

# Obituary: Albert Buford Armstrong III



Albert Buford Armstrong III

Albert Buford Armstrong III, a former longtime Montclair resident, died on Aug. 11, 2017.

Visitation will be Friday, Aug. 18, from 11 to noon, with a service following immediately after, all at Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 27 Monroe Place, Montclair.

Mr. Armstrong, affectionately known as Pop, was born on Oct. 21, 1947, in Newark. He spent most of his youth in Newark, where he attended Newark Arts High School.

He studied photography at Essex County Community College, followed by studies at Microtech Computer Systems, where he obtained certifications and licenses in computer technologies.

He later moved to East Orange where he lived and worked for many years. In 2014 he retired from Siemens after a career as an IT solutions specialist.

Mr. Armstrong was a founding member of Sister Circle Inc. a nonprofit community theater company in which he was an active

participant. He was avid photographer and videographer, and also a musician who loved playing piano.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert Armstrong II and Eleanor Washington; his sisters-in-law Lucille Price and Betty Jones; and brothers-in-law Gulia Dale Jr. and Lester Dale.

He is survived by his wife, Agnes Marie Dale Armstrong; his five children, Sharonda Armstrong-O'Neal (Rudy O'Neal), Jesse Michael McCullough, Ezra Scott Dale (Katie Dale), and Vickie Jackson (Charles Jackson) and Albert Armstrong IV (Bobbi Armstrong) ; and by 17 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by his sibling Joyce Hayman, and his sisters and brothers-in-law Alice King, Shirley Taylor, Lillian Enos (Ulysees) and Irene Matthews (Julian); James Dale (Gwyneth), Lawrence Dale, Elaine Petry, Robert Price, Robert Jones, and Florine Dale.

He also leaves a host of relatives and friends as well as very dear friends Ken and Janet McDaniel.

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**Obituary: Page Inness-Brown  
Tharpe**



Page Inness-Brown  
Tharpe

Page Inness-Brown Tharpe, 95, died on Feb. 23, 2019, at her home in Aiken, S.C. She was a longtime resident of Marathon, Fla.; East Boothbay, Maine; and Montclair.

Mrs. Tharpe was born July 3, 1923, in East Boothbay, Maine, to Virginia Royall Inness-Brown and Hugh Alwyn Inness-Brown.

She was educated in horticulture and focused on the art of Japanese flower arrangement, as a designer, exhibitor and a judge. She also went on to attain her real estate broker's license in Florida where she was an active real estate agent in the community for many years. She enjoyed collecting art and antiques, creating watercolor paintings, and was accomplished at fine needlework. An avid fan of Julia Child's, she loved to cook for family and friends.

Mrs. Tharpe was predeceased by her husband, James B. Tharpe Sr., her brother Dr. Hugh Alwyn Inness-Brown Jr., and her sister Virginia Inness-Brown Conn.

She is survived by her sister Constance Van Valkenberg; her children, Suzanne Tharpe, James B. Tharpe Jr., Sybil Davis, Sally K. Grant, Page Tharpe, Nell Tharpe, and Anne Spriggs; 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, and numerous

cousins, nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 30, at Green Landing Lodge in East Boothbay, followed by a brief reception and a family luncheon.

Memorial donations may be made in her name to the charity or organization of your choice.

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## **Obituary: Thomas C. Battista**



File Photo

Thomas C. Battista, of Montclair, died on Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018.

Mr. Battista was born and raised in Orange and spent the last 24 years in Montclair. He was a safety director for Dana Transport in Avaneil before retiring in 2015.

He was an avid Yankee and San Francisco 49ers fan, he loved to dance, and most of all listening to Frank Sinatra.

Mr. Battista is survived by his wife Marie (nee LaStella), his

children, Thomas Battista Jr. (Chery), Denise Walsh (Patrick), and Jeanne Battista, his stepchildren, John McEnroe (Doreen), Debra Sabella (Doug), Rhonda Tayloe-Calinda (Philip), and Dawn Piano (Dave), his 13 grandchildren and a great-grandson, Patrick Walsh III, and by his sisters Mary Battista and Geraldine Gasparino.

He was predeceased by his parents Vincenzo and Clementina Battista, and by a stepson Patrick McEnroe, and by his siblings Ann, Jean, Sam, Tony and Joe.

Visitation was Sunday, Aug. 26 at Caggiano Memorial in Montclair. A Funeral mass was celebrated Monday, Aug. 27 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Montclair, cremation was private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to The Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave. Floor 17 Chicago, IL 60601 or visit [alz.org](http://alz.org).

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## Obituary: Jean Clark



Jean Clark

Jean Clark died on June 24, 2018 at the age of 95. Ms. Clark was known as the "Mother of Recycling" in recognition of her diligence and effectiveness in pioneering the Montclair recycling program in the 1970s, one of the first recycling centers in the country.

Ms. Clark used her academic training and innate intelligence to shepherd key environmental legislation to passage, and became a repository of knowledge about the environmental movement in New Jersey. She received many awards: "Recycler of the Year" from the National Recycling Congress (1980), "Recycler of the Decade" (1980) from the NJ Dept. Of Energy and Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Pride Award in the field of Environment (1986), and the Wells College Alumnae Association Award, (2000), and more. Groups she joined were often more effective than flashy, such as the Essex County Solid Waste Advisory Council.

