

# Memorial Minutes ～ 2017～

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NEW ENGLAND  
YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

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Each of these minutes has been read aloud at each Friend's monthly meeting and quarterly meeting and at a meeting of the Yearly Meeting Permanent Board. Each time a minute was read, those listening learned something new about the different ways in which Friends live out their Quaker faith. Those who knew the remembered Friend in different contexts have had the opportunity to share, and perhaps to add, some telling memory. It is a rich and living process.

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**Frederick (Fritz) Bell (1932–2015)**

**Pieter Byhouwer (1931–2013)**

**June Correia (1958–2016)**

**Evelyn Danforth (1939–2014)**

**Sylvia de Murias (1937–2015)**

**Ann de Nevers (1921–2014)**

**Katherine Frazer (1923–2016)**

**Herbert Hillman (1926–2014)**

**Elizabeth Jones (1916–2015)**

**Alfred (Al) Norton (1935–2016)**

**Alice Rathbun (1780–1845)**

**Joyce Rawitscher (1940–2016)**

**E. Kirk Roberts (1922–2015)**

**Janet Roberts (2016)**

**Mildred Roberts (1921–2015)**

**Glenn Smith (2014)**

**Lois Smith (1935–2015)**

**Ann Stokes (1931–2016)**

**Ruth Stokes (1927–2015)**

**Eunice Strobel (1917–2016)**

**William Upholt (1943–2016)**

**Alexander Vanderburgh, Jr. (1928–2014)**

**John Watts (1949–2016)**

**Joan Wayne (1921–2016)**

**Beatrice Wehmeyer (1921–2016)**

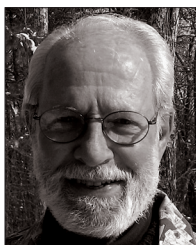
**Sally Wriggins (1922–2014)**

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**Frederick (Fritz) D. Bell**  
**August 16, 1932–April 3, 2015**

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Fritz Bell was born into a family with strong Quaker traditions, spanning several generations before and after him. When he was bullied at the prestigious secondary boarding school to which his parents had sent him, he told them he would not go back for the sophomore year. Where, they asked, did he propose to go? He immediately said Westtown, the excellent Quaker boarding school outside Philadelphia. There's no question that his three years there were key to the development of the man we all came to know and love. He kept in contact with classmates and teachers from Westtown for the rest of his life. His husband, William Fregosi, accompanied him to his 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion, and assisted him to host a major gathering of classmates in New Hampshire several years later. The couple also visited a number of his former teachers several times in their various retirement facilities.

During his years at Earlham College, Fritz spent two of his summers near the Arctic Circle at a Quaker work project in Finland, building schools, and roads to those schools, for children in Lapland. Education and the arts became his career, teaching drama and directing plays, first at schools in Las Vegas and southern California, finally in Glassboro, New Jersey. When he heard that Westtown was going to build a new theater, he volunteered his services in the planning, becoming a major influence on the excellent seating plan, sight lines, and technical installation of the new facility.

Fritz arrived on the scene here in New Hampshire in 1972, having left conventional academia with its politics and what he experienced as endless, largely unproductive meetings. He found in Raymond the kind of property he had been seeking to convert into an educational conference and retreat center focused on the arts in education. At Walnut Hill he offered a wide variety of workshops on effective teaching, multiple intelligences, and brain-based education, receiv-

ing the Gordon Lawrence Award for the constructive use of psychological type based on the Meyers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator. In the early 1980s he brought Lesley University's Masters of Creative Arts in Learning degree to Walnut Hill as an off-campus site for the University, an association that continues to this day.

Throughout his life, he mentored innumerable teachers, friends, relatives and anyone who sought his advice. And he founded the New Hampshire Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men to support the emerging Gay Liberation movement. He began attending West Epping Preparative Meeting and in 1973 became the meeting clerk, an office he filled until his death in April 2015. After he met his future husband in 1997, the West Epping meetinghouse was one of the first locations special to him in the area to which he brought Will. William began to join Fritz there on the first and third Sundays of the month. It didn't take Will long to appreciate his immense kindness, genius as a teacher, and his generosity: even though he never had great amounts of money, Fritz contributed toward Westtown tuition for a nephew and later for a great niece whose parents needed help to send them there. He became a valued mentor to a small army of students, relatives, teachers, friends—to anyone who sought his advice or assistance.

In 2016, the exquisitely simple mid-19<sup>th</sup> century West Epping meetinghouse was superbly restored in Fritz's honor by Brad Birkenfeld, son of Fritz's Westtown classmate, Ron Birkenfeld. Fritz had assisted Brad extensively during extraordinary circumstances following his performing a service to the nation.

The dedicatory plaque to Fritz says it well, concluding with, "His life shone with the most enduring legacy, Love."

WEST EPPING PREPARATIVE MEETING

ENDORSED BY DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING, APRIL 30, 2017

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**Pieter Byhouwer**  
**May 29, 1931 – December 22, 2013**

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W. Pieter Byhouwer brought his gift of ministry to Smithfield Friends Meeting twice in his lifetime, first when he served as our pastor from 1987 to 1990 and then when he returned to our community many years later. With a sharp mind and gentle nature, his calm spirit guided us through difficult times and continues to inspire us today.

Pieter was born in 1931 in Rotterdam, and in his youth lived through World War II and the Nazi occupation of Netherlands. The strength of his faith and belief in the goodness of all people is all the more remarkable. Pieter was truly a man of unquestionable faith. In a Workshop in Nonviolence Institute 1979 newsletter, Pieter was quoted as saying “The Holy Spirit will help me find a way.” This was the guiding concept in his life.

Pieter earned a degree in journalism from the University of Missouri, and then later earned his Master of Divinity from Earlham School of Religion. Pieter was a substance-abuse counselor, retiring in 2008. Pieter had been a member of Hopewell (Indiana) Monthly Meeting. Glenda and Pieter met for the first time at a Western Yearly Meeting. They married on May 31, 1987, and then moved together to Woonsocket, Rhode Island, when Pieter was hired to be the minister for Smithfield Friends Meeting later that year.

Pieter’s tenure as Smithfield’s pastor came at a difficult time for the meeting, when many members’ relationships to Christianity were changing, and the identity of the meeting was moving towards Liberal Quakerism. Pieter’s Christ-centered sermons soon became contentious. It was a painful process for the meeting and it is a tribute to all involved that Pieter and Glenda were able to return to Smithfield in the late 1990s and become active and beloved members.

Pieter adored Glenda and loved spending time with his family and pets. In addition to his beloved Glenda, Pieter leaves three sons, Paul, John, and David, and two daughters, Nan, and Sarah. He is also survived by former wife Barbara Moore.

Since he was a young man, Pieter loved drawing, singing, dancing, reading, writing poetry, taking walks, and running. He was a published poet and talented artist. Most of all, Pieter treasured spending time with his family. He had seemingly unending patience and loved unconditionally. His love of knowledge and of God, his kindness and empathy for all, his sense of duty to be of service to others, and his sense of humor were traits that demonstrated his spirit.

Courtly and scholarly, Pieter believed in the innate integrity of humanity. It's rare to meet someone whose humility and kindness makes those around them better people, but that was Pieter. After serving as pastor, he came back to Smithfield at a time when his gentleness was sorely needed. As he faced health challenges, he inspired us all to understand what it truly meant to see that of God in everyone. He taught us the value of patience, and his calm spirit guided us through difficult times and even continues to inspire us today.

Pieter lived his faith. His work, including his ministry, was always aligned to his belief in finding the goodness in people, identifying their needs, and helping them. Pieter had a prison ministry and worked with people with drug dependencies. He dedicated his life, without reservation, to people who really needed unconditional love.

He always knew the right words when he talked with people. Pieter had a gift for conflict resolution and was blessed to perceive decency in everyone. As he saw the good in people, he knew things could always be worked out. When Pieter said, "It will be ok," he meant it. When an incarcerated man told him that he thought of himself as evil, Pieter replied "We look for that of God in all people and sometimes it just takes a while for that to come out." Pieter did not believe that bad things defined people. When Pieter had a personal ministry working to help homeless people make money by collecting recyclable cans in the Chicago Loop, he was once robbed. Of course he did not let that deter him; he just started with less cash the next time.

While he truly loved God, Pieter also was very human. He could be cranky and headstrong. He did not suffer fools gladly, but still always found the best in everyone. He could be adamant, and would take a stand and stay there. Passionate about what he believed, Pieter brought an intellectual spirit to everything he did. He could easily quote a Bible passage or a perfectly chosen literary work, or break into a hymn that was flawlessly appropriate for any given situation.

Pieter died peacefully on Sunday, December 22, 2013. This kind and loving man has shown us what it could mean to truly lead a Quaker life. We were all blessed to have known him. His amazing spirit will remain with everyone he touched, especially those at Smithfield Meeting, forever.

*A Personal Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer*, by Pieter Byhouwer  
From Illinois Yearly Meeting's *Among Friends*, Fall 1976

*Dear Spirit who touches our lives  
so deeply, may we hold the  
sense of your presence  
as a treasure in our hearts.*

*May our world be liberated and  
transformed as we respond to  
your love  
in the ordinary conduct of life  
as well in meditation and celebration.  
Help us to simplify our lives,  
so that we may truly accept our  
bread as a gift from you.  
Nurture us with your strength, day by day.*

*Let us be aware about how you care for  
us even when we let you down,  
and help us in turn to love  
those who seem to let us  
down.*

*Let us not use your  
gifts to free our own  
pride,  
but free us from  
selfishness and from  
despair.*

*For you hold us,  
and you nourish us,  
and you revel your wholeness in  
us all the time.*

This poem by Pieter was also published in the book *Quaker Artists* by Gary Sandman in 1992 and 2015.

SMITHFIELD MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 9 OCTOBER 2016

RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED  
16 OCTOBER 2016

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**June Alice Correia**  
**October 18, 1958 – May 14, 2016**

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Some people have a gift for expressing in words how to live one's faith. Others just do it, and in their doing they speak volumes. June Correia was one of the latter.

June grew up in Russells Mills, South Dartmouth, Massachusetts. She met her husband, Steven, while in high school, and they were married in 1979 in New Bedford's Seaman's Bethel. Steve and June began attending New Bedford Meeting when their oldest daughter, Larissa, was a newborn in 1985. Steve became clerk and was committed to keeping the meeting open, though June was waiting for more children to enrich the First Day School.

After their daughter Aliza was born in 1988, June began searching the area for an unprogrammed meeting with a First Day School program and chose Westport. Steve, wanting to worship with his family, soon joined them. In 1993 they transferred their membership to Westport Monthly Meeting. The 3<sup>rd</sup> bench on the north wall of our meeting house has been, and continues to be, where the Correia family worships with us.

June quickly became an integral member of our community despite working full time as a bank teller while raising two children. Her faithful attendance at monthly meeting for business, potlucks, cleanup days, and our annual Book Sale's bake table, were all outward displays of her deep commitment to our spiritual community. Over the years she served on almost every committee, including Nominating, Ministry and Counsel, Religious Education, and Finance. A gentle and patient First Day Schoolteacher, she touched a generation of children who loved her dearly for her playfulness, humility, and kindness. She served on Finance Committee and for over a decade was one of our Trustees—an appropriate title for our recognition of her sensibilities, monetary skills, and commitment to the life in the Spirit. She participated in the life of Sandwich Quarter and was a faithful attender at NEYM Sessions, where



she is remembered for her gentle heart and her grounded and prepared presence at business meeting.

June loved her family. Her daughters Larissa and Aliza were the joyful focus of her life. Schoolwork was their first priority, but she also urged them to engage in outside activities, musical groups, and sports teams. Their lives were full to overflowing. She encouraged laughter and silliness, while also nurturing a life of intentionality, discipline, and faithfulness to the testimonies of Friends. She believed that thoughts turn into words, words turn into actions, and actions turn into habits. After being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease at the age of 37, June raised her daughters to be not only thoughtful and loving adults, but also competent and independent people who could do their own laundry, live within a budget, and face adversities with patience and inner strength. Her primary concern was that her daughters be okay, with or without her.

