

Mary “Jean” Fuschillo

June 10, 2005

Appeared in CU Maurice River’s Jan 2006 Annual Message

Each year it is with both sadness and warm memories that I reflect upon some of the special members we have lost since our last annual message. This year is no exception. Some details about each of the individuals clearly represent simply a snapshot of my recollections and fall vastly short of any kind of summary of their individual contributions. In this reflection I often find meaning in the work we do, primarily because life is all about the legacy we leave for future generations.

Mary “Jean” Fuschillo – Jean was a remarkable person for her environmental contributions and intellectual curiosity. I knew Jean as a birder and nature activist. A lifelong resident of Ocean City, she and the Atlantic Audubon Society traveled to the Maurice River for annual birding observations. We exchanged e-mail on numerous current events dealing with environmental topics. It was obvious that she was astute and well-read. She dedicated herself to causes involving human injustice and environmental health, playing an active role in Integrated Pest Management, phragmites control, the wetlands act, representing the community on the Shore Memorial Hospital Ethic Committee, opposing construction of a nuclear plant 12 miles off-shore and so much more. What I did not realize was the vast educational experience she had amassed. She held a B.A. in History from Mt. Holyoke College, an M.A. in Social Studies and a M.Ed. in Education, both from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in Psychology from Penn State University. Having been born in 1927, she was truly a pioneer in women’s achievements! Doctor Fuschillo, we salute you and your contributions.

Newspaper Obituary June 14, 2005

Mary “Jean” Fuschillo

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FUSCHILLO, MARY JEAN COOPER "JEAN", 78 - of Ocean City, beloved mother of David H. Fuschillo, died at home on June 10, 2005. Mrs. Fuschillo was born on April 16, 1927 in Philadelphia, and was a longtime resident of Ocean City.

Mrs. Fuschillo held a B.A. in History from Mt. Holyoke College, an M.A. in Social Studies and a M.Ed. in Education, both from Cornell University, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from Penn State University.

Aside from her academic achievements, Mrs. Fuschillo had a number of interests. She was an active and talented birder, naturalist, sportswoman, humanitarian, and political and environmental activist. Mrs. Fuschillo was honored in 2004 by the Environmental Federation of New Jersey for her work with Integrated Pest Management. She played a pivotal role in the establishment of The Wetlands Act, and worked tirelessly, along with her husband, Nick, to prevent a nuclear plant from being built 12 miles off the coast of Atlantic City. Mrs. Fuschillo was a longtime Community Representative on the Ethics

Committee at Shore Memorial Hospital and volunteered regularly, through the Cape May County Court system, to perform family mediation. Recent and ongoing projects with which she was involved include Integrated Pest Management, and Clean Election Reform in Ocean City.

She traveled widely, often with close friends and/or family. Some of her favorite places included New York City, Assiniboine, Nepal, India, Alaska and Costa Rica.

Surviving are her son, David Henry of Ocean City, and her precious granddaughters, Eva Marie and Alanna Lee. Mrs. Fuschillo made many friends during her lifetime that she treasured as she did her family and extended family members. She was predeceased by her son Charles Cooper ("Ty"), and her husband Nicholas ("Nick") Fuschillo. She will be remembered for her intelligence, compassion, kindness, wit and passionate dedication to causes involving human injustice and harm to the environment.

Mrs. Fuschillo was a lifelong participant in the Quaker faith. A memorial meeting for worship to celebrate a life well spent will be held for family and friends, in the Quaker tradition.

Those who were privileged to know Mrs. Fuschillo know that she had great concern for humanity, and dedicated herself to the service of nature and mankind. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the giver's choice or to one of the many organizations that she was involved with, including the Cape May County Chapter of Amnesty International, P.O. Box 1321, Ocean City, NJ 08226; Unexpected Refuge, Inc., P.O. Box 765, Newfield, NJ 08344; and Seaville Monthly Meeting, 3088 South Shore, Seaville, NJ 08230.