

Jane VanDeBogart

Jane VanDeBogart died February 16th, 2008 at home surrounded by many dear friends after a long struggle with cancer. Jane was a lifelong activist, from a long line of activists, and her work included many peace and social justice causes.

Most recently she was a faithful member of the Women In Black whose vigils every Sunday are a constant presence in Woodstock. She was on the Martin Luther King Day Committee for several years, and was involved with the Veterans for Peace and was one of the "Kings Mall 7" who were arrested for protesting Army recruitment practices and an unjust war. Jane also protested the School of the Americas over many years, and, of course, organized for all of the major peace demonstrations. She did peace and justice work in the schools as well as in prisons and was part of the Free Mumia movement. She was a moving force in the Tasini and Kucinich campaigns, collecting signatures even while in the hospital. She was a founding member of STAT a group opposing the merger of local secular hospitals with the Benedictine hospital and the attendant loss of reproductive access. She was also a supporter of MergerWatch and Family Planning Advocates of NYS.

She was an enthusiastic and prolific quilter and was researching the use of quilts for political causes before her death. She participated in the Peace Ribbon surrounding the Pentagon, the AIDS Quilt Project, the Woodstock Bicentennial Quilt, and several peace quilts. She also enjoyed origami and was part of a regular group that met to learn ever more intricate origami designs. Jane took great pleasure in singing with the Bard Community Chorus for many years.

As a young woman Jane joined civil rights efforts in the South and also traveled to Cuba in defiance of the State Department, setting a legal precedent for Americans' ability to travel to sanctioned countries. She visited Cuba and other Latin American countries several times and was a supporter of CLASP, US-El Salvador Sister Cities, Disarm/Cuban Medical Project, Haitian Refugee Support and various other organizations doing work in Latin America and the Caribbean. She was instrumental in raising funds for an ambulance for Guatemala. She shared her parents' love of travel and in particular, travel to countries with revolutionary or communist governments.

Jane taught school in the Woodstock area in her early years and was elected to the Woodstock Town Council and subsequently became Secretary to the Planning Board. She was married to Aaron VanDeBogart, well known local forester and naturalist. She took a keen interest in the environment and knew a great deal about a wide variety of flora and fauna.

Born Jane Wittman, August 25, 1941, in Paramus NJ, she attended Antioch College. She is predeceased by her parents, Walter and Jeanette Wittman and her brother Carl; her uncle and aunt, Bob Wittman and Gloria Warshaw; aunt and uncle, Helen and Charles Shipley, cousin Jan (Shipley) Meredith; her aunt Elisabeth Freeman; and cousins Bill, and John Johnston, for whom she was an important caregiver during a long illness. She is survived by her aunt and uncle, Ruth and Bob Johnston, her cousin Peg, her cousin Lynn (Shipley) Page, her cousins Marya Warshaw and Debra Taube, and her 'brother' Allan Troxler. She will be fondly remembered by her cousins Ken Johnston and Susan Jenkins. And especially, by the friends, colleagues, and fellow activists in the Woodstock area and elsewhere.

2/20/08

Jane Van De Bogart, activist, former Woodstock councilwoman

WOODSTOCK — Jane Van De Bogart, 66, a former Woodstock town councilwoman and longtime community activist, died Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008, at home following a battle with cancer.

She graduated from Antioch College in Ohio in 1964. She taught first grade at a laboratory school at Webster College in St. Louis, Mo., and "new math" at a private school in Annapolis, Md., and had been a counselor at Camp Woodland.

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active with a number of peace and social justice organizations, including Woodstock Women in Black and Quilters for Peace, and the Caribbean and Latin America Support Project. She also belonged to Health Care STAT and Preserve Medical Secularity, watchdog groups concerned with the pending affiliation of Kingston and Benedictine hospitals.

In 2006, she was honored for community service by the YWCA of Kingston and Ulster County at its annual Tribute to Women.

She stepped down from the Woodstock Town Board in 1984 after serving nine years as a Democratic councilwoman. She had also served as a member and president of the Woodstock Library Board of Trustees, as an assistant to the town assessor, and as a former secretary to the town Planning Board.

She helped create the Wood-

stock 200th anniversary quilt.

Born Aug. 25, 1941, in Paramus, N.J., she was the daughter of the late Walter and Jeanette Freeman Wittman.

Her husband, Aaron Van De Bogart, died in 1964.

Survivors include her aunt, Ruth Johnston of Binghamton; and a cousin, Peg Johnston, and other cousins.

Her brother, Carl Wittman, died previously.

A memorial service will be held 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills, Sawkill Road, town of Ulster. Arrangements are by Lasher Funeral Home, 100 Tinker St.

Obituaries

2/18/08

Jane Van De Bogart, activist, former Woodstock councilwoman

WOODSTOCK — Jane Van De Bogart, a former Woodstock town councilwoman and longtime community activist, died at her home on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008, following a bat-

tle with cancer.

In recent years, Ms. Van De Bogart had been active with a number of peace and social justice organizations, including Woodstock Women in Black and Quilters for Peace, and the Caribbean and Latin America Support Project. She also belonged to Health Care STAT and Preserve Medical Secularity, watchdog groups concerned with the pending affiliation of Kingston and Benedictine hospitals.

In 2006, she was honored for community service by the

YWCA of Kingston and Ulster County at its annual Tribute to Women.

