

UURMaPA's 2023 Creative Sageing Award

recognizes one of our members who has done something particularly impressive and/or inspiring during their retirement. It draws upon the wisdom of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi in his landmark book *From Age-ing to Sage-ing*. We are honored to present the 2023 Creative Sageing Award to our colleague **Janne Eller-Isaacs**. *Her citation reads:*



Over the last three plus years, we have lost a significant number of well-known and well-loved colleagues, whose lives should have been longer. With the overlay of the pandemic, it was often difficult to gather together to share, first, concerns and care, and later, memories. Some of these beloved colleagues created a presence on Caring Bridge, sharing their reflections and allowing us to respond and encourage while we ached and grieved. These often intimate reflections were a great gift as we witnessed courageous and very real ways in which our colleagues approached their own death.

When we thought about this year's Creative Sageing Award, it became clear that we wanted to acknowledge this experience of loss and those who have helped us move through it. Most recently, **Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs** kept us updated on Rob's too quick journey with pancreatic cancer. Now Janne has her own site as she deals with her own malignant melanoma diagnosis.

For modeling for all of us ways to deal with grief and keep finding joy, we are pleased to present the 2023 Creative Sageing Award to **Janne Eller-Isaacs**.

Janne maintains an attitude of and articulation of gratitude in her journal: "Who knew that every moment is a gift? I don't take anything for granted." Her journal expresses gratitude for medical research, gratitude to scientists around the world, gratitude for being able to watch early blossoms of spring, and gratitude for taking trips to beloved places. In Janne's words, "If you say Yes, things are possible that you couldn't imagine."

Janne emphasizes the importance of being kind to medical care workers: "Never take them for granted and always acknowledge them." Her brother and our colleague, Jim Eller, says, "With courage and faith she is living each day and loving each day and loving each family member."

This tribute wouldn't be complete without speaking of Janne's capacity for lightheartedness, what Janne called "my true fiesta colors." It was no surprise to her family that she dressed as a pirate with her blocked eye in an eyepatch for Halloween, a high holiday in the Eller-Isaacs household.

Congratulations, Janne! You've modeled creative sageing for us in powerful and inspiring ways. Janne was honored at the UURMaPA July 10 virtual Welcoming event and received a certificate and a modest cash award. •••