

Shirley Leonard Longtime Area Resident

Shirley Usher Leonard passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 6, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's Disease. She was 95 years old.

In her later years, Shirley enjoyed gardening, traveling and exercise classes at the Westfield Y, where she made many new friends.



Shirley Leonard

The last eight years of her life were spent at Sunrise Senior Living of Westfield. She was known there for her bright smile and sweet nature. As her health declined, she received additional care and support from Center for Hope Hospice. Her family is grateful to Sunrise and Center for Hope for the dedicated and loving staff who cared for Shirley so well.

Shirley is survived by her daughter, Eileen Leonard (Dale Hagstrom) of Westfield; son, Paul Leonard (Joan) of Fairview, Tex., and grandchildren, Anne (Michael Varga) and Eric Hagstrom, and Jackson, Alex and Samuel Leonard. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 45 years, Frank.

Funeral services took place on Wednesday, January 16, at the Holy Trinity Church, with assistance from Dooley Colonial Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Center for Hope Hospice in Shirley's honor.

Shirley's first husband, Gustave Erikson, died in 1944 in the battle for Aachen, the first German city to fall to the Allies in World War II. In 1947, Shirley married Frank Leonard and retired from the workforce to raise her family as a stay-at-home mother. The family settled in Queens, N.Y., but moved to Fanwood and then Scotch Plains in the 1960s. When her children were grown, Shirley returned to the workforce at Allstate Insurance in Berkeley Heights until her retirement. She and Frank took many exciting trips, and she kept busy babysitting her grandchildren.

January 24, 2019

Susan B. Locascio, 80, Loving Wife, Mother and Grandmother

Susan B. Locascio, 80, departed this life on Friday, January 18, 2019, with her loving family by her side.

In her favorite pastime, enjoying and interacting with her four adoring grandchildren.

Born on January 13, 1939 in St. Paul, Minn., to James and Margaret Barber, Sue resided most of her life in Westfield, N.J.

She will be sorely missed by her entire family.

After obtaining her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, she became a civilian employee of the U.S. Department of Defense. She spent two years in Mainz, Germany, teaching fourth-grade children of the U.S. Army soldiers, and it is there that she met her future husband, First Lieutenant Mike Locascio.

Sue was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Thomas. She is survived by Michael P. Locascio, her loving and devoted husband of 53 years; their loving son, Michael J. Locascio, Michael's wife, Wendy, and Sue's four grandchildren, Matthew, Daniel, Thomas and Sean, of Park Ridge, Ill.

Upon returning to the United States, she married and subsequently obtained her Masters Degree in Library Science from Seton Hall University.

Sue is also survived by her brother, John, and her sisters, Patricia and Elizabeth.

Sue spent the balance of a great teaching career as the librarian at Tamaques School in Westfield, N.J., from which she retired in 2007, which gave her more time to engage

Arrangements are being handled by the Dooley Colonial Funeral Home, 556 Westfield Avenue, Westfield, N.J.

January 24, 2019



SHARING THEIR HEARTS...During the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, youngsters place paper hearts in the manger of the baby Jesus. One of the three candlelight services held on Christmas Eve, the Family Service drew almost 500 attendees who sang Christmas carols and listened to the Christmas story told through readings from the Bible.

Photo courtesy of Susan M. Dougherty

Obituaries

Edward French Babbott, 96, Beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather

Edward French Babbott, 96, of Basking Ridge, N.J., died peacefully on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, surrounded by members of his loving family.



Edward French Babbott

He is survived by his beloved wife, Cynthia Babbott; his children, Stewart (Cecelia Babbott) of Charlottesville, Va., and Margaret Babbott of Northampton, Mass.; stepsons, Douglas Sansom (Liz Sansom) of Suffield, Conn., and Peter Sansom (Kate Sansom) of Burlington, Vt.; sister, Elizabeth Conant (Camille Cox) of Buffalo, N.Y.; nine grandchildren and partners, Jennifer and Jonathan Ney, Brenna Sansom and Zed Lamba, Tory and Shannon Sansom, Sawyer Sansom, Ned (Edward) Babbott, Ellen Babbott, Michael Babbott, Noah Babbott-Bryan and Claire Babbott-Bryan, and one adorable great-grandson, Grant Ney. He was a beloved uncle to many nieces, nephews and their kin, as well as all those he and Cynny generously "adopted" over the years. Ed was predeceased by his loving first wife, Barbara Chapin Babbott, in 1976; stepson, Lee Sansom, and siblings, Frank Babbott, David Babbott and Lydia Paddon.

