



## Obituary: Joan Theras Collins

Joan Theras Collins, a retired artist, passed peacefully in her sleep at home in Montclair on April 22. She was 84.



The daughter of the late Fredrick and Agnes Seddon of Bloomfield, Joan was a graduate of Bloomfield High School and studied art at Montclair State College, the Art Center of New Jersey, the Montclair Art Museum, Summit Arts Center, the New York City Art Students League, the Ridgewood Art Barn, the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts, Yard School of Art, Basil's Art Studio in New York, Julio's Art Studio in Hackensack, Bernard Abelew Studio in Fairfield, Carol Pezzutti Lenehan Studio in Verona, Joe Hing Lowe NY Studio, and the Ridgefield Park Studio.

Joan was a member of 10 New Jersey arts organizations, the Miniature Art associations of Florida and New Jersey, the Salmagundi Club in New York, the American Portrait Society, the Metropolitan Portrait Society, and

the U.S. Coast Guard Artists program.

Joan specialized in wedding, anniversary, and birthday portraits, capturing the exciting times in the lives of men, women, and children. The family pet often got into her paintings, too. She worked mostly in oil paint, and also did impressionistic pastels and luminous transparent watercolor portraits for collections around the U.S. and abroad. Joan captured the likeness, special charm, and romance of all her subjects.

Joan had two one-woman shows and was a regular exhibitor at the Salmagundi Club and with the U.S. Coast Guard Artists. She won numerous awards in portrait and miniature art, and was a member of the award jury for the Salmagundi Club and the Washington Square Art Exhibitions in New York City.

Joan was an active leader in the Passaic County 4-H Clubs. She was on the executive board of the Real Macaw Parrot Club and a member of the Flapping Feathers Parrot Club in New Jersey.

Joan is survived by her beloved husband, John T. Collins; her children, Jane T. (Collins) Volkmann and son-in-law Charles, James T. Collins, and Judy T. Collins; and her grandchildren, Tyler J. Bonnell, Joseph C. King and Nicole T. Bonnell.

A graveside family service will be held in Stroudsburg, Pa. A memorial for Joan will be held at a future date. Arrangements are by the Hugh M. Moriarty Funeral Home of Montclair.

*Information submitted by Hugh M. Moriarty Funeral Home.*



# Obituary: Doreen Nilan



*Doreen Nilan.*

Doreen Nilan, formerly of Montclair, passed away on April 14 in West Orange.

She was born in London in 1925 to Albert and Elsie Vincent and grew up in Ilford, an eastern district of the city. During World War II her neighborhood was frequently bombed and was the last one to be hit by a V-2 rocket targeting London, in March 1945. During the war she worked for Cable & Wireless in Temple Place.

She met her future American husband, Tom, at a dance during a December 1944 air raid, hours before he shipped out to the Belgian front during the Battle of the Bulge. They renewed their relationship in the summer of 1945, while he was training as an MP for the Pacific theater prior to the Japanese surrender.

Subsequent to his return to the States they continually corresponded, and Tom's family provided hers with precious food parcels through 1954, as the British postwar years were difficult with rationing.

In 1947, their separate letters proposing a union simultaneously crossed the Atlantic, and they married and honeymooned in England that September. They initially lived with Tom's family in Jersey City, and shortly thereafter started their family in Montclair.

Doreen converted to Catholicism in the early years of their marriage, and was unselfish and devoted to her family. She gave herself to St. Cassian parish, volunteered in Newark's Mother Teresa Kitchen, supported Tom in his deaconate services, occasionally helping him draft his many homilies, and participated in other charitable activities.

She enjoyed storytelling, playing bridge, the environs of Budd Lake, Deer Lake and the Jersey Shore, knitting,

traveling – especially visiting her English family – gardening, walking, seeing her grandchildren, her times with loving caregivers, and visits by her children.

This time of year she would be anticipating walks in the Presby Iris Gardens and viewing the blossoms of Brookdale Park. She was one of the last survivors of that great postwar generation of St. Cassian's. Those who met her saw the face of God; those who cherished her saw His loving light and everlasting truth.

