

# Memorial Minutes ~ 2014 ~

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NEW ENGLAND  
YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

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**John A. Carey II (1920–2012)**  
**Alanna Connors (1956–2013)**  
**Gordon L. Harris (1938–2012)**  
**Eleanor Plank (1926–2013)**  
**Mary Ann Snieckus (1956–2012)**  
**Andrew Renwick Towl (1910–2012)**

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**John A. Carey II**  
**1920–2012**

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In 1920, John A. Carey II was born to John Arthur Carey and Neita Fleming in Saguache, Colorado. He was the grandson of Arthur Linn Carey, who had been clerk of Ohio Yearly Meeting for many years.

John attended Arizona State University, where he played football until the Second World War. After serving in the Air Force, he continued his education at San Jose State University (California) where he met his wife, Eve Nathanson Carey (who predeceased him in 2005). Their first child, Rachel Ann Carey, was born in 1950. In 1952 after the birth of their second child, John A. Carey III — “Trey” (who predeceased him in 2002) — the couple moved to Southborough, Massachusetts, where they taught at St. Marks School for the next 35 years.

John taught design, shop and technical drawing, coached sports, headed the art department and played his beloved handball game, “fives.” The Careys were much-loved members of the school community. As head of school John Warren said, “John was one of the most caring, upbeat people I have ever had the pleasure to know. After a conversation with John, you inevitably felt better about yourself or whatever issue was on your mind. His students enjoyed the way he brought out the best in them.”

In 1964, John and Eve opened Eden Hand Arts on Route 6A in Dennis, Massachusetts. Their work, mostly jewelry and pottery, gained recognition and acclaim. John is best known as creator of the Cape Cod Screwball Bracelet. His attitude towards life is well described in his statement, “The search for a good life—the successful search for the subtleties of a pleasurable experience—is not easy, like trying to catch a falling leaf.”

Rachel describes her father as someone who “lived life his own way, fully and large, in more ways than his 6’6” frame.” The word “quirky” was often associated with him. He would draw, design and write on scraps of paper everywhere. One scrap of paper written shortly before he died said, “Faith in past, courage in present, faith in future, and do not sit out the dance.”

John was a devoted Quaker; his family's Quaker legacy, which influenced all his activities, dates back to the time of William Penn. In the 1950s John and his family attended Cambridge Meeting. He was a founding member of two meetings in New England: Framingham Friends Meeting in the 1960s, of which he was clerk for many years, and Barnstable Meeting from 2006. Fiercely independent, he often stated that Friends are the conscience of the world. Also, he expressed a concern about the lack of unity among Friends, a need to set aside differences and come together, particularly regarding reconciliation among all Cape Cod Friends.

John A. Carey passed away peacefully at his home in his sleep on May 4, 2012. He was 91. He is survived by his daughter Rachel Ann Carey-Harper, his son-in-law Edward Harper, both of Dennis, Massachusetts; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law; two nieces; a nephew, and many special friends.

A memorial service in the manner of Friends was held on July 17, 2012, at Burgess House in Marstons Mills, Massachusetts, home of Barnstable Friends Meeting.

So let us remember him in the beauty of every day, in the smile of a friend, and follow his model in trying to catch a brightly colored autumn leaf as it falls from a tree. Let us laugh and embrace life.

...And don't sit out the dance.

— BARNSTABLE FRIENDS MEETING (PREPARATIVE)  
SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

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**Alanna Connors**  
**1956–2013**

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Alanna Connors' life led her to trust her own compass. She was a mathematician and a scientist at places and times where women were seldom found. When once her high school math teacher flunked her, despite her answers being correct, another teacher told her: "You know he's giving good grades to boys and not to you, because you're a girl." Recounting the story in later years, Alanna said, "I didn't need that; I knew I could do the math." She held true to her course.

Long before finding Quakers, Alanna lived the testimony of experiencing God in everyone. While most of us have tight circles of caring—our family, friends, coworkers—Alanna's circles were as unbounded as a wave expanding to all of space. It seems no accident that her profession became looking at objects distant in the universe. Across the many communities of her life's paths, she welcomed all beings. Living with her was a joy; her care for others was never an abstract thing, but a centered flame, close to her and everyone she touched.