Ms. Van De Bogart stepped down from the Woodstock Town Board in 1984 after serving nine years as a Democratic councilwoman. She had also served as a member and president of the Woodstock Library Board of Trustees, as an assistant to the town assessor, and as a former secretary to the town Planning Board.

Further information and funeral arrangements will be announced by Lasher Funeral Home, 100 Tinker St., Woodstock.

Local peace activist Van De Bogart dies at 67

BY ROBERT FORD

Ulster County Press

A dear friend to many, a long-time activist and a former councilwoman, Jane Van De Bogart died this past weekend after a battle with cancer. She was 67.

A memorial service will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 320 Sawkill Rd. in Kingston on Saturday, March 1 at 1:30 p.m.

An exhibit of some of her collections, photographs, posters, quilts and other memories will be on display starting at 10:30 a.m.

Van De Bogart served on the Woodstock council in the 1980s but became known within the local community and beyond the borders of Ulster County for her various works with activist groups, and was known as a "voice for peace."

Friends say it's difficult to know where to begin when talking about Jane and her love for causes that she strongly believed in.

She was a member of HealthCare Stat, which

for more than 10 years has kept a close eye on the various permutations of Kingston and Benedictine hospitals to create an affiliation.

In addition to being a member of HealthCare Stat, Jane was also one of the first members of the peace activist group Women in Black, and could be found every Sunday afternoon, in good weather and bad, standing with her fellow members holding signs calling for peace and the end to the war in Iraq.

"She was just such an amazing person and spearheaded so many important causes," said friend and fellow Women in Black member Paula Silbey. "She was just such an amazing activist."

Judith Chase, a "good friend" for more than eight years and a fellow member of Women in Black, said Jane "had a real concern for the underdog and for protecting the freedoms of the Constitution."

"She was also passionate about the Civil Rights movement and peace," Chase said.

And while Jane Van De Bogart is noted for

her various activist roles, her friends all speak to her warmth and her "goodness as a person."

"She was a very warm person and considerate to all her friends," Chase said.

"She designed her home so it could accommodate large groups," Silbey said, who would come to her house. "And best of all, she knew how to give good hugs when were needed," Chase said.

In addition to her work with a number of activist groups, Jane was a member of Quilters for Peace and the Wiltwyck Quilters Guild in Ulster County.

She was also a former member and past president of the Woodstock Library Board of Trustees.

In 2006, the YWCA of Ulster County at their Tribute to Women dinner honored her with a Community Service award.

She was born in January 1941 in Paramus, N.J. to the late Walter and Jeanette Wittman. Arrangements were made by the Lasher Funeral Home, 100 Tinker St., Woodstock.

Elaine Hencke

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Sent: [redacted]
Subject: sent to Wiltwyck Quilters Guild

This is what I sent Janna to print in March's Newsletter. I hope you approve. Alan..... did I send you a photo of Jane at the 2006 quilt show with the quilt she reproduced?

Jane VanDeBogart would have received her Wiltwyck Quilters Guild twenty-five year pin in May if she had not succumbed to metastasized breast cancer on February 16th. The importance of quilting and her quilt friends was obvious to us all when (even though she had to turn over editorship of the Wiltwyck newsletter) she still attended meetings, helping to distribute the Block-of-the-Month just one month before her death.

How many of us joined the Guild because of encouragement from Jane? Jackie Brooks, past-president, was one. I was one. Susan Friedman and Kay Disbrow, to name a few. Her warmth, her joy in what she was able to create, her appreciation of the skills of others, her energy and willingness to take on responsibilities such as arranging the production of the Wiltwyck T-shirts and tote bags made her an invaluable guild member. "If you want something done, ask a busy person"..... that was our Jane.

The legacy that we read about in the newspapers was her activism, her commitment to peace and justice. Jane was able to fuse two of her passions.....brotherhood and quilting..... when she was invited to join the Piecemakers of New Paltz. She contributed squares to the quilts that were raffled to benefit the Akwesasne Freedom School at the Mohawk Indian Reservation. Quilts were tied into many of her causes. Jane organized an auction of small quilts to help support the challenge to the merger of Benedictine, Kingston, and Northern Dutchess Hospitals. When Jane learned that a traveling quilt display of small works reflecting the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was available, she formed Quilters for Peace to hang the quilts in Kingston's Town Hall and Visitor Center. Shortly after, the group presented books on quilting to the Sadie Petersen Delaney African-American Library in Poughkeepsie. Jane won awards for her Turtle Quilt based on the Aboriginal story of creation. She finalized her pattern and fabric selection for the African Quilt that she planned to enter in the Catskill Mountain Festival Quilt Show this July. Her Thursday quilting buddies, Julie Mainieri, Vija Clark, Elaine Hencke, Susan Friedman, Denise Giardullo and I, will sew that quilt for Jane.

Jane was a superbly intelligent and talented person. She impressed us by recalling names of wildflowers we would pass while carpooling to a quilt show or to the Thursday gathering. She had spent a month at the University of Nebraska to work on the manuscript of a book about the history of Social Activism as evidenced in quilts.

Jane was always so thoughtful and generous. After completing a fly-casting workshop for breast cancer survivors, Arlene Merker and the other members of the group received small quilts from Jane to celebrate their shared memory. Jane and Dagmar Yaddow, singers with the Bard Community Chorus, presented director James Bagwell with a perfect quilt companion to "Carmina Burana".

Jane was so many things. She was a model of how a person should live and how a person should die..... She was our dear friend.