



Claire Louise Cassity

May 24, 1923 - May 27, 2011

Claire Louise Cassity, 88, artist, passed away peacefully, attended by family May 27, 2011. She was born in Putnam, Connecticut and raised in Weekapaugh, Rhode Island. She was a Geist resident and the widow of the late psychiatrist, John Holland Cassity, MD of Chappaqua, NY (former Chief of Forensic Psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital, Manhattan). Claire graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Fine Arts. After moving to New York City she attended the New School for Social Research and continued her studio art education at the Art Students League. Claire was a fashion designer (Jo Hughes Design), watercolorist and art therapist. As a Director for the Catholic Youth Organization in New York, she created and developed its first Fine Arts program serving all 5 boroughs. She later pioneered the previously unknown discipline of art therapy with her psychiatric patient-students at Greenmont-on-Hudson Psychiatric Hospital in Ossining (NY) in collaboration with her late husband. Claire was a dedicated, loyal and loving mother and grandmother. Her early volunteer years were served as a Girl Scout leader and Sunnyside Council (NY) member, and as a member of the Board of Directors of Hudson River Country Day School in Tarrytown (NY). She volunteered many hours at Spence-Chapin Adoption Agency (Manhattan), Northern Westchester Hospital Auxiliary and the Junior League of Westchester-on-Hudson. She was also a political activist and organic gardener, devoting many years to the cause of nuclear power risk awareness, including several years spent as a lobbyist in Washington, DC for Citizens

Energy Council. Claire Cassity's life was dedicated to the advancement of beauty, self-actualization and understanding through art, and in service to those less fortunate. She is survived by her daughter, Jeannie (Cassity) Van Nuys-Kadaba of Geist (Indianapolis) and grandson, John P. Breckinridge (Breck) Kadaba, of Los Angeles and Geist (Indianapolis). Memorial will be private. Arrangements entrusted to Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel.