

# *A Celebration of the Life of Janet Silver*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2009, 2:00 P.M.**

**Beecher Funeral Home, 418 Bedford Road**

**Pleasantville, New York 10570**



*Captain Janet in World War II*



*Celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
with her dog Lucky*

Janet Nash Silver of Mount Pleasant, a retired physical education teacher of Westlake High School, died peacefully in her sleep, in her home, on January 27, 2009 after a long heroic battle with Parkinson's Disease. She was 91.

Born in Oakland, California, Janet moved to Sunnyside, Queens, New York, at age 9. A graduate of Oberlin College, she also studied with the legendary Martha Graham and Martha Hill in the early days of the Modern Dance movement. She then earned her Master's Degree at Northwestern University while teaching Physical Education and Modern Dance, continuing in the tradition of her father, Dr. Jay B. Nash, a pioneer in the field, and executive of many national health, recreation and education organizations.

During World War II, Janet enlisted in the Women's Army Corps (WAC), graduating from their first officer candidate class, which was honored by a visit and words of encouragement by Eleanor Roosevelt. Janet served for four years as one of their first Captains, during which time she met Kenneth Silver, her husband of 55 years.



In 1951 Janet and Ken built their dream house in Usonia, the Frank Lloyd Wright community in Pleasantville, New York, and both went back to teaching (Ken as an English professor of Orange County Community College in Middletown, NY) while raising their two children. An advocate of civil rights and other social causes, Janet joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the historic 1963 March on Washington.

Janet also enjoyed jogging, horseback riding and especially tennis. She and Ken traveled extensively here and abroad, often with the Elderhostel programs, were active in the Audubon Society, and were Bridge Life Masters and theater buffs. Always expanding their horizons, in later years Janet and Ken meditated with the renowned philosopher Sri Chinmoy. Janet also devoted much of her time to fundraising for Parkinson's research.

She is survived by her two children, Gail Nilima, and Bill, and her brother, Roderick Nash, the noted environmentalist/author/professor.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 7, at 2:00 p.m. at the Beecher Funeral Home, 418 Bedford Road (parking available; also near the Metro-North Railroad and local bus stops). The service will be followed by a reception at the Silver home at 10 Usonia Road.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Unity Walk, P.O. Box 275, Kingston, NJ, 08528.



*Fifty-fifth Wedding Anniversary*



*At a joint celebration of Ken's and Janet's eightieth birthdays*