She was predeceased by her husband of 63 years, Thomas, and her dearest son Kevin; her parents, Albert and Elsie; her brothers, Frankie and George, and sisters, Phyllis and Elsie. She was the mother of Eileen Streiter (Edward), Thomas Nilan Jr. (Kathleen), John Nilan (Kathy), Kevin Nilan, Jeanne Michalov (Daniel), Mary Degnan (Timothy), Peter Nilan (Joan), and Joseph Nilan (Pamela). She had 16 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Eileen Newton, sister-in-law, Marie Vincent, and many nieces and nephews in England.

In memory of Doreen, donations can be made to St. Cassian R.C. Church, 187 Bellevue Ave., Upper Montclair, NJ 07043. A memorial Mass will be offered at Saint Cassian Church at a future date. For online condolences please visit [www.moriartyfh.com](http://www.moriartyfh.com).



## Obituary: Sarah Penhallow Jeffery

Sarah Penhallow Jeffery, of Mendham, passed away peacefully on April 16 in Mendham. She was 88.



Born in Washington, D.C., to Katheryn M. Hitchcock Penhallow and Dunlap Pearce Penhallow, M.D., on Aug. 28, 1931, she attended Gunston Hall, Mrs. Cook's School, Smith College and William Smith College (B.A., 1954).

Mrs. Jeffery lived in Lockport and Croton Falls, N.Y., Kittery, Maine, and Andover and West Boxford, Mass., before moving to Fort Worth, Texas, in 1981 to work for State Reserve Life. Beginning in 1988, she worked for Skandia Assurance in Shelton, Conn., then moved in 1996 to Atlantic Health Systems in Morristown, retiring in 2010.

She was an avid reader, and enjoyed volunteer work. As an Army colonel and doctor's daughter, she was most proud of her days at Lawrence General Hospital Women's Auxiliary in Lawrence, Mass.

Mrs. Jeffery is survived by her daughters, Katheryn Hamilton (Eugene) of Munich, Germany, and Madrid, Spain, Marnie Hock (Michael) of Mendham and New York City, and Susan Fine (Matthew) of Montclair; her grandchildren, Adam and Samuel Jeffery, Daniel Hamilton, Jameson and Charles Hock, and Robert and Lena Fine; her nieces, Sarah Vostal and Anna Kay Travis, and her sister-in-law, Patricia Penhallow. She is preceded in death by her son, David Elwood Jeffery, brother, David Pearce Penhallow, and sister, Virginia Penhallow Boyer-Tagg.

No funeral services will be held at this time. A memorial service will take place at a later date in Kittery Point, Maine, her childhood summer residence. All inquiries may be made to Bailey Funeral Home, Mendham, which will be handling the arrangements. The family wishes to extend their gratitude to Holly Manor Nursing Home/Genesis Healthcare and all healthcare workers on the frontlines during this precarious time.

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## Obituary: Edward A. Masilunas



*Edward A. Masilunas.*

Edward A. Masilunas Sr. of Verona, formerly of Upper Montclair, passed away on Saturday, April 11, from complications due to COVID-19. He was 89.

Mr. Masilunas was born and raised in East Pittsburgh, Pa., one of three children of Maryann and Joseph Masilunas. His siblings were the late Nell Masilunas of Montclair and the late Albert Masilunas of Monroeville, Pa.

Mr. Masilunas graduated from Turtle Creek High School and joined the ROTC program at the University of Pittsburgh. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and served proudly in the Korean War. After returning from Korea, he finished his bachelor's degree at the University of Pittsburgh in 1954.

He moved from Pittsburgh to New York City and worked for Westinghouse Electric Co. After many years of working for Westinghouse, Mr. Masilunas found his passion in the packaging industry. He worked for several packaging companies throughout his career before he went on to start his own business, Pac Quest, LTD, in 1993.

He was well-known in the wholesale packaging industry for creative ideas and innovative packaging for everyday items. He was especially proud of his latest work, launching plastic bags with spouts from which people can easily pour out what they need and then reseal the remainder for later use. These bags are being used today in several different industries – paint, building materials, and food.

Mr. Masilunas lived a purposeful life with a large extended family, rewarding career and travel to many areas of the world with his wife. He was a member of St. Cassian Church in Upper Montclair, and a long-time member of the Mercier Club who hosted many member gatherings at his house. He enjoyed playing bocce every week and joking with the members. He fostered a deep love for all people he knew and always welcomed each one of them into his home and life. He loved talking about his life adventures and passing on his wealth of knowledge.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joyce (Clark) Masilunas; four children, Cyndee (Bob) Rowan of Montclair, Dena (Todd) Gertz of Roseland, Lisa (Dave) Sabagh of Cedar Grove, and Edward Jr. (Amy) Masilunas of Mt. Lebanon, Pa., and nine grandchildren, Robert, Justin, Emily, Jake, Katheryn, Jason, Jack, Owen, and Grace.