June savored the simple things in life like warm cookies, chocolate frappes, Disney movies, a perfect cup of tea, and a well-done manicure. Beauty could be found in organized closets as well as in nature. Her clothing and personal appearance were a way of celebrating life. She loved traditions. Most of the ones that we have at Westport Meeting were started or actively perpetuated by June, including our Easter Egg Hunt and the giving of small, wrapped gifts to every child on Christmas Eve. She found meaning in angels and frequently gave representations of them as gifts to her family and friends. "Angels We Have Heard on High," sung with playful, twinkling eyes, will always be "June's song." She loved music, and throughout most of her life sang with heartfelt joy. When what turned out to be Multiple System Atrophy took her voice, she was comforted by Steve's banjo and ukulele playing.

With grit and grace, June lived with the cumulative effects of her disease for over 20 years. She rarely complained or dwelt on the question of "Why me?" The last few years of her life were spent at Brandon Woods Nursing Home, where she and her family created an extraordinary community of residents and healthcare workers through their daily displays of kindness, compassion, and honesty. As a way to keep connected, a small group of women from the meeting and community visited with her monthly. They became known as the Knitting Group, but more than any hand-work, what was created were friendships and love. June's smile, twinkling eyes, courage, and fierce determination to live each day with heart and hope touched everyone.

Over the course of many years, June created a large, beautiful cross-stitch of the Shaker Tree of Life. She stitched through business meetings, committee meetings, and family nights watching television. She worked on it, sometimes undoing mistakes, other times adjusting the finished design to incorporate small errors, with care, heart, and seemingly endless patience. She lived her life with that same extraordinary determina-

tion and grace, continuing to channel love to everyone around her until the day of her death at the age of 57. Her ministry was in the way she lived each day, reminding each of us to pay attention to the essence of life, to savor the sweetness, and to walk in the Light with courage, trust, and love.

WESTPORT MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 9, 2017

SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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**Evelyn Wellington Danforth**  
**March 26, 1939–August 15, 2014**

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Who could resist Lyn's warm smile and sparkling eyes. Who would not be in awe of her positive and cheerful spirit as she accepted one challenge after another with her physical self. Lyn brought acceptance, humor, and grace coupled with deep caring wherever she was. Radiance and resilience are good words to describe her.

Born in Boston, Lyn grew up in Weston on her family's farm, Gateways. She was the oldest of four. Her family was Unitarian. As a child she often accompanied her maternal grandmother, with whom she was close, to Kings Chapel on Sundays.

Her degree in Early Childhood Education from Bennett College reinforced her love of providing children with an environment of respect and joyful activity in nursery schools where she worked and which she founded.

Lyn's love of nature in all seasons was deeply important to her and she treasured being in the family house in the Adirondacks.

Lyn married Bill Haskell, a science journalist, at 19 and they had two children: Anne and Benjamin. Early in their married life, after Anne was born, they traveled by freighter to New Zealand and continued to journey for a year and a half, living in New Zealand, Australia, and parts of Southeast Asia, continuing on to England, and ending in Canada. Later they lived in D.C. and on farms in Connecticut and Central Pennsylvania. Lyn loved the farm life, but also acknowledged that it was a difficult way to live.

When her marriage ended in 1984, Lyn moved to Nantucket, where she lived for 17 years running a small bed-and-breakfast, "Danforth House," in a home on Main Street originally owned by her parents. She worked for an educational search firm and as a reporter and photographer for the local paper. She supported the work of two historians, Robert Leach and Peter Gow, who wrote *Quaker Nantucket: The Religious Community Behind the Whaling Empire*.

It was in Nantucket that Lyn was introduced to Quakers. It felt right to her from the beginning and she experienced “an electric current running between us.” Later she became clerk of the Nantucket Meeting and recording clerk of her quarter.

In 2001 Lyn returned to the Boston area, spending a year as Director of Beacon Hill Friends House and then moving back to the family home in Weston, sharing it with her brother Nick. For ten years she was a caretaker of seniors.

After her move to Weston, she began to attend Wellesley Friends Meeting and transferred her membership from Nantucket in 2004.

Lyn then moved to Jamaica Plain and later bought a house in Roslindale, where she lived with Anne. Lyn radiated Quaker love in many ways within the Roslindale community. She continued to attend Wellesley Friends Meeting and was an active and much-loved member. She served on the library committee and was a centerpiece of the Ministry for Racial Justice and Equality (MORE) as long as she was able.

Of the Society of Friends Lyn said, “I felt I have a huge new family. I am so attracted to the simplicity, respect for each other despite differences, and the beauty that comes out when people worship together.”

After four years of debilitating heart and visual problems, accompanied so faithfully by Anne, Benjamin and her siblings Nick, Julie, and Nina, and friends, Lyn died peacefully surrounded by her loved ones.

Two memorial meetings were held in her honor both at Wellesley Friends Meeting and at Kings Chapel in Boston.

WELLESLEY FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED NOVEMBER 13, 2016

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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**Sylvia Colmore de Murias**  
**July 29, 1937–April 20, 2015**

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Sylvia Colmore de Murias will be remembered fondly for her independence, generosity, creativity, and humor. Sylvia leaves a hole in her artist groups, among her long-time friends, her meeting community, and of course, her family.

Sylvia Colmore was born in 1937, the eldest of three children. Her path and personality developed very differently from her brother Blayne and sister Perry, yet they all loved each other deeply. She spent her childhood in North Carolina and her adolescence in the Philippines, where her father worked for Proctor and Gamble.

Places always had an impact. She balked at her southern upbringing; she spent the rest of her life escaping its narrowness and judgmental propriety. The Philippines offered the freedom her adolescent self craved. Sylvia's adult life was informed by her zest for life and her wanting to test cultural boundaries. Her summers as a child at the family home on Fire Island gave her a lifelong love of the beach. Later in life she shared this childhood joy with others each summer at Manomet Beach, south of Plymouth. Her son Garrett and his family, often accompanied by other invited friends, also began to spend time at Manomet where they created countless summer memories of craft projects, beachcombing, and nighttime campfires.

Mother of two children, Perrine and Garrett, Sylvia found her happiest role being a grandparent to Gwendolyn and Cameron. She delighted in them and hoped to always stimulate their creativity with art materials, "making" sessions, and trips to Snow Farm Art Center with Gwen.

"Artist" is probably the most apt description of Sylvia's direction and motivation and state of mind. It was how she saw herself. Sylvia's own art was varied and experimental. Photography, jewelry in metal and glass, transfer printing, collage, and drawing were her strongest interests. She displayed at open studios, attended workshops and classes, and worked

at her own home studio and other workshop spaces. Her many journals included sketches, quotes, and observations. Sylvia's love of art found expression at Friends Meeting at Cambridge's Exhibits Committee, which she enjoyed.

Sylvia had different jobs at different times of her life, the longest being her last job as an administrative secretary at Massachusetts Law Reform Institute. She never retired, she pointed out, because her departure at age 72 was a layoff! She formed long-lasting bonds with people she worked with.

She always chafed at what she saw as a lack of respect for women, for minorities, and for workers who were not deemed "professionals." She was forever loyal to her women's group formed in the '70s that has continued to meet ever since.

Sylvia was a magpie, picking up things that caught her eye, and her penchant as an accumulator was abetted by living in a large house. One expression of her caring was keeping her friends and family in mind as she combed the beach or a resale shop. Her family and friends often received unsolicited items Sylvia thought they might like.

At Friends Meeting at Cambridge worship Sylvia had a usual seat in the front facing those entering. She always kept a journal handy where she would jot down things during meeting or during the adult forum that she wanted to remember. These habits were noted at her memorial meeting, attended by so many from across the spectrum of time and activities of her life. As we shared about Sylvia's endearing, sometimes frustrating, always lively characteristics, we knew that such a strong and loving spirit would live on in the people and places she touched.

Sylvia Colmore de Murias died April 20, 2015, from cancer.

FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, APPROVED NOVEMBER 13, 2016

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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**Ann de Nevers**  
**April 14, 1921–October 18, 2014**

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Anna Mary de Nevers was a quintessential Quaker. Compassionate and caring, she spent her life looking for that of God in everyone she encountered. An active member of Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends, Ann also helped found the Friends Meeting in Fort Myers, Florida. Ann gave generously of herself, and worked tirelessly to improve her community.

She was active in New England Yearly Meeting's Peace and Social concerns and had a lifelong interest in the work of the American Friends Service Committee. She organized the library at Smithfield Friends and would always have a recommendation on a good book to read. She was curious, well-read, and extremely intelligent. She would have long conversation with Friends after meeting on Sundays; topics would range from current events to intricate interpretations of biblical passages.

Ann always wanted the best for everyone at Smithfield and took her duties on Ministry & Counsel very seriously. She attended meetings until only a few weeks before she died peacefully at home surrounded by her family in Slatersville, Rhode Island, on October 18, 2014.

Ann was born in 1921 in Tyrone, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of James Anthony Yinger and Grace Isabelle Peck. She was the wife of Bertrand E. de Nevers, who died in 1992. Ann lived with her daughter, Danielle Wiens and her husband Richard. She loved spending time with her three grandsons, Geoffrey, Edouard, and Gregory, and his wife Nancy Wiens, and her great grandson, Tristan T. Wiens. She also leaves behind a sister, Mrs. Charles Prevost of San Jose, California, as well as a niece and two nephews.

Ann was an integral part of Woonsocket and the surrounding area. She served for a period of ten years as Director of Woonsocket Family and Child Services. During this time she developed a Homemaker staff of 30 trained individuals, making it possible for families to stay in their own homes during prolonged illness. She later served as Director of the Sophia Little Home in Providence, a home for unmarried, pregnant youth. Ann brought about innovative change to the Home and its residents through

a broadening and caring atmosphere fashioned by modern social work philosophy.

Ann moved on to become the Dean of Students at Woonsocket High School in 1965, where she served until 1984. It was during her time in the Woonsocket school system that Ann began to touch the lives of some of us at Smithfield Meeting. As Dean of Students, Ann had a talent for recognizing young people's talents and helping people find their confidence. In fact, her gentle guidance of one Smithfield Friend during her teenage years moved the young woman to volunteer, which ultimately led to her lifelong career as a nurse.

Ann also continued her education, and after further studies and credentialing opened a private psychotherapy practice where she worked for a period of 20 years. After her tenure in Woonsocket, Ann and her husband moved to Fort Myers, Florida, where she helped start Fort Meyers Monthly Meeting. She was active there until she returned home to Rhode Island to live with her family and rejoined Smithfield Friends.

She was very close to her daughter Danielle. Their boundless love for each other was always evident. Together they would often host lovely teas with a beautifully set table, flowers, and delicious food.

These gatherings were like salons, with wonderful conversations about important topics, and they also hosted a lively book club, reverently discussing all type of literature with their friends.

This remarkable woman wrote novels, and was working on a historical fiction when she passed. She went to Europe during World War II with a relief organization and she traveled to the Middle East including Palestine in the 1980s. Ann truly had her own sense of propriety; she embodied the word elegant and she had the awareness to see beyond how people saw themselves. Ann was sweet and old fashioned. She wore stylish hats and looked like the "Breck girl." She came to meeting beautifully dressed in suits that were tailored to fit her.

Ann was grounded as a Quaker. She knew the tenets of her faith and taught us by her example. Ann had a clear vision of what was real and honest. She spoke the truth. She was capable of being offended and she might take issue with something, but was never mean-spirited. She lent a grace and dignity to our meeting. She did many things quietly, including taking care of members of our meeting when they were in need. She had a strong sense of self. She was inviolate and very proper, but always had a twinkle in her eye. Ann was led by her curiosity and she encouraged us to be inquisitive too.

Ann was an amazing woman of faith and a very important part of Smithfield Friends Meeting and the larger Quaker communities in New England and Florida. She touched countless lives with her dignity and grace, and continues to be deeply missed by all. When she passed, Fort Myers Friends asked that this poem be read at her memorial service.



It was read out of the silence shortly after Ann passed at Ft. Myers meeting for worship by a Friend who was a member of Smithfield Meeting.

*High Flight*

*by John Gillespie Magee, Jr.*

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds,—and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—Wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark or even eagle flew—  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting loved Ann for all the same reasons Smithfield Friends did. They sent this message to be read at her memorial service:

Ann was one of the founding members of Fort Myers Friends Meeting. Over the years, Ann served our meeting with humility and grace in many capacities, including as clerk of the meeting, clerk of Ministry and Counsel and Education Committees. She kept us alert to the messages from Friends Committee for National Legislation and the American Service Committee. We are grateful for the wisdom and leadership she brought to us. She was a quiet, unassuming model of the best of Quaker service. This past First Day's Meeting for Worship was filled with recollections and tributes to Ann, who gently touched the lives of so many of us. Her friendship and love compelled us to speak of her kindness, gentleness, and generosity. We fondly recollected the many times Ann gathered us together in her home for a wonderful meal, "properly and graciously served," followed by an evening or afternoon of fellowship, laughter, and sharing our thoughts on issues of importance to Quakers. Ann never hesitated to put herself forward to help someone in need, even bringing people in trouble into her home for shelter and sustenance. An avid reader, Ann was a ready source for suggestions of books to read or to add to our library. She was always thoughtful and patient. We are deeply grateful that God led Ann to what would become Ft. Myers Meeting. Though she left us in 2007 to return home to Rhode Island, it is amazing how many times her name and something Ann said or did is still mentioned among us.

We will miss her gentle way, her loving smile, and her Quaker manner of being.

Smithfield Friends will be forever grateful for Ann's return to our meeting. She led us by her gracious example through some difficult times. Like her loving family, we were all blessed to have the gift of Ann de Nevers and we will cherish it forever.

SMITHFIELD MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 9 OCTOBER 2016

RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED

16 OCTOBER 2016

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**Katherine R. Frazer**  
**May 8, 1923–January 28, 2016**

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Katherine R., Frazer, 92, of Saxtons River, Vermont, a long-time member of Putney Friends Meeting, died on January 28, 2016. Kay was born May 8, 1923, in Hazlet, New Jersey, daughter of Angelo and Madeline R. (Young) Webster. She had academic credentials in nursing and divinity, and graduated from Methodist Teaching Hospital and Temple University in Philadelphia. In 1954 she married Grant Frazer.

In 1960 his teaching career brought them to Saxtons River, where she had what she considered the good fortune to live for the rest of her life.

At this time Kay and Grant became active in Putney Friends Meeting, contributing richly to its spiritual life and social outreach. At that time the location of the Meeting was fluid and held at various locations including Friend's homes. Kay and Grant welcomed Friends on numerous occasions to their home for worship, business, and committee meetings, Friendly Eights, Quaker women's luncheon and other social events.

Kay's interest in social concerns and justice led her down many pathways. In 1965, seeing a need in the community for seniors and shut-ins to have a social outlet, she formed "Club 39," whose Christmas parties became a much-anticipated community event. Working in the area's hospital and a physician's office, she recognized the need for better home nursing care, and was instrumental in the formation of the Visiting Nurse Association. Later, she played a role in the formation of Our Place Drop-In Center, which provides services for people with limited resources in Bellows Falls, Vermont, and volunteered at Park Place, a center for numerous community services in Bellows Falls, until her 90<sup>th</sup> year. In the 1980s Kay participated in forming one of the first restorative justice programs in the state of Vermont and served on a restorative justice panel in Springfield for many years. This served as a model for the restorative

justice system to take root and spread throughout the state, with 20 restorative justice centers now active.

Another important concern to Kay was Quaker adult education. She and her close friend Hattie Reeves-Forsythe convened the Putney Friends Meeting adult education committee for many years, imparting their life experience and wisdom in Quaker faith and practice to new members and seekers.

Sensing a need in the meeting, Kay was instrumental in initiating a “healing circle” that promoted healing through focused Friends worship. The healing circle of members and attenders met for a number of years, providing comfort to those in distress.

Kay served the meeting in many ways, from recording clerk to fellowship on various committees. Her baked desserts were favorites at meeting potlucks and her recipes are still shared among Putney Friends.

During meeting for worship, Kay’s vocal testimony was always powerfully Spirit-led and long remembered. Her voice and presence among us will be missed. We hold Kay’s life as a pattern for creating social outreach and justice in our community.

She is survived by a son, Dr. James E. Frazer and his wife Sharon, of Mishawaka, Indiana; a daughter, Susan R. Frazer-Stebbins of Saxtons River; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

PUTNEY MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED JUNE 19, 2016

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

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**Herbert Raymond Hillman Jr.**  
**October 25, 1926 – September 1, 2014**

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Herb Hillman was born in 1926 and raised in Wilkinsburg, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Upon finishing high school he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to a V-12 officer training unit, initially at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Later he was transferred to Swarthmore College, where he first encountered Friends.

WW II ended before his unit saw action, and Herb decided to finish his bachelor's degree at Swarthmore. He graduated with honors in biology, subsequently enrolling in a graduate program in physiology at Cornell. After some time at Cornell, a year spent in Glasgow as a Cornell-Glasgow fellow, and time off to travel in Europe, Herb tired of academia and left Cornell before completing his degree.

In 1950 he married Bernice ("Bunny") Shiffer, whom he had met at Cornell, and together they opened an antiquarian bookstore in Greenwich Village which they named Pangloss. Later when Herb was asked why he had named the store after Dr. Pangloss, the inveterate optimist in Voltaire's *Candide*, he replied "One has to be a convinced optimist to go into the antiquarian book business. Bookselling has many rewards—but none of them financial." In 1957 they relocated the bookstore to Harvard Square. Pangloss specialized in academic and rare books, serving Harvard, MIT, and other area universities as well as some overseas clients. In 1983 Pangloss moved to Mt. Auburn Street and in 1993 Herb sold the business and retired.

Herb and Bunny joined Cambridge Friends meeting in 1962, shortly after coming to live in Cambridge. Their eldest daughter, Margot, was then two years old. Their son Jonathan ("Mickey") joined the family that same year on his second birthday, followed by a daughter, Andrea, in the spring of 1964. Bunny died after a long illness in 1983. Three years later Herb married Elinor ("Nellie") Goodwin, adding her daughter, Jennifer Goodwin, to the family.

In 1964 Herb and Bunny purchased land in West Rumney, New Hampshire, at the base of the White Mountains, and this became a home

away from their home in Cambridge for the whole family. They grew all their vegetables in a large garden on the property and engaged in a wide variety of activities. Herb was an avid outdoorsman who hiked up almost all of the 4,000-plus-foot mountains in N.H., often with the children in tow. The family went canoeing and skiing. Herb was an expert skier, a sport which he continued into his early 80s.

Herb believed in the power of love and the Light within each one of us. He felt nourished by the silent worship at FMC. He was also drawn to the Quaker process of decision-making. He was a good negotiator and had the ability to listen even to the opinions of those with whom he strongly disagreed. During a period on the late '60s when there were demonstrations at Harvard, Herb would encourage dialogue between opposing parties in his store.

He was very active throughout the '60s at FMC and in the local community. He served on the First Day School Committee and taught in the First Day School. He joined the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and facilitated three gatherings at the meeting on race relations. He was appointed by FMC to the Board of the Cambridge Interfaith Housing Corporation, which developed integrated middle-income housing in Cambridge. He was very involved in the schools his children attended: Cambridge Friends School, the Peabody School, and the Pilot School (an experimental open high school associated with the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School). During this period also, he and Bunny opened their home to young people resisting the draft and to refugee families from Indonesia and Greece.

In later years at FMC, Herb served at different times on the Nominating, Trustees, Grants, and Library committees.

After his retirement Herb, with his wife Nellie, participated for many years in the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement, a volunteer mutual educational program for older citizens. A lifelong learner, Herb took numerous classes at HILR which he greatly enjoyed. Under the auspices of HILR, too, he founded a play-readers group and performed memorably with Nellie in several Shakespeare plays. Herb had a strong interest in theater dating back to his days in Glasgow, where he did theater work. He was also a lover of movies and had an extensive film library.

As his health declined, Herb was lovingly cared for by Nellie. He passed away peacefully on September 1, 2014. At the memorial service held at FMC to celebrate his life, his daughter Margot characterized her father as one who "took the road less traveled by." His son Mickey recalled that Herb had taught him to "drink from his own well." Another attendee described Herb as fearless. Herb was a person of strong conviction and integrity, who worked to align his actions with his beliefs. He had a deep connection with the land and a sense of responsibility as its steward to use it well and make it available to others. He would allow people to camp on

his place in N.H. as long as they did not abuse the privilege. He trusted the employees at his bookstore and they in turn respected him. (They all had keys to the bookstore, but no one ever stole from him.) He faced many challenges in his life with grace and fortitude. Even as he contended in his later years with the gradual advance of dementia, he retained qualities of openness, gentleness, and caring, a sense of humor and a lively wit, which had characterized him throughout his life.

We at FMC are inspired by the example of Herb's life and grateful for the gift of his presence among us.

FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, APPROVED MARCH 26, 2017

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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**Elizabeth Letitia Jones**  
**July 25, 1916 – May 6, 2015**

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Betty Jones, much loved, and always present member of Worcester Friends Meeting, peacefully passed in the company of friends and family at the Briarwood Retirement Community in Worcester, Massachusetts, on May 6, 2015. Betty was born on July 25, 1916, in Somerville, Massachusetts, to Walter Bailey Jones and Letitia Mary Day Jones, who married at Durham (Maine) Monthly Meeting. The family has deep

Quaker roots that extend well past Quaker scholar and activist Rufus Jones to Mayflower pilgrim Isaac Allerton. When they settled in Worcester, the family included Betty and her older brothers, Elliot Day Jones and Frank Kenwood Jones, and they became very active members of Worcester Monthly Meeting, a pastoral meeting belonging to the Gurneyite Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England. Betty joined at age 9 and fondly remembered learning about the silence and the small still voice from her First Day School teacher.

An accomplished musician, Betty graduated with highest honors from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. She then taught music and English at Casenovia College, where she also conducted two choirs and an orchestra, and served as the school's Dean of Women. Because of the Great Depression and impending war she returned to Worcester where she began a career at the Norton Company as an executive secretary; her last position there was executive secretary to the president. She directed the Norton Caroleers each Christmas and later edited the retiree newsletter.

A love of music permeated Betty's life. Although she loved organ music, she left a position as organist for the Chestnut Street Congregational Church in Worcester when a Worcester Friend asked her to play for Worcester Monthly Meeting (on Oxford Street). For many years, Betty played the piano before meeting for worship at Worcester-Pleasant Street Meeting. She was an active member of the Worcester Chorus for 73 years,



and sang with them in tours to 15 countries. She served on the board of Music Worcester and was a life member of the Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. She was also active in several other Worcester organizations, including the Business and Professional Women, Forbush Bird Club, and the Outdoor Sports Club.

Being an active member of the quarter, first Smithfield Quarter and then Rhode-Island-Smithfield, was important to Betty. She was an active member of the quarter when Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting and the Smithfield Quarterly Meetings were combined into a single Quarterly Meeting in 1945. It was difficult for Betty to curtail her attendance at the quarterly meetings due to her advancing age. She was also a mainstay for New England Yearly Meeting, attending Annual Sessions until her last years when she was unable to walk the distances between buildings. Betty served on many NEYM committees: Permanent Board, Executive Council, Nominating Committee, Equalization Fund, and Peace and Social Concerns, which she clerked.

Betty served as clerk of Worcester Meeting from 1967–1977. This was a tumultuous period for the meeting, during which the meeting moved from Oxford Street to Pleasant Street and from programmed to unprogrammed worship. Throughout her life, Betty Jones contributed her insights to the Ministry and Counsel committee at Worcester Friends Meeting, and she often served on the Peace & Social Concerns and the Practical committees.

Meeting for worship and the monthly business meetings were rarely missed by Betty Jones. She sipped her black coffee during meeting for worship with attention to business, and she served the meeting well as a reliable historian. Betty faithfully produced the Worcester Friends newsletter for several decades. We could count on her presence at all Worcester Friends' events. She quietly welcomed us with a sparkling smile and a twinkle in her eyes. She enjoyed knowing about the children's activities and accomplishments, and the First Day School children took pride in speaking loudly enough for Betty Jones to hear them when they spoke their names at the rise of Meeting. Although Betty never married, her delight with children was a bright light in the Worcester Friends Meeting.

During her declining years, several Worcester Friends worshiped once a week with her at the Briarwood Retirement Community. Visiting Betty Jones at Briarwood was rather like spending time with a favorite aunt. She always maintained her dignity, taking pride in her appearance. Betty dressed fashionably and often wore a charm bracelet that reflected her love of Maine, where she vacationed for 73 years at the Linekin Bay Resort in Boothbay Harbor and enjoyed sailing into her eighties. A lover of the natural world, she enjoyed the small garden outside her Briarwood apartment. Betty took delight in animals. She was often accompanied by three small, furry, toy kittens with shiny black button eyes that resided

in the basket of her Rollator walker. Betty's apartment was comfortably cluttered with newspapers and Quaker reading materials.

On the few occasions when Betty Jones was missing at worship on First Day, there was a mighty absence. She once spoke of seeing angels gathered around the ceiling of the meeting room. Her vision of those angels and her spirit continue to bless the Worcester Friends Meeting.

WORCESTER FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED JUNE 18, 2017

RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED  
JUNE 25, 2017

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**Alfred Leo (Al) Norton**  
**1935–2016**

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Alfred Leo (Al) Norton (81), a member of Portland Friends Meeting, passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 4, 2016, at Brentwood Health Care Center in Yarmouth, Maine. He had lived his last year first at St. Joseph's Manor Nursing Home in Portland, and then at Brentwood. During this time, Al frequently enjoyed visits from Friends, friends, and family members as he wrestled with, and often rose above, the hardships of his deteriorating health.

Al was born on April 16, 1935, to Ernest Norton and Elsie (York) Norton in Arlington, Massachusetts, where he and his younger sister Judith Ann grew up. As a child, Al loved music, playing the piano and trying other instruments. He attended Arlington High School and later earned an undergraduate degree from Boston Architectural Center (now Boston Architectural College). He would also attend the Graduate School of Social Psychology at Harvard and, later, the Bangor Theological Seminary, where he greatly enjoyed his studies and earned a Masters in Divinity.

He loved to read, learn, and engage just about anyone in discussions about politics, philosophy or religion.

Al married Joan Doherty in 1958 and moved to Columbus, Georgia, where he served for two years as a helicopter mechanic in the Army. Al's and Joan's first child, Ann, was born there. The three then moved to Boston, where Al worked as an architect and the family grew with the births of three more children—Garret, Sean, and Martha. Living just outside of Boston, the family enjoyed camping trips to Andover, Massachusetts; Parrisboro, Nova Scotia; Prince Edward Island; and the Maine coast.

After a while, politically progressive Al and Joan joined the “back to the land” movement by moving the family to Freeport, Maine. There they bought an 18<sup>th</sup>-century farmhouse, planted a garden, and tended to a host

of animals, including goats, a pony, two horses, chickens, a turkey, and three pigs. Al worked as an architect in Portland during the weekdays and tended to the house and farming on weekends and evenings.

Tragically, so much changed in 1974, when Al suffered a stroke at age 39, leaving him hemiplegic and thus unable to work as an architect or at home. No longer could he do such favorite activities as farming, photography, playing musical instruments, and birding. His doctors said he would never walk again, but fortunately they were wrong. Al learned to walk with the aid of a brace and cane. He forever stopped his long habit of heavy smoking, which he was convinced had led to the stroke. Over the years, Al's efforts to live as independently as he could were truly heroic. For years he managed to drive himself in his own car, going as far as Canada. After he could no longer drive, his insistence on moving himself from wheelchair to passenger seat in a car and later back to wheelchair were acts at which many of us marveled.

Changes in life kept coming. Al and Joan divorced after a marriage of two decades. His time as a lapsed Catholic ended when he began attending Quaker services. After several years of living in Connecticut and then in various towns in Maine, Al met and married his second wife, Dorothy Zug, also a Friend. They lived for several years in a geodesic dome in Rindge, New Hampshire, before moving to Wayne, Maine, where their marriage ended in divorce, as well.

Thereafter, Al's health problems worsened, and his family convinced him to move from rural Wayne to Portland, where he lived in Franklin Towers, enjoying what he called his "million dollar view" and the bustle of the city. He was often seen steering his motorized wheelchair on the streets and sidewalks, taking in much of the city and engaging its residents. He was a member of the Portland Art Museum and a season ticket holder to the Portland Symphony and Portland Pops. He also was a proud member of Veterans for Peace in Portland.

Throughout his life, Al loved to read and learn. In his last months, for example, he was taking in Martin Buber and Paul Tillich. He was as likely to engage a street person as a professor, a beleaguered resident of a facility as a staff member. His generosity of spirit often lifted those of us around him. The thanks that he freely gave to all who helped him made helping him easy.

Al initially attended such meetings as Midcoast Meeting in Damariscotta, Maine, and Middletown Meeting in Middletown, Connecticut. Later, he became a member of meetings in Worcester, Massachusetts; Durham, Maine; and Pondtown Monthly Meeting in Winthrop, Maine, where he was a member for 11 years. In 2006, Al had his membership transferred from Pondtown to Portland Friends Meeting.

He participated in several ways at Portland Friends, including first as a member of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and later as a

member of the Pastoral Care Committee. Those of us who served with him were touched by his spritely sense of humor, his care for others, and his passion for various political causes. Much in need of care himself, it was striking how much he expressed his concern for others. A number of us formed a Circle of Friends who took turns bringing Al to meeting for worship most Sundays, where amid the chairs we reserved a space for Al to park his wheelchair. Occasionally, the Spirit would speak through him in worship—more than once as he read from his father’s writings during his service in the Army in World War I. Each of us thoroughly enjoyed the wide-ranging discussions we had with Al as we drove him to and from meeting and helped him in and out of the meetinghouse. He also faithfully attended New England Yearly Meeting Sessions each summer, and regularly attended the joint meeting of Maritime Meeting (of Canada’s Maritime Provinces) and New England Yearly Meeting, held during Canadian Thanksgiving weekend in early October.

Portland Friends held a service celebrating Al’s life on October 29, 2016. Many family members and friends came and remembered Al, often with humor and always with love. We have missed and shall miss him. His family is honoring his wish to have his ashes buried in Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, his ancestral home and favorite place on earth. May he rest in Peace.

PORTLAND FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED MARCH 5, 2017

FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED MAY 6, 2017

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**Alice Rathbun**  
**January 19, 1780–September 9, 1845**

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*This memorial minute was recently returned to Smithfield Monthly Meeting by New York Yearly Meeting. Because we don't know whether it was ever read at Annual Sessions, we are including it here, with its original punctuation and spelling.*

Testimony of Smithfield Monthly Meeting, New England, concerning our beloved friend, Alice Rathbun, deceased.

When those are removed from us whose examples are worthy of imitation, whose lives have been instructive and who have given full evidence that they have been followers and servants of Christ, it seems right, for the encouragement and benefit of the living, to preserve some memorial of them, that survivors may be incited to tread in their footsteps, and follow them in the way of salvation.

Our beloved friend Alice Rathbun, the subject of this brief memoir was the daughter of William and Mercy Peckham and was born in South Kingston 1<sup>st</sup> mo 19<sup>th</sup> 1780. Of her early life, we are not possessed of many particulars to introduce into this notice. In the year 1801 she was united in marriage to our friend Rowland Rathbun and removed to reside with her husband within the limits of this Monthly Meeting.

She was naturally of quick and ardent feelings, which in mercy were brought under the restraining, regulating, and sanctifying power of Divine Grace, by which she was gradually reduced into a state of obedience to her heavenly Master, and made willing to submit to the requirements that he saw meet to lay upon her. And in his wisdom he was pleased to dispense to her a gift in the ministry; and she yielded to the Divine Will so as to open her mouth in public about the thirtieth year of her age. As she continued faithful to her Lord and Master, her gift was enlarged and her communications being evidently in that life and authority which produce edification, she was acknowledged as a Minister of the Gospel by her friends in the year 1814. In advocating the cause of our Redeemer, she was remarkably favored to do it in a way that was calculated to interest

and win souls to him. Her manner was peculiarly dignified and persuasive and the love which filled her heart and freely flowed to others produced its effect upon those that were witnesses of it, inducing them to feel and to appreciate the loveliness of the Truth, and creating in them through the Divine blessing desires to be found walking in it.

In the social circle she was attractive, and her society was much sought especially by the young, to whom she readily adapted herself and who found in her a kind and sympathetic friend, one that could enter into their feelings and interest, while she instructed them; and not a few can testify of the satisfaction and edification they have derived from the endearing intercourse they have been privileged to enjoy with her.

She was faithful in her maintenance of all the testimonies of Truth, which we are called upon as a people to bear; and, when in the discharge of her duty, she was required to labor with those who had departed therefrom, the sweetness, tenderness, and restoring love, with which she approached them, the meekness and the wisdom which she displayed were truly edifying and worthy of imitation.

She was much concerned that the young might be trained in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and as a wife and mother, she was an example of faithfulness, affection, and vigilance.

In the year 1837, at the solicitation of their friends, she, with her husband, took charge of our Yearly Meeting Boarding School at Providence, as Superintendents. It was with much diffidence and hesitancy, that she entered upon this service; but she was favored to discharge the varied and important duties that devolved upon her in this station to the satisfaction of her friends.

She several times with the full approval of her friends paid religious visits within the limits of our own Yearly Meeting. In 1816 she received a certificate to visit friends in Gospel love in some parts of New York Yearly Meeting; and in 1820 to visit friends within the Yearly Meeting of Ohio, and some within the limits of Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York Yearly Meetings. All these services she was favored to accomplish to the peace of her own mind, and to the comfort and edification of those whom she visited, as is fully testified by the various minutes made on her behalf by the meetings she attended.

In her ministry, our beloved friend was engaged to set forth the necessity of holiness of life, of meekness and humble walking with God; to urge upon all the duty of faithfully following the good Shepherd whithersoever he is pleased to lead us; yet she fully felt and preached that it is not from works of righteousness that we can attain to salvation; that we are unprofitable servants, and that we know remission of sins alone through the propitiatory offering of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary's mount and through faith and repentance come to receive acceptance in Him, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.

For several years before her decease her health had been very delicate, and she travelled but little beyond the limits of her own Quarterly Meeting, although she was generally able to attend meetings at and near home, being very diligent in the discharge of this important duty. In the 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1845 she attended our Yearly Meeting; and while her tender spirit was deeply grieved with the course pursued by some whom she had long loved, in their yielding to a spirit of disaffection which caused them to become alienated, and to separate from the body of Friends; and while she was engaged most persuasively to entreat them to open their eyes to the error of their ways, yet when she found this unavailing, she was firm in testifying against them as having departed from the Truth, and united fully with her friends in the support of right order in the Church. In the 7<sup>th</sup> mo of this year she received a minute from her Monthly Meeting to visit in Gospel love the Quarterly Meetings of Dover, Vassalboro, and Fairfield and some meetings within their limits. It was during this visit and while engaged in the work of her Lord and Master, that it pleased Him to remove her as we reverently trust, from his church militant to his church triumphant. Her last sickness was of but short duration, and with apparently but little physical suffering.

We conclude this brief memoir with an extract from the minutes of this Monthly Meeting made 12<sup>th</sup> mo 1845. "Our beloved friend, Rowland Rathbun returned to this meeting the minute granted our dear friend Alice Rathbun in the 7<sup>th</sup> mo last, informing that she had been favored to attend the Quarterly Meetings of Dover and Falmouth, and a number of meetings constituting the same, and also one meeting within the limits of Fairfield Quarterly Meeting, and while thus ardently engaged in endeavoring to accomplish in the love of the Gospel the service then in prospect, was taken unwell and increasingly so at the house of our friend Samuel Taylor of Belgrade; where after a short illness, she closed her useful life on the 9<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> month 1845. Thus has it pleased Divine Providence to remove from works to rewards one who has long been a faithful laborer in the Lord's vineyard, a pillar in the Church greatly beloved and esteemed by us. And it seems right for us at this time to minute this memorial concerning her "for the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."

Signed by direction and on behalf of Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends held 29<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> mo 1847.

JOHN OSBORNE, CLERK

LYDIA R. KELLY, CLERK



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**Joyce Rawitscher**  
**January 8, 1940 – November 7, 2016**

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Joyce Rawitscher was a much-loved and cherished member of Storrs Friends Meeting, serving as Clerk of Peace and Social Concerns Committee and its later incarnation, Witness Support Committee, for many years. She is remembered for her deep and sincere commitment to peace and social justice causes and her thoughtfulness toward others within the meeting, within our local community, and in the larger groups with which she was associated.

Joyce was born on January 8, 1940, in Orleans, New York. She attended Syracuse University as an undergraduate, received her Master's degree from the School of Social Work at the University of Chicago, and her Ph.D. in Social Welfare from Fordham University. As a professional clinical social worker for many years, Joyce brought her natural gifts of listening and kindness to the clients whom she served.

In addition to her professional and family responsibilities, Joyce had a strong and enduring commitment to social action. She often told the story of how her sense of injustice was triggered when, as a young student, she learned about the Holocaust in Nazi Germany. She was appalled that such a thing could happen and began asking the adults around her how they could let such a situation arise. In her heart, she vowed that she would do all she could to prevent such a thing from happening again. She wanted to be able to answer her own children's question—What did you do to stop injustice, Mom?—by being a model of effective activism.

As a young wife and mother, Joyce participated in many social actions related to the Vietnam War and other causes that were at the forefront of the news during the 1960s and '70s. At that time, she was married to a Congregational minister, and she was very involved in the life of the parish and the activist work being undertaken there. She also cared for her two children, David and Annie, and modeled for them a sense of adventure and a caring for others.

After divorcing her first husband, Joyce came to Storrs Friends Meeting in the early 1990s.

She soon became active in the Connecticut Program of the American Friends Service Committee, serving on the board for many years. In 2008, when she left the AFSC, she was honored by the group at their annual event for her dedication, diligence, and leadership.

In 2002, she experienced a leading to Israel and Palestine. During this visit, she became acutely aware of the dire plight of the Palestinian people and the role of the U.S. government in their suffering. She continued to carry a deep and heartfelt concern for the Middle East, and in 2009 she founded the Israel/Palestine Peace, Education and Action Group of Eastern Connecticut. For the past 7 years, she was instrumental in helping this group bring together people of differing points of view regarding Middle East issues for dialogue and education. Joyce brought her concern for the Middle East to New England Yearly Meeting Sessions for several years by offering workshops and interest groups along with other Friends around New England. She also sold Palestinian olive oil and soap wherever she went to help raise money for Ramallah Friends School.

In 2009, Joyce married George Rawitscher, with whom she shared many of her social justice concerns. Together, they brought an abiding commitment for peace and helped Friends at Storrs Friends Meeting remain informed about a variety of issues. Joyce participated in numerous workshops, marches, vigils, and actions related to the causes she cared about, including climate change and the rights of LGBTQ persons. She was a constant presence at Willimantic's Third Thursdays, tabling for AFSC, Israel/Palestine issues, and more. Most recently, Joyce was named as one of the two representatives from New England to the board of directors of the United Nations Association of the USA.

Joyce was extremely well-read and well-informed about so many topics. Her bookshelves were filled with books on the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict, on the role the Quakers in Europe played to prevent the ascent of Nazism, on the persecution of Muslims in America, on the psychological trauma that wars and destruction inflicted on people. Still, she continued to nurture her immediate family, her stepchildren from her 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> marriages, and especially her many grandchildren. In short, her big heart was of unlimited size.

Joyce will be remembered for her unflagging work and strong passion for a better, more peaceful world. She continues to be a role model for many of us even after her death, as she never gave in to despair or hopelessness. Her thoughtfulness to individuals as well as her dedication to the global community were virtues to emulate.

Joyce died on November 7, 2016, from pancreatic cancer.

STORRS FRIENDS MEETING

CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

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**E. Kirk Roberts**  
**(1922 – January 20, 2015)**  
**Janet Roberts**  
**(January 30, 2016)**

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Middlebury (VT) Friends Meeting notes with sadness the passing of E. Kirk Roberts on January 20, 2015, and Janet Johnson Roberts on January 30, 2016. Kirk grew up in the Moorestown (New Jersey) Monthly Meeting and Jan in the Rich Square (Indiana) Monthly Meeting. They met at Earlham College, from which they both graduated in 1949. After Kirk earned a Ph.D. in chemistry at Harvard University, he and Jan moved in 1952 to Middlebury, Vermont, where Kirk taught chemistry, sometimes as chair of his department, at Middlebury College. While in Middlebury, Jan worked at the Counseling Service of Addison County where she created a residential home for women with developmental challenges, as part of the state's move to mainstream and integrate developmentally delayed people in the community. Upon retirement in 1983, Kirk and Jan moved to Palo Alto, California.

Soon after their arrival in Middlebury, in 1953 Jan and Kirk invited interested students and community members to worship in the manner of Friends in their home and, at times, on campus. They met fairly regularly until 1965, when the group stopped meeting. In 1969, as Kirk and Jan prepared to leave for a sabbatical year, another Quaker couple arrived on campus. They responded to requests from students, disturbed by the escalation of the Vietnam War, to restart the worship group. Placed under the care of Burlington Monthly Meeting, this preparative meeting, started by the Robertses in 1953, eventually grew into the full-fledged Middlebury Friends Meeting in 1976.

Although Kirk and Jan left Middlebury in 1983, their New England Quaker legacy remains strong in the form of Middlebury Friends Meeting, which continues to provide a spiritual home for Middlebury Quakers, college students, and other seekers who worship there.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED 18 SEPTEMBER 2016  
NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED 4 DECEMBER 2016.

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**Mildred Roberts**  
**July 15, 1921–September 29, 2015**

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Mildred Dankel Roberts died peacefully on September 29, 2015, at the age of 94. Mildred was the wife of the late Gordon Thomas Roberts and the mother of Eve Roberts Wanless, Gordon Jr., and John Roberts, all of whom belong to Friends Meeting at Cambridge. A Memorial Meeting for Worship to celebrate her life was held at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on 21 November 2015.

Mildred was born and raised in rural Pennsylvania, and graduated from Reading (Pennsylvania) High School and Temple University. Trained as a dental hygienist, she briefly taught dental health in elementary schools in Philadelphia. She was raised primarily in the Reformed Church and Lutheran Church. When she and Gordon moved to Concord, Massachusetts, in 1949, they were active in the First Parish Church (Unitarian, later Unitarian-Universalist). However, during a brief sojourn in Maryland, they realized that the simple manner of worship and the essential theological commitments of the Society of Friends literally spoke best to their condition. The entire family joined the Friends Meeting in Sandy Spring, Maryland. After returning to Concord in 1962, they transferred their membership in 1963 to Friends Meeting at Cambridge.

Mildred became an active participant in the Cambridge Meeting. She served on the First Day School Committee from 1964 to 1966 and on Ministry and Counsel from 1966 to 1968. She taught the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and high schoolers in the First Day School and participated in planning the May Fair (an annual FDS event). She took a prominent role in issues relating to race relations in the 1960s and early 1970s. She served on a committee on race relations and another on community relations and was a panelist in an FMC forum on prejudice. She and her husband Gordon enjoyed the fellowship at Cambridge Meeting and the leadership of George and Florence Selleck and later of Elmer and Lois Brown. Both

were also active in the Salem Quarterly Meeting and the New England Yearly Meeting.

Always a serious spiritual seeker, Mildred read extensively in Quaker literature, including George Fox, John Woolman, Rufus Jones, and Elton Trueblood, and especially *A Testament of Devotion* by Thomas Kelly, which was one of her favorites. She also appreciated the writings of mystics, among them Evelyn Underhill and Underhill's mentor Baron Friedrich von Hügel. She read the Bible in its entirety several times. She was a lifelong bibliophile, a lover and collector of old books, and a passionate reader whose secular tastes varied from Goethe to Jung to Emerson.

For almost ten years after Gordon's death in 1977, Mildred worked as a Psychiatric Counselor at Emerson Hospital. After retirement, she served as a volunteer to the elderly and the community, notably leading the Octogenarian Group at the Concord Council on Aging.

In her later years, despite the constraints of health and mobility, Mildred continued to attend meeting for worship at Cambridge whenever she could, frequently enriching us with her vocal ministry. In 1999 she offered a forum, "Bringing It Together at 77," and in 2005 she helped to facilitate a growing-older group: "Living Spiritually Well As Long As You Can."

Those of us who visited and worshiped with Mildred in her own home as she became more frail were privileged to share these precious times with her and to benefit from her wisdom.

Mildred died in her beloved home in Concord, the 1767 Samuel Jones House on Main Street which she and Gordon had purchased in 1949 and lovingly restored. They treasured its 19<sup>th</sup>-century historical connections to minor Transcendentalists Ellery Channing and Franklin Sanborn and indirectly to Margaret Fuller, Thoreau, and Emerson.

Mildred unquestionably believed that there is that of God in every person. She lived her life in the virtue of that belief. She believed that God is revealed in Love and saw non-theism more as a question of how one defined the Spirit rather than as a crisis of faith. Especially toward the end of her life, she experienced each day appreciative of the wonder of nature and the precious support of human kindness.

She felt at home within Friends, enlightened by Friends' values and their Christian tradition.

*Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that liveth is born of God, and knoweth God (1 John 4:7)*

FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, APPROVED MARCH 26, 2017

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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**Glenn Smith**  
**December 30, 2014**

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Glenn Smith was one of the Smiths who made Smithfield Friends special. The Smith family has been part of our meeting since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Glenn had fond memories of Quaker youth meetings and his activities at Smithfield when he was young. When Glenn came to Smithfield Meeting, he brought his intellectual curiosity and wry humor as he actively participated in meetings.

We had many lively discussions and appreciated Glenn's quick wit and kindness. Glenn could have a huge impact without a lot of fuss; he could change the mood of the meeting with just a few words. Glenn often helped continue a thoughtful discussion of the worship messages downstairs at coffee.

Glenn was born in Woonsocket, and his parents, the late Lauriston and Ruth, were also active members of Smithfield Friends. Glenn passed away Tuesday, December 30, 2014 at his home in West Warwick, Rhode Island. He was the beloved husband of Homa, and they had just celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 21, 2014.

Glenn was a good husband and an excellent father to his own children and to his children's friends, too. He was gentle and open-minded. He was very liberal but listened to Fox News just to hear other opinions. The only time Homa ever saw Glenn angry was when they were stuck in Russia on a trip home from Iran and their hotel refused to feed his kids.

Glenn was a man of character; he was always smiling, had a clever sense humor, and was always forgiving. With a kind spirit and intellectual curiosity, Glenn was unassuming and unpretentious, with appreciation for other people. He often talked with people about differing opinions with an air for searching for understanding.

Glenn led an amazing life. Glenn was drafted but because of his Quaker faith, he worked as a medic. He was a University of Rhode Island graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture. He was a kind, giving, and generous man which was apparent through his many works, including being in the first group of Peace Corps volunteers after it was estab-

lished. He served in Iran from 1962–64, where he met his beloved Homa. Glenn had many interesting stories of experiences in the Peace Corps including a how he rode all the way from Iran to England on a motor bike. He volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, and was an inspector for the USDA until his retirement in 1998.

Glenn stayed connected to his Quaker roots his whole life. Even when they lived in New York, Glenn found a meeting and he would bring his parents and grandmother there when they visited. He liked the unprogrammed meetings in Smithtown, New York, and the programmed meeting at Smithfield in Rhode Island. He gave both types of meetings his thoughtful attention and prayerful consideration.

Glenn was an avid outdoorsman who loved nature, hiking, and kayaking, but most of all digging for quahog clams. He rooted for the Patriots and the URI Rams and greatly enjoyed Caribbean cruises. He and Homa, along with their children, enjoyed many vacations at their home at Lake Willoughby, Vermont.

Besides his wife he leaves his adored children, daughter Farah and son Lee, and Lee's wife Jennifer. He also leaves his much-loved sisters, Carolyn and her husband Eugene Leroy, and Eleanor and her husband Donald Grant. He is deeply missed by his cherished family and his Friends at Smithfield Meeting.

SMITHFIELD MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 24 APRIL 2016

RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED 19 JUNE  
2016

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**Lois Thompson Smith**  
**April 2, 1935–April 3, 2015**

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Lois Thompson Smith, born April 2, 1935, was the daughter of Dr. Leonard and Ruth Thompson. She was the youngest of three siblings, having an older brother, Arthur, and an older sister, Clara Thompson Gresham. They grew up in San Pedro, California, an ethnically diverse (Italians, Yugoslavs, Mexicans, and Norwegians) town on the bluffs of the Pacific Ocean.

Her family enjoyed an idyllic, rather rural life there, so that Lois had a pet goat, Minnie, and when she grew older, a horse, Starlight. Her father, who frequently took her sailing to Catalina Island, was a physician, one of the few practicing in the area, since most of the doctors were serving in the armed forces during the Second World War. He was known for his generosity in extending needed care to people who were economically hard-pressed. They, in turn, would provide him with seafood from their catches. Her mother was a Quaker who had been educated at the George School in Pennsylvania and was a great admirer of the theologian Dr. Howard Thurman.

During Lois' childhood, her family took in an artist, Winifred Balch, and Clara believes that her presence and her work had a tremendous influence upon Lois. Clara thought that another "formative" experience was a summer job at a beach museum, where Lois taught school children about fish and sea life. Later, Lois would teach art in public schools on the west coast as well as the east. Like her mother, Lois learned to play the piano when she was very young and she continued to play even when she had Alzheimer's.

A 1953 graduate of San Pedro High School, she had a lead in the senior play and was a member of the "Knightettes," an honor society. From there she went to Occidental College, from which she was graduated with a B.A. in History in 1957. She was an active alumna throughout her life, a member of the Occidental College Women's Club, headed by her sister Clara. While she was at Occidental she was greatly affected by an inspir-



ing art teacher, Mr. Swift, who taught watercolor and contributed to her lifelong dedication to art. After college, she worked at a UCLA museum before moving to New York City to attend Columbia University, where she earned a Master's Degree in Fine Arts. Thereafter, she traveled widely in Europe, India, and the Middle East.

In the early 1960s, she applied to be in the Peace Corps. Her future husband, Charles Frank Smith Jr., had been asked by the Kennedy White House to be the Academic Director of the Peace Corps Training Camp in Puerto Rico, postponing his doctoral studies at Harvard for a year. Lois and Charles met in Puerto Rico and, as a result, Lois decided not to enter the Peace Corps but, after a brief sojourn in California, moved to Cambridge instead. They married in Boston in 1964. Mixed-race marriages were still illegal in some states at that time, and Charles and Lois' decision to make a life together was a considerable act of courage. They both felt that their shared witness against racism was an important aspect of their marriage.

In the early years of their marriage Lois worked at the Fogg Art Museum, acting as an assistant to curators. Later Lois worked as secretary for George Cabot Lodge, Dean of the Harvard Business School; Dean Lodge was so pleased with her work that he continued to employ her even after his retirement.

After their two children, Carolyn and Charles III, were born in the mid-60s, Lois began attending Wellesley Friends Meeting, where both the children attended the First Day School. She expressed her values through her participation in the NAACP and in her objection to the Vietnam War. During her last years at WFM she was the meeting's representative for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Throughout her adult life, she proved to be a prolific artist. She sculpted as well as painted, and every wall in their home is graced with her work.

Lois wrote and illustrated a children's book, *Carrie and Carl Play*, which was inspired by her own children and her granddaughter, Asia. When Lois' children were small there were no books that showed multi-racial families. Lois felt that it was very important to create a children's book that showed a loving family of different races, so that children like hers could see themselves and their parents reflected in the stories they read. Finishing this project and, perhaps even more challenging, getting it published by the Candlewick Press in 2007 was a great accomplishment.

You can find this lovely volume in the WFM library.

In 2013 Lois, who had begun to suffer from dementia, moved to California. She lived with her daughter, Carolyn, and her granddaughter, Asia, was closer to her son "Carl," and enjoyed her childhood surroundings. Throughout these years, Carolyn described her as strong, dignified, and in great spirits ... always managing a big smile, being affectionate to her extended family, and always remembering names and faces of family

members. She continued going for walks and playing the piano daily. She passed away peacefully on April 3, 2015, the day after her milestone 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

During her memorial service at WFM, one of the speakers noted that Lois, who was quite anxious about public speaking, still persevered in giving announcements about FCNL, though her voice shook, demonstrating her commitment and concern. After her memorial service, a family friend reminisced about Lois, noting how she had participated in the NAACP and was quite at ease, despite being in a minority during the meetings, a fact that impressed him greatly. So, even towards the very end of her life, Lois lived out her Quaker values.

WELLESLEY MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 14, 2016

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED OCTOBER 23, 2016

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**Ann Richardson Stokes**  
**June 9, 1931–November 20, 2016**

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Ann Richardson Stokes, 85, died at her home in West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, on November 20, 2016.

Ann was born in Moorestown, New Jersey, on June 9, 1931, the daughter of Dr. S. Emlen and Lydia (Babbott) Stokes. A lifelong Quaker, she grew up in Moorestown Friends Meeting, where she graduated from Moorestown Friends School and then attended Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont. She had great affection and loyalty to Moorestown Friends School and later served as a trustee of Goddard.

In 1959, she acquired land and built a home on Welcome Hill in West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, where her life and outreach centered for the remainder of her life. Ann and some of her women friends designed and built the first studio for women artists on her property, creating Welcome Hill Studios. The story of its creation was told in her book *A Studio of One's Own* (1985). She found many ways to support performing and visual artists. Many friends remember listening to a performance by Odetta at her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party. She acquired nearby land and preserved it for public use; a hiking trail through the land is named for Ann. The natural beauty of her surroundings in New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as the Adirondack retreat where she had spent time with her family since childhood, always inspired her.

Ann transferred her membership in the 1970s to Putney (Vermont) Friends Meeting. She supported Putney Friends Meeting generously as it built its meetinghouse, and was instrumental in helping to add more space and benches to the meetinghouse years later as the meeting grew. Ann also was instrumental in starting a second, early, meeting for worship that thrives to this day.

Ann lived her values and spoke her mind plainly. She was active in many political and social movements, and brought expression of those values to the meeting for discernment. She was a major influence on

Putney Friends in the discernment of approval of same-sex marriages under the care of the meeting. She recalled with pride being arrested and briefly imprisoned with other Quakers in connection with a protest at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station in New Hampshire in 1977. Her letters to newspapers, always handwritten, were pointed and often poetic in their impact. In these and other writings, she demonstrated a clarity of vision and expression.

Ann could be a very private person and could also live large. She proclaimed her lesbian identity with power, joy, pride, and grace. She was a generous and outspoken supporter of many feminist and LGBTQ causes. She was a hit in a 2006 production at Sandglass Theater in Putney, Vermont, entitled "Gay and Grey," featuring the reminiscences of older gay men and lesbians.

It can be said that Ann saw the Creator in creation, both in the act of creating her paintings, poetry, and prose writing, and in the natural world and its inhabitants that she was surrounded by in her mountaintop home.

She was predeceased by her brother, Samuel E. Stokes, and by sisters Sally Venerable and Lydia Willits. She is survived by two nephews and two nieces.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, May 20, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., at The Putney School, 418 Houghton Brook Road, Putney, Vermont. Donations in her memory may be made to Welcome Hill Studios, Box 84, West Chesterfield, New Hampshire.

PUTNEY MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 19 FEBRUARY 2017

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED MARCH 5, 2017

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**Ruth Whitson Stokes**  
**November 15, 1927–February 16, 2015**

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Ruth Whitson Stokes was born on November 15, 1927, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was born into a Quaker family, the middle of three sisters. Her father, T. Barclay Whitson, came from an extended family who had been Quakers since the time of George Fox. Her mother, Elizabeth Pennell Whitson, was also a Quaker, although her parents had been churchgoers. Elizabeth was Welsh, and Ruth was very proud of her “half Welsh” blood.

Ruth grew up in Moylan, Pennsylvania, attending first Media Friends School near her home, and then Westtown School for the last three years of high school. She had a happy childhood, though it was marked by tragedy when her older sister, Margaret, who was attending Wellesley at the time, died in 1942 in the Coconut Grove fire in Boston. The family was devastated by Margaret’s death and Ruth remained especially close to Anna, her remaining sister, for the rest of Anna’s life.

Ruth attended Wellesley College, where she majored in geography. The year before her graduation in 1949, she married Joseph Stokes III (Joe), a medical student in his final year at Harvard Medical School. Their parents, who were lifelong friends, had somehow arranged a meeting between the two, and Joe said “it was love at first sight.” An excellent student, Ruth managed to take her final exams just before the birth of her first child, Peter. A few weeks after his birth, she walked with her graduating class carrying Peter, who was wearing a tiny cap and gown Ruth’s classmates had made for him.

After marriage the family moved, first to Baltimore, Maryland, where Joe was an intern and resident, and then back to the Boston area, where Megan and Joseph Barclay were born. When Ruth was growing up her family had used plain language with one another and other Quakers. However, after Ruth and Joe’s three children were born, they decided not to use plain language because they felt it excluded others who were not

Quakers. Nevertheless, throughout their lives, Ruth and her sister Anna always said “thee” to one another.

In 1953 Ruth transferred her membership to Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC), where she served as the clerk of the Pope Fund for many years. Joe and Ruth were also among the founders of Wellesley Friends Meeting, and Ruth was one of a handful of intrepid visionaries who were instrumental in founding Cambridge Friends School (CFS) in 1961.

The family moved to Hawaii for two years in 1961, in connection with Joe’s research on a heart study conducted with Hawaiian and Japanese men. Ruth had intended to work at CFS since its beginning, but the move to Hawaii had prevented the fulfillment of that leading. When they returned to the mainland in 1963, Joe accepted a position at the University of California, which would have delayed still further Ruth’s desire to work at CFS. Partly as a consequence of these differences, the couple divorced in 1963 and Ruth moved to Cambridge with the three children.

For a half century, in many roles, Ruth nurtured the CFS community and stewarded its resources so as to ensure that the school would thrive spiritually and financially. She served the school and its children as a founder, parent, Head of Admissions, Assistant Head of School, Trustee, Clerk of the Board of Trustees, and more. She was a much-loved member of the staff, and one colleague said of her, “I will always remember Ruth for her ability to focus on each individual in the moment, and allowing that person’s Light to shine a bit brighter.” A former CFS student remembers Ruth as “the embodiment of what the school strove for: to challenge each student to grow that which was unique and wonderful in each of them and then to reach out and recognize and challenge others similarly.”

Most wonderfully, Ruth and Joe were reunited in 1979 and the period of their reuniting was a particularly happy one for both of them. After nine years of living together, they finally remarried in 1988 when Joe became terminally ill with cancer. They said that they felt that they were always married, thus there was no great need to get remarried, but they did and it was a joyous occasion.

At the age of 85, Ruth left Cambridge and moved to Kendal at Hanover, New Hampshire. She had many friends who had also moved to Kendal and she made wonderful new friends there as well. As had happened throughout her life, they became devoted to her. In late 2014, after she had been diagnosed with cancer, she spoke by phone with Peter Sommer, the head of Cambridge Friends School. Rather than dwelling on her illness, she asked him to tell her “what wonderful things are going on at my beloved CFS.” She died on February 16, 2015. Her family had been with her the week before her death, and her daughter was with her at the end. “She was so brave,” her daughter Megan said, “marching up to that last door, never complaining.”

Ruth loved international travel and would travel the world to see her friends. People were extraordinarily loyal to her and she to them. She was interested in foods of different cultures and once taught an international cooking class at Cambridge Friends School. She treasured her friends as if they were family. A master at friendship, she was the kind of guest who everyone wants to host. It's rare to experience a person who is such a pure channel for joy and for connection. She was eternally curious, with a great sense of humor and warmth of spirit, always seeing the good in people, and especially gifted at giving enthusiastic moral support to the young.

A final vignette of Ruth and the influence she radiated comes from a conversation between Peter Sommer, Andy Towl, and Ruth over dinner at Ruth's house. At the close of the evening Ruth leaned over to Peter and said, "Please drive Andy home. He'll want to walk and he's more stubborn than I am. Tell him that you're only giving him a ride as a favor to Ruth." As Peter walked him to the car, Andy said, "Well, if Ruth insists! I would do anything for her." Many of Ruth's friends would echo that sentiment.

In addition to her children (Peter, Megan and Joseph Barclay), Ruth leaves a stepson from Joe's second marriage, Jay Stokes and his family; four grandchildren, Hannah and Adam Holt, Emlyn Stokes, and Gwyneth Stokes Riebl, and two great grandchildren, Kira and Jonah Riebl.

FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, APPROVED NOVEMBER 9, 2015

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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**Eunice Estes Strobel**  
**November 11, 1917–May 4, 2017**

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Eunice Estes Strobel was truly the heart of Smithfield Friends Meeting. She lived an inspirational Quaker life, connecting us to our inner spiritual selves and to the wider world with gentle leading and quiet example. A wonderful minister of the Word, Eunice was a woman of faith, and 1 Corinthians 13 was her constant guide: “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

Eunice guided us with humility and showed us what it meant to be Quaker. She exemplified eldering at its best. She always eldered in private, with patience that was meant not to embarrass, but to build people up instead of tear them down. She understood the need to take time and breathe, to let a leading mature and be nurtured by the community. She was modest and unassuming, and when she spoke we all needed to listen. She was slow to anger, embraced the positive, and had admirable self-discipline. She cared deeply about others and was always very encouraging, but it often took considerable nudging to get Eunice to say something positive about herself.

She taught us Quaker process and that worship begins when the first person sits. She always helped center the meeting. Eunice preferred unprogrammed worship, but was flexible and open at our programmed meetings. She encouraged us to be part of the Quarterly and Yearly Meeting, guiding us to be part of something larger than ourselves. Eunice herself was very active in New England Yearly Meeting, serving on Nominating and Friends United Meeting committees, and as an adult leader in Junior Yearly Meeting.

Despite her humility, Eunice had strength in her convictions. Her beliefs were strongly held, and she was always willing to grow and change. Eunice could “speak truth to power,” but her disagreements were always respectful. When she thought someone needed to change or do something different, she would guide them with love. She was naturally welcoming to all people and used her “radical hospitality” to be sure others were comfortable and being heard. She was our unofficial greeter,



making sure everyone who connected with our meeting was welcomed and felt comfortable, whether they were a new pastor or a visitor from the community.

When she was born in November 1917, Eunice already had strong Quaker roots. Her parents, Joseph and Hattie Estes, were members of Swansea Monthly Meeting, and her grandmother had served as clerk of that meeting. When her family, which later included her brother Earl, moved to Woonsocket, they began attending Smithfield Meeting. Eunice attended the Lincoln School, a Quaker boarding school for girls.

While she lived at the Lincoln School she attended Providence Monthly Meeting. Eunice and her family also attended Yearly Meeting. After high school, Eunice began studies at Pembroke College, the women's college at Brown University. She majored in economics and lived at home, taking several buses to get to and from Providence each day.

After college Eunice began working, and met her husband Kenneth at a theater group. After their marriage, Ken also became a much-loved member of Smithfield Meeting. Eunice worked as a statistician until her son, Kenneth, was born. She stayed at home with her son until he was four, when she returned to school to receive a Masters degree in Education. She started teaching elementary school in Burrillville and went on to teach for 24 years until her retirement at age 65. And even in retirement, she continued to substitute and volunteer for ten years.

Eunice was active in Ladies Aid, which functioned as a fundraising organization for the meeting. She began the Smithfield Mother's Day tradition of bringing carnations to meeting, inspiring us to honor all the women who have impacted our lives. In fact, on this Mother's Day, just days after Eunice passed, every woman who attended meeting brought carnations to honor her.

Eunice has served Smithfield Meeting in many official and unofficial ways. She was assistant clerk (now called recording clerk), and then served as clerk in the 1980s. She served on the Christian Education Committee and taught First Day School. She was active in the Pulpit Supply Committee, persuading seminary students from other religions to join us to preach. She also served on the Finance Committee and on Ministry and Council Committee. With her background, it was natural that Eunice cared deeply about the meeting's finances. She felt great pride when Smithfield secured a grant to refresh the meetinghouse exterior, not just because the building would look nice, but because she was frugal, too.

At 79, Eunice was led to give her time and effort to an isolated Native American community, the MOWA band of the Choctaw nation in Alabama. Joyce Hollingsworth of the MOWA Choctaw Friends Center said that Eunice was a "wonderful example to us as she continues to serve

God. Her work and activities here were only overshadowed by her witness of love and compassion for all she came in contact with.”

Eunice loved to joke and share time talking with people. A Red Sox super fan, the only time Eunice could not talk was during a game. She was a voracious reader and kept a little black book with a list of everything she read. She loved mysteries and enjoyed sudoku. She loved the apartment her family built for her to keep her close, and wanted nothing more at the end of her life than to return there.

Eunice passed away on May 4, 2016, at 98 years of age. She leaves her beloved son and daughter-in-law, Ken and Cindy, her grandson Kenneth, her granddaughter Cathryn and her husband Adam, and her great grandchildren Leah and Lucas. Eunice also leaves her niece Lea Sutton and nephew James Estes. She will be deeply missed by her family and many friends, and especially by all of us at Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends. This inspirational woman of faith and spirituality touched our lives.

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13*

SMITHFIELD MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 25 SEPTEMBER 2016

RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED

16 OCTOBER 2016

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**William Boyce Upholt**  
**September 14, 1943–July 30, 2016**

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Bill Upholt was a quiet, always thoughtful, and much-respected member of Hartford Monthly Meeting who made a difference in the world through his Quaker faith; his commitment to promoting improvement and change through a range of social causes and organizations, with a particular passion for the environment and earth sustainability; and through his research in biochemistry and his teaching. Bill initiated his professional knowledge and activities at Pomona College, from which he graduated in 1965 with a B.A. in chemistry, followed by a Ph.D. in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in 1971. In 1975, after two post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Amsterdam and at the Carnegie Institution of Washington in Baltimore, Maryland, Bill took the position of Research Associate in the Department of Pediatrics and Biochemistry at the University of Chicago. In Chicago he met and in 1980 married Mary Lee Morrison. Bill and Mary Lee have two children, Gretchen Morrison Upholt, of Brooklyn, New York, and Boyce Morrison Upholt of Cleveland, Mississippi.

In 1985 Bill and his family relocated to West Hartford, Connecticut, where he assumed a research position in Reconstructive Sciences in the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Over the years Bill was the recipient of many professional honors, and also held administrative and teaching duties at the Health Center, from which he retired as a Professor Emeritus a few years prior to his death.

Bill's spiritual home was with the Religious Society of Friends, which he served in many capacities at the monthly and quarterly meeting levels and with the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends. At his death, he was serving as clerk of Hartford Meeting. He was active with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, representing New England Yearly Meeting for a number of years, and most recently serving with Mary Lee as Visiting Friends for FCNL. He was also active for many years with New England and national Friends' organizations devoted to Earthcare Witness. Bill served New England Yearly Meeting as reading

clerk of Sessions and on a number of committees: Internal Nominating, Personnel, Earthcare Ministry, Permanent Board, and Executive Council. He also served as clerk of the Sessions and Student Loan committees. In all of his work he was valued as diligent, careful, and thoughtful.

Many of Bill's volunteer activities involved organizations devoted to environmental justice and sustainability. These included the Inter-Religious Eco-justice Network and co-clerking the City of Hartford's Advisory Commission on the Environment (ACOTE). Bill's inspiration for this organization led to the ACOTE Environmental Summit and the Summit Report that continues to guide the work of the Commission. He helped to guide the planning of two citywide Earth Day events and served on the City's Clean Energy Task Force. His passion for the environment led to his and Mary Lee's arrest at the White House in 2011 in Washington D.C., protesting the Keystone Pipeline.

And Bill loved to travel. He and Mary Lee traveled extensively with Gretchen and Boyce during their growing-up years, with Bill finding unusual and particularly out-of-the-way destinations. This spirit is reflected in his children's life journeys, with Gretchen's work as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine and Boyce's as a mathematics teacher on an Indian Reservation. Bill and Mary Lee continued to travel both nationally and internationally after the children were grown, often combining visits with family and friends with attendance at peace and justice/peace education conferences. Bill also was an avid cyclist, including bicycling for many years to his work at the UConn Health Center. He and Mary Lee made several long distance bike trips, both in the U.S. and Europe. And they hiked many trails together through the years.

The mindful way in which Bill and Mary Lee lived, ranging from their decision to move to Hartford to how they invested, the causes they supported, and how they used the resources of the earth, will remain an inspiration long into the future. Bill was a life-changing influence on many of the lives he touched. In the words of Wendell Berry, one of Bill's favorite writers,

*The soil is the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.*

HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 11 DECEMBER 2016

CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED

5 FEBRUARY 2017

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**Alexander Vanderburgh, Jr.**  
**August 12, 1928–November 2, 2014**

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Our beloved member Alexander Vanderburgh, Jr., 86, passed away peacefully on Sunday November 2, 2014, at the Loomis House in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Alex and Edie (his predeceased wife of 60 years) leave behind three loving children: daughter Ann S. Vanderburgh of Easthampton Massachusetts, daughter Faith V. Gately of Evanston, Illinois, and son Alexander Vanderburgh of Denver, Colorado, and two grandchildren, Cecil and Isaac.

Born in Brewster, New York, on August 12, 1928, Alex was the son of Dr. Alexander Vanderburgh and Mrs. Ruth Ferguson Vanderburgh. In his youth Alex attended the Choir School of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City and graduated from Brewster High School in 1945. Alex went on to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1949. Working in the electrical engineering field at the beginning of the computer era, Alex was involved in Project Whirlwind, the first digital computer capable of displaying real-time text and video. Fascinated by math and physics, Alex was an avid reader of science and astronomy throughout his life.

In part because he became frustrated with working for large corporations, after a substantial career as an electrical engineer Alex undertook a second career as a professor at the Wentworth Institute in Boston Massachusetts and was a pioneer in “experiential learning” at the college level. He loved designing all kinds of gadgets to illustrate various principles of physics, and left behind an impressive collection of those teaching tools. In his early retirement years he continued teaching as a math and physics tutor at local schools.

Alex invariably dressed in a plain but formal manner at meeting and kept a very full and very well-groomed beard throughout his time as a Quaker. While we only occasionally teased him about it, his “look”

reminded many of us of the archetypical Quaker men from picture-book histories of the 1800s.

A second thing we only rarely teased him about was the number of committees Alex served on and the extended years he served on many of them. He was a member of the Aging Committees of both New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) and Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC) for more than 15 years. Committed to issues of community equity and social justice, he served on the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of FMC for more than 25 years and at NEYM he served on a similar committee for more than 10 years. He was an active and long-serving trustee of the New England Friends Home, Cambridge Friends School and the Meeting School. Alex was also one of the principal organizers of FMC's annual Good Friday Vigil for 15-plus years. He served on too many other committees to name. Another very special contribution made by Alex was teaching First Day School at FMC for more than 20 years.

For five years, just before moving to western Massachusetts, Alex served as the clerk of Trustees at Friends Meeting at Cambridge. We remember that time as "well-ordered," even though significant personnel issues and a very difficult property dispute with a neighbor and several physical plant emergencies occurred during that time. Alex was a reserved and quiet man, perhaps even a bit shy, but he was also a very capable and steady leader.

While we only occasionally teased him about it, Alex was also a handy guy with tools and he took to himself the very busy unpaid job of "FMC property handyman" during the time he was clerk of Trustees.

Throughout his years of service Alex was invariably quiet-spoken and clear when he did speak. None of us at Friends Meeting at Cambridge can remember any time when Alex acted in a manner that seemed self-serving or angry. We can remember the intentional welcoming he practiced with newcomers and the care he put into being kind to all of us, all of the time. We can remember numbers of times when Alex's quietly stated conviction about something important led us to a better place.

Despite encroaching dementia in his last few years, Alex retained a great sense of humor, an upbeat, easygoing outlook, and an eternal curiosity about and love for the natural world. In his final years he was blessed with the loving and frequent presence of his daughter Ann and with caregivers who responded to his basic loving nature way beyond the call of duty. With their help, Alex was able to enjoy many fun-filled adventures in his final years. We are thankful for the gracious manner of passing he was given.

Alex Vanderburgh was a long-serving, faithful, and effective servant to Friends Meeting at Cambridge, to three different educational institutions, and to the Quaker community throughout New England. He was a well-loved father and husband. We will miss Alex deeply and remember

him fondly and we celebrate his life as a wonderful example of a life well lived.

FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, APPROVED OCTOBER 11, 2015

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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**John Clinton Watts**  
**February 15, 1949 – July 30, 2016**

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John Watts, his wife Linda Patterson, and their two children, Henry (Andrew) and Grace Watterson, were active and much-loved participants in the life of Wellesley Friends Meeting from 1987 until 2012, when they moved to Fearrington Village in Pittsboro, North Carolina.