She graduated from Wells College in Aurora, New York in 1945, and received her masters in arts degree in philosophy from Mt. Holyoke College.

In 1970, the New Jersey Audubon Society felt there should be at least one woman on the board, so they made Ms. Clark the secretary. She served for more than 30 years.

She was also active in the Montclair Bird Club, the Montclair Organizations for Conservation, the Association of New Jersey Recyclers, the Montclair Nature Center, the Montclair Hawk Watch, and the League of Women Voters. Before turning her full attention to environmental matters, she worked as the assistant to the Montclair architect Alfonso Alvarez.

She claimed to be an atheist, but, when pressed, said, "I'm a pantheist." She saw the order of the universe in nature. In New Jersey or the Adirondack Mountains, she chronicled the natural world. On an African safari, she took professional quality photographs that she presented to numerous groups,

from the Montclair Bird Club to the Museum of Natural History in New York.

She was a patron of the New Jersey Symphony and chamber music groups.

Ms. Clark was daughter of Guy Gayler and Annie Anderson Clark. She was born at 326 North Mountain Ave., across from the park her grandfather, C. W. Anderson, donated to the community. After her father's death, she and her mother moved to Seneca Place. Except for her college years, she never lived outside of Montclair. She often paired in civic service with her sister, the late Beatrice (Betty) Evans, and the name of her late brother, Guy, is inscribed on Montclair's memorial obelisk at Edgemont Park. He died while serving in the Army in the Second World War.

Ms. Clark is survived by her niece and nephews Ann, John, and Norris Evans, and their families.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Donations to her favored charities in Jean Clark's memory would be welcome: New Jersey Audubon Society, The New Jersey Symphony, and Wells College.

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## **Obituary: Timothy W. Sullivan**



Timothy Sullivan

Timothy Sullivan, 42, of Playa Del Rey, Cali, formerly of Montclair, died on Saturday, May 18, 2019 after a courageous battle with bile duct cancer.

Born on Feb 23, 1977 and raised in Montclair, he was a 1995 graduate of Montclair High School. Mr. Sullivan received a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Vermont.

Mr. Sullivan moved to Los Angeles in 2001 and worked for a number of companies in the entertainment industry including Disney and Magical Elves, where he worked on Project Runway and Top Chef. He developed new shows working as an executive at Zodiak, Core Media, Good Bye Productions and Fullscreen before forming his own production company, Gang of Wolves with partner Anthony Carbone, and Sony Pictures.

He married Claire O'Donohoe at the Castle Leslie in Monaghan, Ireland and they had a son, Rory Jerome Paul O'Donohoe Sullivan, in 2016.

He is survived by his wife Claire, son Rory, parents Paul and Betsy of Montclair, sister Laura Murphy of Norwalk, Conn. and her husband Travis (Max) and nephew and niece Charlie and Annabelle.



A memorial service will be held in Montclair this summer.

Those wishing to remember Timothy Sullivan may donate to The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation at [cholangiocarcinoma.org](http://cholangiocarcinoma.org) or visit [GoFundme.com](http://GoFundme.com) and enter Sullivan-O'Donohoe Support Fund in the search engine to support the family.

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## Obituary: Maurice S Debnam



Maurice S Debnam

Maurice Otelia Smith Debnam, 95, of Montclair, died on June 19, 2019.

Mrs. Debnam was born in Chase City, Va. on Oct. 17, 1923. After the death of her mother, she and her sister were sent to Montclair in 1929 to live with her cousin.

She attended public school and after graduation from Montclair High school, worked at Eastern Aircraft and Westinghouse House. While singing in the choir at St. Paul Church, she met Samuel Debnam.

Mrs. Debnam was a caterer, serving Essex County and the surrounding areas for 60 years.

Mrs. Debnam, her husband with family and friends, started Debnam Caterers. She cooked and served for as many as three weddings in one day.

She was predeceased by her sister Zenobia Smith and a grandson Hatim Salahuddin.

Mrs. Debnam is survived by her husband of 74 years, Samuel L. Debnam, her sons; Steven (Gwendilena) Debnam and Ronald Salahuddin, her grandsons; Shareef and Jared, her great-grandson, Jared Jr., and a host of other relatives and friends.

Visitation for Maurice S Debnam will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25, with a service beginning at noon at St. Paul Baptist Church, 119 Elm St., Montclair.

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## **Obituary: Deanna E. Lawatsch**



Deanna E. Lawatsch, a resident of Montclair for nearly 50 years, died after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease, on Dec. 4, 2019 in Katy, Texas. She was 72.

Mrs. Lawatsch was the outpatient diabetes educator at Mountainside Hospital for nearly 20 years, and an adjunct professor at Montclair State University. She was an avid golfer and a member of the Glen Ridge Country Club and Kensington Country Club in Naples, Fla.