A memorial will be planned at a future date for family and friends to gather and share memories.



# Obituary: Joanne Futrell

Joanne (Cardinell/Karcher) Futrell, 85, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 7, at her home in Montclair, with her family around her.



Born in Glen Ridge to Louise and Richmond “Skip” Cardinell, she was raised in Westwood and moved to Montclair while in high school, graduating from Montclair High in 1953. She attended Michigan State University for a while, and then went on to Katharine Gibbs secretarial school.

In 1957, she married Philip Karcher Jr., and they moved to Bossier City, La., while Phil served in the U.S. Air Force.

After having a son, and Phil’s enlistment was completed, they moved back to Montclair, where they had two more sons.

Later, divorced from Phil, she was married to George Futrell Jr. from 1978 until his death in 1999.

Joanne was secretary of St. John’s Episcopal Church during the 1960s and early ’70s, then became a self-employed typist and freelance secretary, working for various firms in town. She worked for many years as a copy editor, and occasionally did a theater/arts review as well, for The Montclair Times, until her retirement in 2015 at age 80.

Always active in her churches, she sang in the choir of St. John’s and later Trinity Episcopal.

An avid bowler, she was secretary of her bowling league, The Survivors.

Joanne was active in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, participating in a number of marches and rallies.

She always tried to instill a sense of fairness and justice in her children, always encouraged their artistic pursuits, and was considered “Mom” by the local rock-and-roll band The Fabulous Flemtones.

She was a passionate dog lover, and liked to adopt hard-to-place pets.

She is survived by her sons, Bill Karcher and his wife Deirdre, James Karcher and his companion Tracey Harmon, and Daniel Karcher and his companion Sue Pinera. Also surviving are her stepsons Stacey, Jerry, and

Demetrius Futrell, her sister Sallie Zamora, brother Peter Cardinell and his wife Kay, five grandchildren and numerous step-grand and great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her stepson, Larry Futrell.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making a donation to your local animal shelter in her name. For online condolences please visit [moriartyfh.com](https://moriartyfh.com).

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## Obituary: Carla Horowitz

Carla Horowitz passed away on Sunday, March 29, after a month-long struggle with COVID-19. She was 77.



She was born Carla Ann Bloom in Springfield, Mass., on June 29, 1942, the oldest of three children of Clara and Martin Bloom. Her enduring appreciations of life, love and art were nurtured by her parents in her childhood home.

She married Milt Horowitz in 1962, and they lived in Japan for the next four years, which deeply influenced both of them and awakened Carla's dreams of being an artist. They then settled down in Montclair, where she remained for the rest of her life.

Carla discovered her vocation as a potter in 1974, working first in her friend Adrienne's basement, then growing into a storefront in Montclair's South End business district, which became her studio, shop and classroom for the next 16 years.

She studied with eminent ceramics artists, including Byron Temple, Jim Makins, and Tom Neugebauer.

Carla co-founded the Doubletree Gallery of Fine Art and Contemporary Crafts and eventually moved her business, The Clay Cellar Pottery, to a studio at Riker Hill Art Park in Livingston.

She taught pottery for many years at the Montclair Adult School, the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, and the Montclair Art Museum.

She was a member of the Potters Guild of New Jersey and was secretary/treasurer of the Riker Hill Artists Association. Her work has been featured in the books "500 Raku: Bold Explorations of a Dynamic Ceramics Technique," by Ray Hermachandra and Jim Romberg, and "Color: How to Use It," by Marcie Cooperman.

Another passion was the Township of Montclair, which she and Milt had chosen for its culture and diversity. She never left the art world, but in 1993 she decided she wanted to give back to her town; she was hired by the township to work in the clerk's office, subsequently becoming the deputy clerk, and served in that capacity until she retired in 2013.

All who met Carla were inspired by her zest for life, her kindness, and her talent for human relationships. Her passion for her art and for peace and social justice fed each other; family and friends kindled a fire in her soul that showed in every piece of pottery she created.

