



## Jonathan E. Marks

August 23, 1946 - February 15, 2025

Jonathan E. Marks, EdD, passed away in Palm Harbor, Florida, on February 15, 2025. His wife of 42 years, Tova, preceded him in death only three weeks prior.

Jonathan was born in Cincinnati, the son of Louise D. and Grauman Marks. He attended North Avondale Elementary School, and Walnut Hills High School, graduating Cum Laude in 1964. He then earned undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees from Yale University in the field of drama. He taught drama (and was an accomplished actor himself) at Yale, Harvard, the American Conservatory in San Francisco, and for over 30 years at Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas. He and Tova moved to Palm Harbor in 2022, following his retirement from teaching.

In Lubbock, he was president of Congregation Shaareth Israel for several terms, and remained active there, sometimes leading services via Zoom even after moving to Florida. He also was a member of Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor.

Jonathan is survived by three children, Rick Cohn and Tina Cohn (Schwartz) of Palm Harbor, and Karen Cohn (Asbell) of Hamden, CT, and by several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also leaves a brother, Ed Marks of Oldsmar, FL., and three sisters, Helen Waits of Cincinnati, Peggy Marks of New York City, and Doris Rodier of Cincinnati. Funeral service: Thursday February 20, at the sanctuary at Curlew Hills Memorial Garden, Palm Harbor, where Jonathan and Tova will rest for eternity.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a contribution to the charity of your choice in Jonathan's memory.

# Cemetery Details

## Curlew Hills Memory Gardens

1750 Curlew Road  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 20. 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Curlew Hills Memory Gardens  
1750 Curlew Road  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

## Funeral Service

FEB 20. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Curlew Hills Memory Gardens  
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# Tribute Wall

JR

“ JONNY MARKS was my dearest friend during my youngest days. We literally first met in nursery school at The Children's Playhouse in Cincinnati, Ohio . We were at each other's houses incessantly, and I remember Jonny's vain attempts to turn me into a semi-competent softball player. I remember our fifth grade obsession with Steve "Iron Jaw" Palmer, a local DJ and his record-eating companions the Phlugges. We promptly named one of the porches on Jonny's house "the Phluggie porch." I shared with Jonny the epoch transition from North Avondale Elementary School to Walnut Hills High School where we the only seventh graders to join the staff of the school newspaper, "The Chatterbox" which Jonny edited as a senior. I shared Jonny's grief when his mother Louise Marks of blessed memory unexpectedly passed away when Jonny was all of nine years old. In the eighth grade, Jonny, our friend Phil Spiess, and I put on a play we wrote called "Useless," a parody of the Odyssey. We revealed when the Grand Dame Latin Teacher was so offended she walked out. Perhaps Jonathan Marks Ed D. , the Professor Emeritus of Theater was forged by that experience. To Jonny I owe my life long passion for opera. I remember Jonny got me a position as a supernumerary with the Cincinnati Summer Opera which then was held at the Zoo for several of my high school summers. Jonny was gloriously thuggish as one of Baron Scarpia's goons, who beat up the tenor in the second act. His performance as the waiter in La Boheme- an opera I remember Jonny always cherished- was such a stealer that the real prima donna objected! Old friend, rest in peace. Your memory is and will always be a blessing. Jeffrey Rosen

Jeffrey Rosen - February 23, 2025 at 10:46 AM

DR

He spoke so highly of you. Thank you for being his friend.

Doris Marks Rodier - February 25, 2025 at 02:28 PM

BP

*I remember Jon well from 1962-63 when he was a senior at Walnut Hills and I was in my first year teaching there. I helped Jon prepare for a Forensic tournament. Jon needed no coaching from me as he was outstanding.*

*My sympathy especially to Helen and Peggy.*

*Bernice Levy Pollack  
Beachwood, Ohio*

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**Bernice Pollack** - March 06, 2025 at 10:18 PM

SC

“*I have such fond memories of Jonathan while he worked at American Conservatory Theater. His contribution were enormously and his warm and generous spirit plentiful.*

*Craig Slaight  
San Francisco*

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**Slaight Craig** - February 19, 2025 at 05:43 PM