

Obituaries

Sunday, October 26, 2008

Sylvia Wubnig *Teacher, Volunteer*

Sylvia Wubnig, 100, an English and history teacher at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring from 1956 until her retirement in 1978, died Oct. 19 of arterial sclerotic cardiovascular disease at her home in Silver Spring.

Mrs. Wubnig volunteered with the Montgomery Literacy Council, teaching English as a second language. She also was an adult education teacher at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington for more than 20 years.

In 1947, Mrs. Wubnig was involved in a controversy after advocating contacts between members of black and white civic groups in Washington.

At the time, she was a member of the Kalorama Citizens Association and was denied a seat on the Federation of Citizens Associations on the pretext that she was a member of a group called the League of Women Shoppers, said her daughter, Judy Wubnig. The real reason, the daughter said, was that she had advocated meeting with her counterparts in the city's black neighborhood associations.

Advertisement

The initial decision not to seat her, later reversed, "was so absurd as to reflect on the good sense as well as the good faith of the federation," The Washington Post editorialized.

Sylvia Lipschitz was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. She was a 1930 fine arts graduate of New York University and received a master's degree in economics from American University.

She and her husband, Arthur Wubnig, an economist, settled in the Washington area in 1939.

Her husband died in 1969. A daughter, Martha Grosse, died in 1991. Survivors include her daughter Judy, of Waterloo, Ontario.

-- Joe Holley