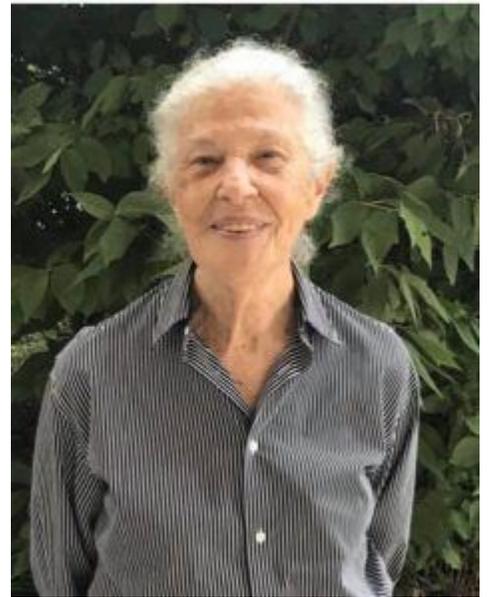
In addition to Milt, Carla is survived by her daughter, Denise Cruz (and her husband Daniel), her granddaughter, Vanesa Cruz, her brothers Loren (and his wife Mayra) and Dennis (and his wife Leslie), as well as cousins, nieces, nephews, and countless friends. She was predeceased by her son, Jeffrey.

Funeral arrangements have been made by Fertig Funeral Home in Mullica Hill, N.J. A memorial service for Carla will be announced at a future date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in honor of Carla to the World Fellowship Center in Albany, N.H.; New Jersey Peace Action in Bloomfield, or any other peace or social justice charitable organization of your choice, or to the Montclair Local newspaper.

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## Obituary: Rita Koslow Nadler



*Rita Koslow Nadler.*

Rita Koslow Nadler, 88, of Montclair, died April 8 after a short illness. She was the wife of the late Jack Nadler.

Rita was born June 2, 1931, in Paterson to Nathan and Sara Koslow. She graduated from Paterson Eastside High School and received a B.A. from Smith College and a law degree from the University of Chicago. She also attended the University of Geneva in Switzerland, where she made lifelong friends. She never missed a Smith College reunion.

Rita practiced law for more than 50 years, retiring at 78. Recently, Rita served as a docent at the Newark Museum.

Rita married Jack in 1953, and they raised their three children in Montclair. Her love and devotion for Jack was evident throughout their marriage, and especially in how she cared for him until he died five years ago. They played tennis weekly and enjoyed hiking and cross-country skiing.

She loved to gather her extended family at her home for any holiday or special occasion, serving what was always an excess of food at her home in Montclair or her vacation home in the Adirondacks. It was not uncommon for dozens of people to be packed in that house for a winter vacation. Rita also enjoyed family vacations on Long Beach Island.

Her love for the arts was strong. Rita attended the opera regularly, and a Thanksgiving trip to a Broadway show was a family tradition. She and Jack made sure their children were exposed to a wide variety of cultural experiences.

Rita traveled extensively, first with family when the children were younger, and then with Jack, and with friends and relatives after he passed away. Rita visited every continent except Antarctica, at least once. Her last trip was in December to Costa Rica with her three children and six grandchildren. There, she kept pace with every activity, walking through the jungle and visiting historic sites. She was not even remotely done with her travel plans when she died.

A formidable woman with a big and generous heart, Rita was never afraid to express her opinion on any topic. It was also important for her to serve her community. She served on the Montclair Planning Board for 16 years, including 10 as chairwoman. She also served as president of the board of directors of the Rockcliffe Apartments in Montclair.

Rita is survived by her children, Evan Nadler and his wife, Tina, of Washington, D.C.; Jennifer Wright and her husband, Roy, of Jersey City, and Matthew and his wife, Ann, of Plymouth Mass. She leaves behind her grandchildren, Owen and Sabrina Nadler, Abigail and Sydney Wright, and Aaron and Jeremy Nadler. She also leaves behind numerous cousins, grand-nieces and nephews, and friends. She was predeceased by her sister, Elaine Canter, and brother, Harvey Koslow.

A private burial is planned. A memorial service will take place at a later time when appropriate.

Donations in Rita's memory may be made to the Newark Museum of Art at [www.newarkmuseumart.org/donate](http://www.newarkmuseumart.org/donate) or Newark Museum of Art, 49 Washington St., Newark, NJ 07102.

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Community mourns beloved Glenfield teacher



*PHOTO COURTESY DONNA WINGFIELD FEGGINS Karen Wingfield, right, a longtime Glenfield Middle School teacher and paraprofessional, is seen with fellow Glenfield teacher Eleni Zapantis. Wingfield, 67, died on April 12.*

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The Montclair school community is mourning the passing of long-term educator Karen Wingfield, a lifelong Montclair resident who had been serving as a paraprofessional at Glenfield Middle School.

Wingfield, 67, died on Sunday, April 12 at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.

“My sister was my best friend,” said Donna Wingfield-Feggins, Wingfield’s sister. “She was my fiercest supporter, and she was my fiercest supporter.”

“Ms. Wingfield was a true Mountie in every sense of the word,” wrote Vincent Pelli, a social studies teacher at Glenfield, in an email to students and parents. “We were very fortunate to have Ms. Wingfield work with the students of House Pelli these past two years. She loved every student as if they were her own children. She approached each day with a smile and a laugh and often couldn’t get too far down the hallway before being stopped for a hug.”

Wingfield had a 40-year career in teaching in the Montclair schools. She began her career as a student teacher at Bradford, and from there went on to Montclair High School and Mt. Hebron (now Buzz Aldrin) Middle School. She had been at Glenfield as a teacher, and later a paraprofessional, for the past two decades.

“By title, Karen was a paraprofessional at Glenfield Middle School, but at her essence, she was a sister, confidante, mentor, and friend,” said Petal Robertson, the chair of the Montclair Education Association. “For many Glenfield students she was the listening ear they needed, and for teachers, an endless support. She will be missed by the many students, families, colleagues and greater Montclair Community members, whose lives were made better by knowing her, Robertson said.

Wingfield graduated from Hillside School, was a member of Montclair High School’s class of 1970, and was a 1975 graduate of Bloomfield College.

In addition to her work with students in the classroom, she had important roles advising the Black Student Union and serving as one of the coaches to the high school cheerleading team, said Interim Superintendent Nathan Parker in a letter to parents, staff and students.

Wingfield was also a mentor for Sister to Sister, Wingfield-Feggins said.

As a teacher, Wingfield cared deeply for all of her students, Wingfield-Feggins said, and she wanted to make sure that every one of them did well and had what they needed to succeed.

This included students who were particularly vulnerable. As an example, Wingfield-Feggins said, Wingfield became a mentor to a high school junior who had become pregnant. “She took her under her wing: ‘You’re going to graduate,’” Wingfield-Feggins said.

She recalled that Wingfield told another student, who was known for having a bit of an attitude, “You’re going to cross that bridge in June if I have to drag you.”

Wingfield loved cooking. “I often told her, she should have gone into home economics,” Wingfield-Feggins said. “‘But I didn’t like sewing,’” would be Wingfield’s response.

Wingfield also loved fashion and jewelry, and having her nails done. When the prom season came around, Wingfield would help students who were having trouble affording what they needed for the prom. She would send them to the beauty parlor or help them pick out a dress or shoes.

Pelli described Wingfield’s helpfulness when he became a new social studies teacher at Glenfield a few years back; she provided both teachers and students a glimpse into what Montclair used to be like. The teachers would always go to her for advice, he added.

“She always had a story for me and gave me many wonderful suggestions on how to weave the history of Montclair into our Social Studies classroom,” he said.

Wingfield and Pelli Began the “Growing Up Montclair” speaker series in which lifelong Mounties came to Glenfield to share their story with students.

“The program has become a huge success because of the love Ms. Wingfield put into it. She tapped into her wide network of friends and family to ensure we had a great group of speakers every year,” said Pelli

The event will continue in her honor, but it won’t be the same without hearing her stories, he said.

Arrangements are by Caggiano Funeral Home. A prayer service for Wingfield’s immediate family will be held on Friday at 11 a.m. The service will also be available for viewing via Facebook, Zoom and Caggiano’s website for those who wish to participate virtually. Interment will be at Glendale Cemetery. At a later date, after the COVID-19 outbreak has ended, there will be a larger celebration of Wingfield’s life for extended family, friends and colleagues, Wingfield-Feggins said.