Alanna was born September 25, 1956, in Hong Kong, to Richard and Sonia Mitchell Connors. Returning to the United States in 1963, Alanna's family settled in Greenwich, Connecticut. Living with four siblings in an environment not always centered on these children's welfare, Alanna developed an immense capacity to listen and extend empathy. Imagination shone through her grade school writings, her elaborate, award-winning gingerbread houses, and family-staged dramas

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she thrilled to the elegance of mathematics in describing and predicting physical behaviors. For her, mathematical physics was inseparable from the playfulness, color, artistry, and imagination by which she produced it. Her lab reports were crafted in a flourishing script, vivid with colored pencil illuminations. Her dorm room, with its handmade teapot and mismatched cups, provided hearth and convivial warmth at all hours for a wide swath of students.

She met fellow student Phillip Veatch while they were both organizing MIT's first on-campus food cooperative. After a year of courtship, they

exchanged private vows of marriage in 1978 on a basketball court in East Cambridge. Alanna was opposed to the state-sanctioned institution of marriage because of its historical role in the oppression of women.

At graduate school at the University of Maryland, Alanna was drawn to the depth of worship that she found at Adelphi Friends Meeting. By 1982 she was a regular attender, dragging along her then-reluctant partner. A deep commitment to the Quaker principles of simplicity, peace, integrity, and justice soon enriched both of their lives. Alanna and Phil continued for ten years at Dover Monthly Meeting in New Hampshire, finally settling at Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1998.

While charting the sky of X-ray objects, Alanna felt akin to the ancients who long ago gathered and counted the heavens' lights. During her work as a researcher at the University of New Hampshire and later as an independent contractor with NASA, she introduced the astrophysics community to Bayesian methods of statistics, providing a foundation for statistical methods previously unknown to astronomers in the early 1990s. She taught astrophysics at Wellesley College, created programs at the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium in Concord, New Hampshire, and helped create a flourishing cross-discipline statistics group at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Despite being an intense introvert, she harbored a lifelong belief in the importance of community-building. As a senior scientist, she was known for her support of young graduate students. After the birth of her son, she worked with other parents to reform special education in the Arlington public schools. She volunteered regularly at New England Yearly Meeting annual sessions, working in both child care and the bookstore. She often attended Women's Group at Fresh Pond Meeting, where she spoke regularly about her concerns in raising her gifted son.

Alanna was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1995. She lived with it for 18 years. Characteristically, through its recurrences and treatment, she refused to be defined by the disease. She conceived her son, Roy, born in March 1999. When Roy was 4, her disease recurred, and she took him with her to treatments, where she encouraged his interest in the hospital's high-energy accelerator. Whatever life brought her, she lived with it; she saw illness as no excuse to build walls. When her disease returned for the last time, in an advanced form, Phil asked if she wanted to go on any special vacations. She did not, preferring to live through her callings.

In her years at Dover Meeting, Alanna rotated through nearly every committee. During the first Gulf War, Dover Friends called on her to write a compelling minute explaining the Meeting's opposition to the invasion of Iraq and Kuwait. Phil and Alanna were lifelong advocates of same-sex marriage. When they decided for Roy's sake to get legally married, they did not seek marriage under the care of Dover Meeting, as it had not yet

completed its process for hosting marriages for same-gender persons (it has since done so).

During her time at Fresh Pond, her participation in committee work was limited by parenting and the treatments for breast cancer. She was, however, a quiet and regular presence at Meeting for Business and an infrequent but powerful minister during Meeting for Worship, where her ministry was often structured around song.

Just as she knew not to take to heart a teacher's censure, Alanna maintained integrity without ceding herself, her work, or others to diminishment. Mathematics was just one route by which she independently investigated, questioned, and confirmed the truth for herself without relying on the claims of teachers and other external authorities. She stood up for discovering and expressing the full potential of one's mind and heart, inspiring those around her to undertake aspirations and take risks of which they did not suppose themselves to be capable.

