully, and was a regular at the San Diego Zoo. She could be found deep in a book on her work breaks — an avid reader until the end. She loved going to the beach, keeping up with fashion, and was known for her stylish appearance and an enviable collection of handbags and coin purses. She was also a devoted QVC viewer, a knitter, and an activist who believed that showing up mattered.

Those who worked with Janie will remember her wit — sharp, warm, and always well-timed. They will remember her passion, her elegance, and above all, her relentlessly positive spirit. She brought that spirit to everything: to her work, to her community, to her family, and to every morning she walked through the door.

Family

Janie is survived by her children, Eric Bird and Lisa Ryan; six grandchildren, Benjamin, Emily, and Daniel Carr, and Jackson, Ruby, and Kate Ryan; and three great-grandchildren, Ezra, Katherine, and Cecily Carr. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Juli Carr. A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 28 to celebrate Janie's life.

Janie Breckenridge gave more than five decades to her community — in civic service, in the arts, in her family, and in the countless small acts of care and presence that define a life well lived. San Diego Theatres is profoundly grateful for the years she gave us. She will be deeply missed.