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## Obituary: Florence Russo



*Florence Russo.*

Florence Russo (nee Chiego), formerly of Montclair, passed away on Sunday, April 5, at Brookdale Senior Living in West Orange, just a week shy of her 101st birthday.

Beloved wife of the late Rocco Russo of Nutley, Florence was born and raised in the old First Ward of Newark and was active in St. Lucy's Church, from which her brother, Sebastian John Chiego, was ordained a priest and eventually served as pastor of the Church of the Assumption in Roselle Park.

Florence was a graduate and enthusiastic alumna of Barringer High School, class of 1937.

She grew up in a large family of 10 brothers and sisters, of which she was the last surviving sibling. Her world revolved around her husband's business in Newark, Robert Russo & Sons Beverages, which operated all over the city and Essex County. She moved to Montclair after her husband's death and became active in St. Cassian R.C. Church as well as the Upper Montclair Women's Club.

Florence was a long-time resident of the Bellaire House condominiums, where she made many good friends over her last 25 years. She loved to sit by the pool and tell stories of her wonderful family and years in Newark and Nutley prior to settling in Montclair. Florence spent many summer vacations at the Jersey Shore in Monmouth County.

She was especially proud of her son Bob's service as Montclair mayor, writing songs and poems for many candidates for local office over the years. She was also proud of her other children's great accomplishments. Her positive attitude and great smile and voice were uplifting to all who knew her. She will be greatly missed.

Florence is survived by her sons, former Montclair mayor and current council member Bob and wife, Christine; Richard and wife, Nicole; and John and wife, Joanna; daughter Anne Marie and husband Theodore; grandchildren Stephen and husband, Andrew, Christopher and wife, Caroline, Michael and wife, Erin, and Jessica, plus many loving nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date to celebrate her long and wonderful life. Caggiano Memorial Home of Montclair is handling arrangements. All services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Florence Russo's memory can be made to MESH (Montclair Emergency Services for the Homeless) Inc., PO Box 1919, Montclair, NJ 07042.



# Obituary: Elizabeth Peale Johnson



*Elizabeth P. Johnson.*

Elizabeth Peale Johnson passed away on March 21 at John Knox Village in Lee's Summit, Mo. Elizabeth, known as Betty by her friends and family, served as an inspiration to all who knew her. She was 99.

Betty graduated from East Orange High School in 1938. She served as a secretary for the War Production Board in Washington, D.C., during World War II. After the war, she returned to New Jersey and married Raleigh "Zeke" Johnson. Zeke cheered for Betty's dreams for more than 46 years of marriage, until he passed in 1996. Betty and Zeke lived in Wantage for more than 30 years.

Betty received her A.B. from Rutgers University and her M.A. from New York University. She was the director of admissions at Orange County Community College in Middletown, N.Y., until she retired in 1984.

Betty believed strongly in giving to her community. She held leadership positions in organizations such as the League of Women Voters, National Council of Negro Women (Montclair chapter), and the Young Women's Christian Association. She sat on several boards, including the state Review Board for Historic Sites, the state Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Montclair branch of the Y.W.C.A. She was also proud of attending the March on Washington with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Inspired by Alex Haley's "Roots," Betty traveled with her husband to research her family history. Her passion for genealogy led her to co-founding the N.J. chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society.

Betty moved to Iowa in 2001, where she participated in organizations such as the Iowa State University Women's Club and the League of Women Voters. She moved to John Knox Village (JKV) in 2006 and remained there until her passing. She continued serving her community, including as an ambassador of the JKV

Foundation and a mentor to first-year medical students.

Betty had a passion for travel. She traveled extensively throughout the United States along the East Coast, through the South and Midwest and from Alaska to Hawaii. She explored many countries and their cultures, including England, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, New Zealand, and Australia, and visited the Panama Canal. Betty pursued her love of travel well into her 80s.

Betty is survived by a loving family and friends, including her niece, Jacqueline Murphy of West Orange, nephew Howard P. Smith Jr. in Hilo, Hawaii, and cousin Loretta Porter in Orange.

A memorial service to celebrate Mrs. Johnson's inspiring life will be held when the threat of the novel coronavirus passes. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the New Jersey chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, AAHGS NJ, PO Box 5343, Somerset, NJ 08875.