Alanna's spirit lives with us and continues to teach us. We remember her implacable but gentle striving to see the truth and to tell it. The women of Fresh Pond recall Alanna's intense, powerful mothering, against all odds. Throughout her life she resisted the limits and distortions that social norms can impose on our vision of others. A prism takes a beam of light and separates it into many separate parts. Alanna lived her life striving to bring the many separate parts of our world back together into one shining beam.

Her memorial service was held on March 2, 2013, in the Wellesley Friends meetinghouse, under the care of Fresh Pond Meeting. She was 56.

— FRESH POND MONTHLY MEETING

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

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**Gordon L. Harris**  
**1938–2012**

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Our Friend Gordon L. Harris died the 13<sup>th</sup> of Ninth Month 2012 at his home in Auburn, Maine, at the age of 74. Born the 24<sup>th</sup> of Second Month 1938 in Charleston, South Carolina, to Philip L. and Flora Harris, Gordon was the middle of three brothers. He grew up in the area of Rochester, New York, where as a young man he became a member of Rochester Friends Meeting.

The Harris household was concerned with human rights: his mother Flora was an officer in the NAACP and Gordon was in the junior NAACP in high school. After graduation, Gordon worked on a tugboat on the Erie Canal before attending the University of Rochester. In 1961, at a speech there by James Farmer, a leader in the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), he responded to the call for volunteers, to be known as Freedom Riders, to travel and work in the south demonstrating for racial equality.

Gordon was one of a group of 15 to 20 Freedom Riders assigned to ride the train from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Jackson, Mississippi. Upon arrival, they broke Mississippi's segregation laws, whites sitting in the "colored" section and blacks sitting in the "whites only" section at the station. Arrested and convicted for breach of the law, they were sentenced to six months in jail. "One jailer kept coming up to the window of the jail telling us how we had them all wrong," Gordon recalled in a 2011 interview in the Lewiston, Maine, *Sun Journal*. "They 'did not hate their niggers.' He said it a couple of times. We reached out to him non-violently."

As more Freedom Riders came to Jackson, they "filled up the jail," Gordon said. "They had us carted up to the penitentiary. More and more people were coming in behind us. They kept me there two months." After being released from prison, Gordon stayed in the south as a civil rights worker for CORE in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana, helping blacks to register to vote and gain access to other rights they had been denied. He took part in demonstrations,



and “was arrested again and again.” He also worked for the NAACP in Mississippi, and joined the Selma to Montgomery march with the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

Returning north, Gordon joined his family, who had moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked in the mail department of the Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL). He completed his undergraduate degree at Wilmington College, North Carolina, in 1967 and then moved to Cleveland to work for the American Friends Service Committee and a city civil rights commission. While there, he was briefly married to Christi G. Harris. All his experiences had led him to a desire to enter seminary and become a prison chaplain, and he pursued his plan at the Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana.

While studying for his Master of Ministry degree, which he earned in 1974, Gordon remained active in peace work and Quaker affairs. He worked at the county jail in Richmond; he also served as pastor of the Central City, Nebraska, Friends Meeting from 1973 to 1977. During his time in Nebraska, Gordon worshipped with the Sioux Falls Area Friends group, and observed the trial of Native American activist Russell Means after Wounded Knee. He also spent time in Northern Ireland, working in the peace movement and worshipping at Belfast Meeting.

He later returned to Washington, rejoining his family to assist his father, who was suffering from Huntington’s, a progressive disease which Gordon and one of his brothers also inherited. There he attended Florida Avenue Meeting, working in the Senior Center and helping maintain the building. Through a conversation with Peter Jonitis at William Penn House in Washington, Gordon learned of a Friends church in Maine which needed a pastor, and he filled the position at Winthrop Center Friends Church for five years. Following his service in Winthrop, he also spent time in the Portland (Maine) area, attending Portland Friends Meeting and making many friends there.