Ed was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1922 to Frank and Elizabeth Babbott. One of five children, he attended The Millbrook School, Amherst College and was graduated from Swarthmore College in 1944. He earned a Masters from Stanford and his Ed.D. from New York University. Initially, Ed taught secondary school English at the George School, the Chadwick School and Summit High School. While at Summit, he found his calling in guidance, eventually becoming the Director of Guidance for over twenty years at Summit High School and then Chatham High School. During that time, Ed's articles, essays and handbooks expanded the understanding of col-

lege and vocational options for high school students. He was active in many organizations, in particular the National Association of College Admissions Counselors, for which he served a term as president (1968-1969). He was the recipient of numerous honors for his professional and civic contributions. In semi-retirement, Ed was a consultant to the schools of Beaufort County, S.C., and the Global Development Institute.

Ed was deeply involved in his community and served in many volunteer capacities at his churches as well as Fellowship Village, Bernards Township Leisure Learning and the Kent Place School. He was a passionate environmentalist, serving on the board of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation for 44 years. Most recently, at 93, Ed and his daughter co-authored his first book, "Into the Great Swamp," that explores this protected wetland habitat through photography and poetry.

Ed loved fly-fishing, photography, needlepoint, the New York Giants, Shakespeare, crafting poetic rhyming toasts, and especially, traveling the world with Cynny. But what friends may not know is that Ed was a magician of the highest order; his grandchildren can attest to the fact that their "Poppy" could put grapes through his "noggin" only to appear behind their ears. His magic was infectious, making cups half-full to overflowing; transforming loneliness to connection; in sum, you left an encounter with Ed feeling as though you genuinely mattered.

A Memorial Service to celebrate Ed's life is being planned for the early spring. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a charity of choice or to the "Babbott Education Fund" at NJCF, which is used to fund student internships in conservation.

January 24, 2019

Pair to Perform '70s Music At Westfield Library Feb. 9

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Memorial Library will present Joel and Francine Zelnik singing the music of the 1970s on Saturday, February 9, at 2 p.m. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street.

The Zelnik musical duo is composed of the married couple, Francine Evans, an accomplished singer and actress, and Joel Zelnik, world-class jazz pianist. Together they possess more than 20 years of performing experience.

Their performance will include hits by James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Billy Joel, Judy Collins and many others. Among the collection of memorable songs they perform are "Both Sides Now," "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "You've Got a Friend" and "Take It Easy."

Attendees should sign up for the program, which is free and open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. MURAL cardholders belong to the 40-plus libraries that are part of the Middlesex Union Reciprocal Agreement Libraries. Interested persons are advised to check the Westfield Memorial Library's website, wmlnj.org, to see if

their library is a MURAL participant.

To register for the Zelniks' program, visit wmlnj.org and click on the Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, option 0.

Library hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information on library programs and services, call (908) 789-4090, visit wmlnj.org and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter, "Library Loop," or stop by the library for a copy of its award-winning, quarterly newsletter, "Take Note."

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Gail Alida (Partenheimer) Jebens, Former Resident of Westfield

Gail Alida (Partenheimer) Jebens passed away on Friday, December 7, 2018, in Durham, N.C. Formerly of Westfield, N.J., and Centerville, Cape Cod, Mass., she is survived by Walter Jebens, her loving husband of 61 years; their son, Steve, his wife, Karen, and three grandchildren, Melanie, Emily and Nick; and their daughter, Wendy, her husband, Danvers, and two grandchildren, Auggie and Weston. Gail was the only child of Merrill and Eleanor Partenheimer, formerly of Union, N.J.

Gail grew up in Union, and went to the University of Delaware for her freshman year. She graduated from Douglass College and received her Bachelor of Arts in Home Economics in 1959, then taught in New Jersey for several years. Her husband, Walt, graduated from the University of Delaware in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, and started his career with Esso/Exxon Corporation. They married in 1957, and lived mostly in Westfield, N.J., with two two-year assignments with

Esso in Okinawa and Singapore.

When Walt retired from Exxon in 1986, both he and Gail got NJRE Licenses with Burgdorff Realtors in Westfield, N.J. Gail also became active in Girl Scout Troop leadership with her daughter. They loved family tent camping, and had many travel and cruising adventures around the world. In 2004 they moved to Centerville, Mass., on Cape Cod, and enjoyed a home on Long Pond for 13 years. Their small armada of boats and their backyard beach and hot tub lured the kids and grandkids for frequent visits. In 2016 they moved to The Forest at Duke, a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Durham, and close to daughter Wendy in Chapel Hill.

A simple private family gathering is planned. Donations may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, stjude.org. Condolences may be shared at CremationSocietyNC.com.