Born at Whidby Island, Wash., she grew up in Northville, N.Y., where she was high school valedictorian. She earned a full scholarship to Cornell University, where she earned a BA in nutrition, and later earned an MA in education from Montclair State University. She recently moved to Texas after a short period in West Orange.

She was active at St. James Episcopal Church in Upper Montclair, where she taught Sunday school and was on the altar guild. An excellent cook and baker, she taught those skills at Montclair Adult School. She loved New Year's Eve dinner parties and was known for baking over two dozen different cookies and breads and delivering them to friends and neighbors on Christmas Eve.

Mrs. Lawatsch is survived by her husband of over 50 years, Frank, a lawyer who was once president of the Montclair Board of Education and later the Montclair Public Library Board, and three children, all Montclair public school graduates: Amanda Jones O'Reilly (Frank O'Reilly); Dr. Abigail Langan (Dr. Christopher Langan); and Dr. Frank Lawatsch III (Elia Lawatsch); and four grandchildren, Maddie, Annabel, Ellie and Eamonn Langan.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. March 14 at St. James Episcopal Church in Upper Montclair. Donations in her memory may be made to the Memorial Fund at St. James.

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# Obituary: Ruth Alberta James



Ruth Alberta James

Ruth Alberta James, of Montclair, died on June 15, 2019 surrounded by her family.

She was the daughter of the late Alfred and Frances Harvey.

She was predeceased her husband, Osmond James. Mrs. James is survived by children Jeffrey James, Deaconess Christine F. Brown and her husband the Rev. Caruso Brown of Charlottesville, Va., her brother Alfred Harvey, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mrs. James will lie in state at McClenny Funeral Service, 600 Henry Ave. Charlottesville, Va. from 1 to 8 p.m. on Thursday June 27.

A viewing will also be held from 11 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 29, at St. Marks United Methodist Church, 51 Elm St., Montclair and the funeral service will immediately follow the viewing, with the Rev. Leslie Houseworth-Fields officiating.

Internment will follow at Rosedale Cemetery, 408 Orange Road, Montclair.

Services of comfort are entrusted to the staff of McClenny Funeral Service.

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# **Obituary: Joanne Intile Maggio**



File photo

Joanne Intile Maggio of Flemington died on June 29, 2017, surrounded by her family.

Friends and relatives are invited to a wake service on Sunday, July 2, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Caggiano Memorial Home, Montclair.

Funeral services are planned for Monday, July 3, at 9 a.m. at Caggiano Memorial Home, with a funeral Mass to be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church-St Teresa's of Calcutta Parish, 94 Pine St., Montclair. Entombment will be at Mount Hebron Cemetery in Upper Montclair.

Mrs. Maggio was born and raised in Montclair before moving to Rockaway in 1958. She and her husband, Frank G. Maggio, had two children, who survive her.

She was predeceased by her husband in 2004; by her parents, Antonio and Maria (Grasso) Intile; and by her sisters, Rose Saporito, Mary Moscarino, Antoinette Jencarelli, Margaret Caggiano and Lena Figurelli; and by her brothers, Michael, Jack, Joseph and Eugene Intile.

In addition to her children, Linda Ponzo and Michael Maggio, Mrs. Maggio is survived by their spouses, Santo Ponzo and Colleen Maggio, and by her grandchildren: Michael Maggio and his wife, June; Joseph Ponzo and his wife, Stephanie; Krista Kappus and her husband, Phil; Robert Ponzo and his wife, Sara; Matthew Maggio and his soon-to-be wife, Lydia.

Mrs. Maggio is also survived by nine great-grandchildren.

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## **Obituary: Carmella Martino**



## Carmella Martino

Carmella Martino nee Schillaci, of Cedar Grove, formerly of Montclair, died on Jan. 6, 2019, surrounded by her family.

Mrs. Martino was born at home in Montclair on Feb. 24, 1920. Her patron Saint was St. Sebastian and the Feast of St. Sebastian in August was one of her favorite times of the year since she was a little girl.

Mrs. Martino was an avid Yankee fan, and a seamstress by trade who always offered a helping hand to repair garments for her friends and family. Her entrepreneurial side loved making cobbler aprons, and she also created and sold her own silverware holders, and even offered her services to repair pillows and a blanket for a celebrity. She loved to share recipes and Italian cookies with friends and families. She was also fond of making chicken cutlets, eggplant parmesan or tripe for those who desired her cooking. She adored her cousins and always kept in touch sharing recipes of pizzagaina.

Mrs. Martino is predeceased by her husband Leonard Martino, of Newark, in 2004, and her parents Antonio and Christina, siblings Tony, Katie and Ben.

Mrs. Martino is survived by her son, Len Martino and his wife Suzanne Bennett of OldWick, her daughter, Nancy, and her husband Joe Barbary of Cedar Grove, and her granddaughter Kristie Wieland of Denver, CO.

She was proud to be an aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9 at Caggiano Memorial 62 Grove St., Montclair. A funeral mass will follow at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on 94 Pine St., Montclair, with entombment following at Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Montclair.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the

St. Sebastian Society, PO BOX 640, Montclair, NJ, 07042.