John was born in Bridgeport, Texas, where he lived until he was three. He moved with his mother and sister to Denver, Colorado, until attending the University of California at Berkeley. The Vietnam War interrupted his education and he became a conscientious objector to the draft, doing his service at the University of Oklahoma Hospital. After a six-month bicycle trip from Minnesota to California, he moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where he completed his degree and met his wife, Linda. He joined the staff of Fidelity Investments, where he worked as a software engineer for over 27 years. There he was appreciated by both his superiors and his co-workers who, at his memorial, paid tribute to his mentorship as well as his steadiness, good humor, and friendship.

In the Boston area, John acted and sang with community theaters, and was pleased to play one of the leads in his favorite show, *The Fantasticks*. He was a serious stamp collector, keenly interested in science, history, politics and social justice. He and Linda took the lead in WFM's participation in the annual Pride Day march in Boston. He also had an abiding love of cats.

At WFM he took on some of the most demanding volunteer jobs, including serving for many years as editor of the newsletter. He applied his computer expertise to creating an up-to-date database for the directory. He and Linda were loyal members of a small spiritual growth group.

After a job-related move to North Carolina, John and his family made several trips back to visit with friends and attend meeting for worship with us.



John retired from Fidelity in 2015 and was diagnosed with cancer about nine months later. When it became clear that he was not responding to treatment, he accepted his situation with courage and grace. With the loving support of Linda and his children, and help from hospice, he spent his last days at home, as he had wanted.

WELLESLEY MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED DECEMBER 11, 2016

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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**Joan Wayne**  
**June 25, 1921–September 7, 2016**

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Joan Wayne, a cherished member of Wellesley Friends Meeting, passed away in September of 2016 at the age of 95. She entered our lives when she heard about Wellesley Friends Meeting through a chance conversation struck up at a local restaurant. Pastoral care rides to her physicians soon became weekly trips to meeting. Though loyal to England, she ended up transferring her membership to WFM from Lewes Sussex Meeting in England in 2006.

Joan had innumerable qualities that endeared her to those in her life. She was always open to new experiences and people and carried with her an optimistic outlook on things. This optimism gave her an appealing youthful energy that everyone who knew her cherished. She also carried with her a lifelong concern for peace in the world, as a result of her experience in wartime England. She was an active member of the Peace and Social Concerns committee at WFM.

Of all the qualities that we remember about Joan, the most central to our experience with her was her love of her grandson, Ben. It motivated her to move to her daughter's home in Wayland from England, and defined her time in the United States. She often expressed her great love of her grandson through her gift of poetry (she was a published poet), as exemplified here:

*Life Revisited (1999)*

*Amid the crowds in the arrivals hall  
You stood with him enfolded in your arms  
My new-born grandson Ben, so soft and small  
While in my heart there sounded joyful psalms.*

*I marveled at the tiny hands and feet,  
The perfect nails, the petal-textured skin,  
And with a gentle kiss I bent to greet  
This miracle, this shining boy—my kin.*

*Through fifteen weeks I watched him grow, and soon  
He smiled. Huge eyes of deepest ocean blue  
Gazed into mine, and up at sky and clouds and moon.  
And hands reached out exploring toys—and faces too.*

*Through you dear child I see and know once more  
The world anew and wondrous as of yore.*

Joan's presence in our lives was a precious gift. We all carry with us our own wonderful memories of her and are blessed by her spirit.

WELLESLEY FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED DECEMBER 11, 2016

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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**Beatrice “Bee” Wehmeyer**  
**January 8, 1921–August 5, 2016**

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Bee was a much-honored, much-loved member of our Quaker meeting and of New England Yearly Meeting, enriching both the meeting and surrounding communities in southern Maine with her wealth of experience and loving, supportive perspective.

Beatrice Smith was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1921. She attended Cornell University and graduated as a Registered Nurse with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 1942, one of the first RNs to graduate with a B.S. degree in Nursing in the country. She married Robert Wehmeyer that same year and she and Bob raised their three children, living in various places in New England as well as in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Littleton, Colorado. She and Bob were active and involved in Quaker meetings through most of their married life, joining the Religious Society of Friends in 1951.

When Bee and Bob finally settled in Maine, they joined Portland Friends Meeting. There being no Quaker meeting in Maine south of Portland, in 1980 the Wehmeyers and John and Mary Woodman formed the Waterboro Worship Group closer to their homes. In 1982, the worship group was approved by Falmouth Quarterly Meeting as a full-fledged Friends meeting. John Woodman was the first presiding clerk, followed by Bee, who served as presiding clerk of Waterboro Friends Meeting for eleven years.

Bee was a vital, active Quaker. She spoke up clearly and fearlessly for the things she believed in, and was a strong advocate for peace initiatives, including nuclear non-proliferation/disarmament and civil rights, both in Maine and in the wider world. She was active within New England Yearly Meeting, especially in the Yearly Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and in the United Society of Friends Women. She was also interested in the work of the Friends World Committee for Consultation,

traveling to Guilford, North Carolina, and to Kenya for two FWCC triennials.

Beyond her Quaker involvements, Bee kept up her long-time interest in health and nursing activities. She always worked at least part-time as a nurse, both as a private-duty and as a hospice nurse, there being no hospice care in York County before that. She advocated for quality health care for the elderly and the poor, very conscious of the fact that there were too many people who couldn't drive the many miles into Portland or Augusta for adequate health care. She and Bob helped establish the Sacopee Valley Health Center and served on its board of directors, creating a crucial facility that continues to serve 20,000 people living in southwestern Maine today. Bee also served as a Rural Elderly Caseworker and as the volunteer coordinator for the Friendly Visitor Program, and served on the board of directors and committees for the Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging, as well as volunteering for the Ombudsman Program with the Maine Commission on Aging.

The memories of Bee from current members of the Meeting are best expressed in their own words.

Nancy Massanari: Bee was both a mentor and a dear friend. She helped me with clerking—first recording and later as presiding clerk of the meeting, sometimes by example and sometimes with actual answers to questions. I was amazed at the care with which she spoke to Bob, especially after his diagnosis of Alzheimer's and as his condition progressed. She always treated him with dignity and love, which is how she treated everyone.

Rick Kaye-Scheiss: I just cut back the Dutchman's Pipe vines that Bee gave to Pat and me (30 years ago?). This always reminds me of her. As Bob and Bee gave a cutting to us from their farm in Kezar Falls, she said, "Take as much as you want if you dare!" It thrives and has now taken over our deck railings and down along the backyard fence reaching toward the marsh. I also remember when Philip Berrigan was in jail here in Maine for standing up to the warmongers at the beginning of the First Gulf War. Bee said, "The wrong ones are in jail again."

Dee Meggison: Bee was a true "friend" in every way. My parents, John and Mary Woodman, enjoyed her support, cooperation, and friendship during the early years of the meeting. Dave and I always admired Bee's energy, varied interests, and quiet ways of responding to concerns. She was a true "elder" of the meeting, always open to helping or counseling anyone in need. She was also willing to lighten anyone's cares with tales of her adventures both here and abroad with her husband, Bob, who was always the source of a good story and took such delight in telling them! We miss them both!

Deb Georgitis: If you are lucky, very lucky in life, you will know a person who becomes your mentor. Bee Wehmeyer was that person

to me. Serving as recording clerk throughout the years she was clerk of Waterboro Friends Meeting, I came to know and appreciate her involvement in the Quaker world. She told me of her travels with FWCC, the last being to Kenya with her husband, Bob. At not quite 5 feet in height, she spoke with admiration of those strong African women balancing water urns and food baskets on their heads, towering above her. She and Bob immersed themselves in a culture so very different from their quiet Maine home and returned home to share their experiences with members of the meeting as well as others in their community.

Bee taught me about Quaker speech, using First Day, Second Month, and so forth on all minutes and correspondence. She extolled the simplistic life and found solace in the natural world. I can recall when she stated she had taken her last backpacking trip into the mountains with friends —she was 66 years old!

The later years of Bee's life were spent in caregiving for her beloved husband. She placed him in permanent Alzheimer's care a few weeks after I lost my 15-year-old son, and we mourned our tremendous losses together.

Bee entered a senior care center near Portland after Bob died. She transferred her membership back to the Portland Friends Meeting, although she was no longer able to be as involved in meeting activities as she had been with the Waterboro Friends Meeting.

She also surrendered her driver's license at the same time, telling me she didn't want her sons to have to make those decisions for her. However, selling her car, a Honda Civic, was difficult for her, as she had purchased it herself and had taken meticulous care of it over the years. I decided to buy it from her and drove it in good weather for four years, finally donating it to NPR. Several months later, I saw the car in a parking lot and spoke to the young man who now owned it. He said the car had changed his life, as he could now drive to the methadone clinic in Portland instead of relying on others for transportation. I'm sure Bee was smiling as she learned of the car's newest owner.

Bee embraced every day with an openness to whatever it would bring. She gave of herself whenever she could and, when she needed assistance, she was not afraid to ask of those around her. She was an inspiration to the very end of her life and I am proud to remember her as a true friend.

SOUTHERN MAINE FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED 2 APRIL 2017

FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED 6 MAY 2017

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**Sally Wriggins**  
**1922–November 10, 2014**

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We at Hanover Monthly Meeting knew Sally Hovey Wriggins and Howard Wriggins in their later years, after they'd moved to Kendal in January of 1996. We shared then in Sally Wriggins' excitement upon the publication of a new edition of *Xuanzang: A Buddhist Pilgrim on the Silk Road*, a book she'd written in her late 50s. She continued writing and published a memoir, *Asia on My Mind* (AMM) in 2008. Sally lost

her beloved Howard, who had been so worried about losing her to cancer, the same year. Despite her dementia she spoke of Howard every day until her death on November 10, 2014, at age 92.

Before we knew Sally, she'd raised their three children—Dinny Cundy, Chris Wiggins, and Jenny Wriggins—and orchestrated with grace the many moves required of a wife of a foreign service officer and academic. During this time she was busy networking and collecting information about Xuanzang, a Chinese monk who journeyed from China to India and back in the 600s in his pursuit of primary Buddhist texts. She exemplified the wisdom that “there’s a time for every purpose” by her loving support of her husband and children when they needed her, while not forsaking her passion to write and be known as a writer. She says of herself when her youngest left for college, “I was free to pursue a career, and I did so.” (AMM,75)

Sally's interest in Quakerism goes back to her days at Haverford College—the first female graduate under a special program—and her marriage into a Quaker family from Germantown. When she lived in the Washington, D.C. area, she helped in the founding of Sandy Spring School by writing articles for *Friends Journal* and was on the Board of Sidwell Friends School when they chose Bob Smith as Headmaster. She also helped found Bullshead Meeting in upstate New York. She became a member of Hanover Friends Meeting when she and Howard came to Kendal at Hanover.

At her memorial service, Sally's children spoke of her uncomplicated enthusiasm, her curiosity and love of music and nature. They noted her persistence in completing the Xuanzang book without speaking Chinese or Hindi and in spite of early rejections and the editing required before its publication. In her memoir, written while she was at Kendal, she quoted a poem about the diminishment of old age that ended with the lines:

*"But leave, O leave, exempt from plunder,  
My sense of humor, curiosity and wonder." (AMM, 261)*

Indeed, the twinkle in her eye, her pursuit of Xuanzang, and her love of nature attest to these values. Sally persisted, as well, in coming to our meeting regularly until she was bedridden. She lit up around people there with whom she shared an interest in Asia.

It was the natural world that nurtured Sally and her Quaker faith. She grew up hiking and camping in the shadow of Mount Rainier. In reading her memoir the mind's eye is drawn to her descriptions of the gardens she supervised in Sri Lanka. During her retirement, Sally spent many summers among her children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren at Little Cranberry Island in Maine.

Her caregiver at Kendal spoke of Sally's love of nature: of how she would take walks and breathe in the smell of the trees and grass, watch the birds at her birdfeeder, get up at night and look out at the moon. Sally's whole life speaks to her love of nature and her belief in "the garden as a place of analogies; of seeds sprouting, plants growing and flowering, slowly dying and becoming part of the earth again." (AMM, 97)

HANOVER FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED JANUARY 8, 2017

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED MARCH 5, 2017







**NEW ENGLAND  
YEARLY MEETING  
OF FRIENDS**

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