January 24, 2019

Ann Kostick, 95, Worked at Macy's; Former Resident of Fanwood



Ann Kostick

Ann (Anna) Kostick, 95, of Oakland, N.J., died on Sunday, December 9, 2018. Born and raised in Jersey City, she lived in Fanwood for nearly 40 years before recently moving to Oakland. She worked in sales at Macy's Herald Square, New York City, for 50 years until her retirement. She is predeceased by her brothers, Stephen, Nicholas and John Kostick, and her sister, Stella Walczuk. She is survived by nine loving nieces and nephews. The family will be having a private memorial service at a later date. The Kostick family is in the care of the Aloia Funeral Home, 180 Harrison Avenue, Garfield, N.J., (973) 340-7077. For condolences, visit aloiafuneral.com.

January 24, 2019

S.A.R. Chapter to Host Historian-Author Kidder

WESTFIELD - The West Fields Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will host a public meeting on Friday, February 1, featuring historian William L. Kidder. Mr. Kidder is the author of several books about the American Revolution in New Jersey.

In his presentation, starting at 8 p.m. at the Westfield Municipal Building, Mr. Kidder will focus on that compact series of famous events, beginning in late December 1776, which composed the turning point of the Revolutionary War: the December 25 nighttime Crossing of the Delaware by General Washington and his troops; the surprise attack against the Hessians at Trenton the following morning, and the subsequent tactical maneuvering and skirmishing which led to the American victory at the Battle of Princeton on January 3.

These crucial events and their importance to the final outcome of the Revolution are the focus of Mr. Kidder's next book, soon to be released, entitled "Ten Crucial Days: Washington's Vision for Victory Unfolds" (Knox Press, January 2019). For his talk at the Westfield Municipal Building, Mr. Kidder said he will discuss in-depth decisions made by people on both sides of the conflict during those 10 days and their significance.

Colleagues of Mr. Kidder have given very positive reviews of his new book. Historian Robert Selig, project consultant to the Washing-

ton Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, writes, "Larry Kidder's Ten Crucial Days takes you step by step across the wintry landscape of southern New Jersey. Based on extensive research in primary sources drawn from all sides of the conflict, Kidder introduces the reader to the deeply personal experiences of officers and common soldiers alike during what pamphleteer Thomas Paine called in December of 1776, 'the times that try men's souls.'"

Mr. Kidder, a United States Navy veteran, is a retired high-school history teacher, including 32 years at the Hun School of Princeton. He is a member of the Washington's Crossing Roundtable of the American Revolution and the New Jersey Living History Advisory Council. He also has served as an adviser for Crossroads of the American Revolution and was the editor of "Meet Your Revolutionary Neighbors," a book that tells the stories of 25 New Jersey residents who experienced the Revolution in different ways. The book was published by Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, an organization managed by a non-profit that works to inspire pride in New Jersey's Revolutionary War heritage.

The Westfield Municipal Building is located at 425 East Broad Street. All are welcome to attend the upcoming program.

TREES

Trees have always been surrounded by legends, historical events, biblical accounts, and folklore.

The Magna Carta, the great charter of English liberties was forced upon King John under a large oak tree at Runnymede.

In 1792, the New York Stock Exchange was founded by brokers in the Wall Street section of Manhattan in a courtyard outlined by Sycamore trees.

America's first coin was a shilling with a pine tree embossed on it as a significant symbol depicting two important American resources: wood and steel.

The first American flag bore trees as their emblem with the inscription: "An appeal to heaven." This was certainly an idealistic and inspirational belief that America is able to achieve greatness.

In biblical accounts, trees played an important role which changed the human lifestyle and perception mainly in the western civilization in so many ways. Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden fruit, and it has been indicated that we have a free will. Therefore we are responsible for our actions.

The burning bush reminds us through the 10 Commandments that we have an obligation to God and fellowman.

A curious man by the name of Zachariah sat in a mulberry tree quizzing Jesus about his goals.

King David found solace by sitting in a Babylonian willow tree, lamenting and weeping over the sins of the world.

The crucifix was made out of wood and gave us a clear understanding of how cruel and misinformed mankind can be.

Folklore had a strong influence in seasonal festivals: The Christmas tree, the Cedars of Lebanon, the linden tree, and the sacred trees of the Orient, to name a few.

People dancing around the maypole in festive attire and decorating wagons with green branches pulled by a team of horses was the custom on the first of May in many European cities and villages, and still is today.

The Christmas tree has become a symbol of cheer and goodwill, decorated with lights and pretty ornaments around the globe. America alone uses 26 million of fresh cut evergreen trees in the winter holiday season.

The Cedars of Lebanon have always been admired with reverence and appear in countless paintings by famous artists.

The Sequoia, growing 360 feet high and 28 feet in diameter, is considered the tallest tree in the world.

Martin Schmiede

The Tree Man

SchmiedeTree.com