After returning to Washington, where he remained to take care of his parents in their last years, Gordon came to Lewiston in December 1995 and began attending Lewiston Monthly Meeting, becoming a member in 1996. A supporting letter from Florida Avenue Meeting noted that while he had never officially joined that meeting: “We commend to your care his quiet patience, his sense of commitment, and his all-around helpfulness as we recall his participation in committee work and the Senior Center. We gratefully reflect on his ability to ‘be there’ and pick up unnamed, unappreciated tasks at times when the Meeting had not seen what Gordon could.”

During his remaining years in Lewiston-Auburn, Maine, Gordon continued to receive treatment for his Huntington’s Disease at hospitals in Boston and at The Johns Hopkins University, often as a volunteer in clinical trials. While the treatments kept his disease in remission

far longer than medically predicted, Gordon's coordination steadily deteriorated. Recognizing the situation, he asked for the oversight of a Committee of Care, but cherishing his privacy and independence, he preferred that its activities and reports remain within the committee.

Gordon was a faithful attender at Lewiston meeting. As long as he was able, he also attended meetings of the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy, a Quaker-centered and -guided lobby to the Maine Legislature, and programs relating to religious, philosophical and human rights issues. He received an award for his civic volunteerism, which included working in the cancer division of a local hospital, being a Big Brother and an adopter of needy pets, listening with his dog to elementary-age children reading at Longley School and the Lewiston Public Library, and being a quiet presence at vigils and demonstrations for peace and civil rights.

In the difficult last two years of his life, Gordon moved several times within the Twin Cities, and his attendance at Meeting became less regular. However, national recognition of his participation in the Civil Rights Movement — through reunions of Freedom Riders on Oprah Winfrey's television show and in Mississippi at the invitation of the governor, — brought him well-deserved joy and local acclaim. In his final months, Gordon and his last, loving canine companion, Skye, were faithful attenders at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Auburn, whose members joyfully shouldered the responsibility of caring for his physical and spiritual needs. His memorial service was held at that church on 29 Ninth Month 2012, with several members of Lewiston Monthly Meeting and Falmouth Quarterly Meeting attending.

— LEWISTON MONTHLY MEETING

FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING

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**Eleanor Plank**  
**1926–2013**

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Eleanor Plank was a much-loved and cherished member of Storrs Friends Meeting, serving as clerk and on almost every committee at one time or another. She is remembered for her wisdom, her kind but direct manner, and her willingness to serve in whatever capacity she was needed. She particularly enjoyed working with the children on Bible study. She was often heard saying that on Sunday mornings, “There is nowhere else I would rather be than at Storrs Friends Meeting.”

Eleanor Bent Plank was born on December 11, 1926, in Berea, Kentucky, where her father managed the college store. She attended Oberlin College, receiving a degree in elementary education in 1948, and earned a Master’s Degree from Columbia University Teacher’s College and taught elementary school in the Chicago area. During the summer of 1951 she volunteered for an AFSC project outside of Mexico City. There she met John Plank, who, smitten, followed her back to Chicago. They married in August 1952 under the care of the Evanston Friends Meeting.

John and Eleanor led an AFSC project in El Salvador in 1953–54 and then settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where John began work on a Ph.D. in Latin American politics. The couple established special bonds with friends experiencing the same early phases of marriage, graduate school, and parenting. Many of those friendships started at the Cambridge Friends Meeting, of which they became members.

Between 1957 and 1970, Eleanor, John, and their three children lived in Peru, Argentina, Cambridge (Massachusetts), and Washington, D.C. While living in D.C., Eleanor rapidly engaged with school and community life in her Cleveland Park neighborhood. The family became early members of Bethesda Friends Meeting. With that community, Eleanor participated in civil rights and anti-war demonstrations throughout the 1960s.

John accepted a position at the University of Connecticut in 1970, and the family moved to Storrs. Eleanor again became active in the schools, in the library, and in local politics. Elected to the Mansfield School Board, she served as its president for six crucial years during which ownership

and management of the local high school transferred from the University of Connecticut to the town of Mansfield. Her experience as a Friend served her and the community well in this challenging position. In the weeks following the World Trade Center attacks in 2001, Eleanor joined a small group of pacifists in Mansfield protesting the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. On that occasion she knew she was part of a tiny minority, but she insisted that voices be raised in the cause of peace even when there was little immediate hope of changing public opinion or redirecting policy.

A good listener, Eleanor had a knack for asking just the right questions and saying the right thing at the right time. She exuded a graciousness that originated in her southern upbringing and was always evident in her warm welcome at the many Christmas and Easter potlucks that she and John hosted in their home. She played an instrumental role in planning a new meetinghouse for Storrs Friends Meeting. Eleanor was a true grounding presence in worship and during business meetings. Committed to social justice, she was a constant and committed participant in many anti-war vigils over the years.

Eleanor was a faithful attender at NEYM sessions for many years, working in the child-care room and later in the bookstore. She enjoyed attending workshops and business meetings and seeing old friends.

In her later years, she was the voice of our collective history and our future vision. And by her continued quiet, steady presence she taught the lesson of graceful aging.

In 2011, she moved to Maryland at her children's behest. Once again, although she was reluctant to leave behind the life she built and came to love, she made her transition without looking back, bringing as much energy and enthusiasm to her new community as she could summon. Her new neighbors and her "old" Bethesda Friends Meeting quickly responded to her grace and dignity.

Eleanor died after a brief illness on May 26, 2013, with her children by her side.

— STORRS FRIENDS MEETING

CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

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**Mary Ann Snieckus**  
**1956–2012**

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Mary Ann was born on February 5, 1956, into a family of nine children in Woodbury, Connecticut. She died in their family home on October 23, 2012, surrounded by Leo, her trusted lab, and loving family and friends.

Mary Ann Snieckus loved the dance. She loved to teach, parent, paint, hike, and pray—all the while singing down wisdom from the ages. Mary Ann loved the dance. She listened, deeper than most, to that inward space, where life calls our attention, where creativity is born, where courage and faith are constantly renewed. Throughout her 56 years, Mary Ann listened, with the force of her being, to life's deepest call, following inner and outward journeys of dizzying magnitudes. As a sister, mother, teacher and friend, Mary Ann shared insights, curiosity and knowing about the dance of life.

In the mid-1990s, Hartford Friends came to know Mary Ann and her two beautiful, then-young daughters, Rishona and Shani Hines. Mary Ann was a biology teacher in Bloomfield at the time, an avid environmentalist, and a newly convinced Friend. She loved the mysticism of meeting, sharing from silence her deep meditations on Native American wisdom, experiential visions and, sometimes, interpretive song or dance. Mary Ann shared with us her evolving discernments on life, healing, earth, God and family. She won her first battle with breast cancer, and she raised her wonderful and talented Rishona and Shani to young adulthood. Notably, both young women went on to attend Quaker colleges, Rishona at Guilford and Shani at Earlham.

Throughout her very active years with Hartford Quaker meeting, Mary Ann was the heart and soul of hospitality. She created the space and capacity for a multitude of meeting luncheons, sharing with all her gifts as a cook and spiritual gatherer. Many remember her leading collective prayers of gratitude and joy before each meal, including those organized for Young Friends retreats, New England Yearly Meeting Committee Days, and national gatherings of Friends visiting Hartford Meeting. Mary Ann also regularly opened our hearts with song and dance at New England

Yearly Meeting coffee houses, Hartford Meeting Christmas Eve services, and Hartford Meeting retreats. Wherever she was on her journey, Mary Ann brought people alongside her, sharing discoveries of science, poetry, and soulful art with her loving and expressive free spirit. We shared her questions, and discoveries of inner human rhythms, and outward life miracles.

Mary Ann also traveled widely, while teaching for 12 years as a photography and video teacher at Newtown High School. During these years Mary Ann formed a special relationship with the people of Liberia, initially through project Eye to Eye, providing cameras to refugee children living at the Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana. Subsequently, Mary Ann helped to found the Carolyn A. Miller School and New Sight Eye Center in Paynesville, Liberia, which gives repatriated refugees of all ages the opportunity of an education and quality eye care. The continuing relationship between the Carolyn A. Miller School and the Newtown, Connecticut, public schools is an important part of Mary Ann's legacy, reflecting her integrity and remarkable commitment to community.

Like the four elementals of life, Mary Ann was fire—lighting the world with curiosity, joy and laughter; Mary Ann was water—moving powerfully through obstacles, learning when to flow in quiet, when to rush like white water over risks and rocks; Mary Ann was air—seeking and discovering the truth and essence of life; and Mary Ann was earth—grounding herself in the foundation of love, that which sustains all.

With immense courage and grace, Mary Ann took on her final dance with cancer. In the last few months of her life, she led a workshop called “Living and Being OK with Dying” at the Middlebury Public Library, sharing the healing power of photography and art. When asked about her own daughters’ feelings about impending death, she responded: “my spirit is soaring...my belief in the spirit lasts forever...I will, therefore, always be with them”; just as we, who’ve shared in countless journeys and “Mary Ann miracles,” will be with her, throughout the dance.

— HARTFORD FRIENDS MEETING

CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

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**Andrew Renwick Towl**  
**1910–2012**

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We remember with gratitude the long, good life of Andrew Renwick Towl. As a Friend said at his memorial, “If some Friends show us who God is, Andy showed us the gentleness, reticence, and courtesy of God.”

Andy grew up on a farm in Nebraska, where his father, a surveyor who became mayor of Omaha, designed a farm to demonstrate how to preserve topsoil during Missouri River flooding. Andy never lost his connection to the fields; he plowed with horse teams as a child, and fondly recalled lying in the fields at night, listening to the corn grow. Though life took him to many decades of work as Harvard Business School’s first Director of Case Development, to training professors from around the world in the case method he helped to develop, and to visiting some 37 countries in the process, he carried from this childhood a simple dignity, courtly kindness and quiet wisdom that touched everyone who met him.

Andy graduated in 1928 with a bachelor’s degree from Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, which awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1952. He taught college in Nebraska for a couple of years before going to Columbia University in New York, from which he graduated in 1932 with a master’s degree. Recruited by Harvard Business School as a research assistant, he graduated with a master’s in business administration in 1936. He worked in banking for eight years in Philadelphia, and then returned to work until his retirement at the Harvard Business School where, in addition to his role as Director of Case Development, he created and ran the Intercollegiate Case Clearing House, which became an important publisher and was honored by regional, national and international case-writing associations as well as a Harvard endowment in his name.

While in Philadelphia, Andy discovered Friends. Joining a group for young adult Quakers, he met and courted Merrilie McAfee. Merrilie, who had grown up in Boulder, Colorado, on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, wrote in a card that her children later prized, “Finally, I’ve met a man to match my mountains.” Merrilie and Andy married in 1938, moved to the Boston area for Andy’s new job at HBS, became active in

Friends Meeting at Cambridge, and settled in Lexington, Massachusetts, where they raised their four sons, Bruce, Ralph, Roy and Ken.

Except when work took him out of the country, Andy spent as much time as possible with his family. “He was an immensely patient person,” said his son Ken. “He spent Saturdays with us doing chores around the house or making toys from nuts and bolts and hardware down in the basement.” Neighbors remember that the Towls’ door was always open and that the household was full of love, good energy, hospitality and grace. In his neighborhood, as at his workplace and at FMC, Andy showed great interest in and care for young people, generously taking many under his wing. Many remember him as “like a father to me” or “like a second father to all three of us.”

Andy and Merrilie’s devotion to each other was legendary. When Merrilie died after 51 years of marriage, Andy put her wedding ring on his baby finger and wore it, along with his own, until his death. Friends often noticed a beautiful photograph that he, a skilled photographer, had taken of Merrilie in their Lexington kitchen, with a beam of light coming through the window and lighting up her features in a way reminiscent of the Dutch masters. When asked about the photo, Andy would respond, “She was the light.” As one Friend said of Andy and Merrilie, “Light, gentleness, kindness suffused their lives.”

Andy and Merrilie were faithful, creative and generous members of Friends Meeting at Cambridge and New England Yearly Meeting. Andy once said of his work at HBS that his primary task was to facilitate the work of others, and this was true of his presence in the Meeting and Yearly Meeting. At FMC, he served as presiding clerk, and later supported Merrilie in her work as presiding clerk. He and Merrilie were known for their hospitality to new attenders, with many a warm invitation home to Sunday lunch. Andy’s last of many committees at FMC, in his 90s, was Personnel, where he helped to see the meeting through some very difficult times. And one of his last support groups was a loving circle around Kenyan Friend Elphas Wambani, in which Andy expressed consistent concern for Elphas’s wellbeing once he returned from Episcopal Divinity School to his ministries among Kenyan Friends. In the Yearly Meeting, he served for more than 25 years on the Board of Managers of Investment Funds. In addition, Andy served as clerk of Permanent Board.

Andy and Merrilie were instrumental in the founding of the Cambridge Friends School, and Andy was active on the CFS board and at CFS events into his late 90s. As the school wrote at the time of his death, “he inspired the Quaker vision of this school for all of its 50 years.”

One of Andy’s consistent concerns at FMC was the size of the meeting; he worried when he felt that we had grown too large to be an effective meeting community, and was one of the big encouragers of the group that split off to form the now thriving Fresh Pond Meeting. He also carried a



concern for us each to contribute our fair share, whatever that might be, and for us to nurture the next generations of Friends. He was a dependable visitor to Friends in hospitals and nursing homes, and he frequently was the person chosen to introduce FMC memorial meetings to those unfamiliar with Quaker worship and ways.

Andy lived a life consistent with the Quaker Testimonies without drawing attention to himself. Perhaps the most moving of the many examples of this was when a member of our community sexually abused a Meeting child. Andy was one of the faithful friends who visited this Friend regularly in prison and, when he was released, helped him find welcome at the Brookhaven worship group, where there are no children. Andy, along with other members of FMC, drove him to Sunday worship there for many years, and stayed in touch when the Friend moved away. Thus Andy practiced the Friends' commitment to honoring that of God in every person, and taught us how to be faithful to our Testimonies as Friends.

With his interest in what we were doing, thinking, learning and attempting, Andy was a mentor to many. We prized his "most gentle and non-controlling mentorship." At HBS, he mentored many a new dean. In a Quaker context, "Andy was the only person who ever elderd me, and it couldn't have been a better person." He was judicious without being judgmental. "When you are in an argument," he was known to say, "remember that you could always be wrong."

Andy often offered his mentorship in writing, and how grateful we are for Andy's ministry of notes! If you had a family event, a new challenge at meeting or at work, or, for Quakers, a message you had given in worship, you would receive a (usually handwritten) note from Andy engaging you, encouraging you, guiding you, and bidding you "Onward." Sometimes he even included one of his poems, for his creative work included poetry as well as photography. So many of us treasure the notes that Andy wrote to us over the years! As a man Andy befriended while in India said: "I used to wait for those letters... it took me days to reflect on what he wrote. So rich. I saved them all."

When Andy finally moved out of the home he and Merrilie had shared, he chose Cadbury Commons because it was within walking distance of the Meeting and around the corner from the Friends School. He became known at Cadbury Commons for moving from table to table in the dining room, checking in on people, seeing how they were doing: "He had everyone in that building under his wing." When tension arose between two residents, Andy might help out: "Let's wait and see how it all goes," he would say. A woman whose husband went to Cadbury Commons with Parkinson's remembers that "having Andy down the hall made it all right." Perhaps what helped Andy keep this grounding and compassionate presence was more than half a century of worship and Quaker life.

In his last decade, Andy was preparing for the next transition. He described his experience during that epoch as “moving beyond words.” For those who visited, there were long and comfortable periods of silence. He seemed to be living in a state of worship, spiraling into infinity. As part of his year-end message to family and friends in 2010, Andy wrote, “I sense more and more the infinity of BEING—and how that essence goes on beyond what words can define.”

We feel the blessing of Andy’s many decades among us.

— FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING





**NEW ENGLAND  
YEARLY MEETING  
OF FRIENDS**

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