

**Agenda  
Permanent Board  
4 August 2018**

Worship (0930)

Roll Call

Minutes

Presiding Clerk

Secretary

Earthcare Ministry Committee: Purpose

Development Committee: Everence

Memorial Minutes:

Mary (Molly) Duplisea-Palmer

Georgana Falb Foster

Philip Haines

Arnold Ricks





**Permanent Board**  
**12 May 2018**  
**Moses Brown School**

**18-19: Worship and Prayer**

The meeting opened with expectant worship, out of which we heard the memorial minute for Edward Baker of Westerly (RI) Meeting.

**18-20: Welcome**

Mike Hirtle, clerk of Providence Meeting and member of Moses Brown School Board of Trustees, welcomed us to Moses Brown School. We are grateful for the hospitality of Providence Friends.

**18-21: Roll Call**

Present: Sarah Gant, Clerk; Rosemary Zimmerman, Interim Recording Clerk; Travis Belcher, Deana Chase, Jeremiah Dickinson, Darcy Drayton, Christopher Gant, Ben Guaraldi, Ian Harrington, Elizabeth Kantt, Rebecca Leuchak, Christopher McCandless, Jean McCandless, Gina Nortonsmith, Carole Rein, Sara Smith, Phil Stone, William Walkauskas, Donn Weinholtz, Mary Zwirner

Ex Officio: Dulany Bennett (Personnel), Noah Merrill (Secretary), Bob Murray (Clerk, Finance Committee), Elizabeth Reuthe (Secretary Supervisor), Shearman Taber (Treasurer), Fritz Weiss (Presiding Clerk)

Guests: Clarence Burley, Anna Hopkins (Director, Friends Camp), Mike Hirtle, Bruce Neumann (Rising YM Presiding Clerk), Honor Woodrow (M&C Clerk), Kathleen Wooten

Regrets: Susan Davies, Hannah Zwirner Forsythe, Galen Hamann, Leanna Kantt, Anna Radocchia

Not Present: Kimberly Allen, Tom Jackson, Elizabeth Szatkowski

Galen Hamann sent regrets and is laying down her service as a member of Permanent Board in order to respond to a call to serve as assistant head of Virginia Beach Friends School in Virginia. Permanent Board released Galen to this new chapter in her life with joy and gratitude for her faithful service.

**18-22: Secretary's Report**

1. Providence Friends have embarked on a building expansion project. NEYM owns the land under Providence Meeting. The clerk of PB recently signed an agreement with the building contractors, approving use of the land for this expansion. PB is pleased to support the growth of local meetings, and celebrates the work of Providence Friends.
2. The Lilly Endowment, one of the largest funders of religious institutions in the United States, is issuing an open call for proposals to organizations interested in supporting thriving ministry, and reclaiming and reimagining traditions supporting ministry. With the encouragement of Coordinating & Advisory Committee, a small group of New England Friends active in public ministry submitted a letter of interest to the Lilly Endowment and has begun work to submit a full proposal by the 1 June deadline. Permanent Board approves the submission of this grant proposal in an amount of up to \$1,000,000.

### **18-23: Finance Committee Request to Release Funds from Board Designation**

In 2015, the YM received \$128,800 from the sale of the rare book *The Bloody Tenent*. Sessions Minute 15-53 reflects Permanent Board's direction that this money be "tracked separately until the future of our archives and future expenses related to the archives are clear." [NEYM 15-53] The NEYM Archives have now been successfully moved to the Special Collections and University Archives of the W.E.B. DuBois Library of the University of Massachusetts (SCUA).

Noting that significant financial needs are not foreseen for the Archives in the short-term, Finance Committee therefore recommends that any expenses related to the Archives be spent from the monies remaining Archives Revolving Fund in FY19, which currently contains around \$8,500, and then from the NEYM Operating Budget starting in FY20. This approach better reflects NEYM's ongoing commitment to the stewardship of the Archives as an ongoing ministry of New England Friends.

Finance Committee further recommends that the \$128,800 currently held within the Continuing Projects Revolving Fund called the "Bloody Tenent of Persecution Project" should be released from board designation.

The Board approved releasing the \$128,800 proceeds from the *Bloody Tenent* sale from board designation, with the understanding that these funds would then become part of the Yearly Meeting's undesignated reserves.

### **18-24: Website Redesign**

The Board directs that up to \$40,000 from the undesignated reserves of the Yearly Meeting be allocated to fund the capital expense of a website redesign, with this work to begin as soon as practicable.

### **18-25: FY2019 Budget**

Finance Committee presented the draft FY2019 budget proposal, which the Board heard with gratitude for the difficult work and challenging discernment that allowed Finance Committee to bring forward a balanced budget. Additional comments and questions may be directed to Bob Murray, clerk of the Finance Committee, or to the YM Secretary.

### **18-26: *ad hoc* Long-Term Financial Planning Committee (LTFPC)**

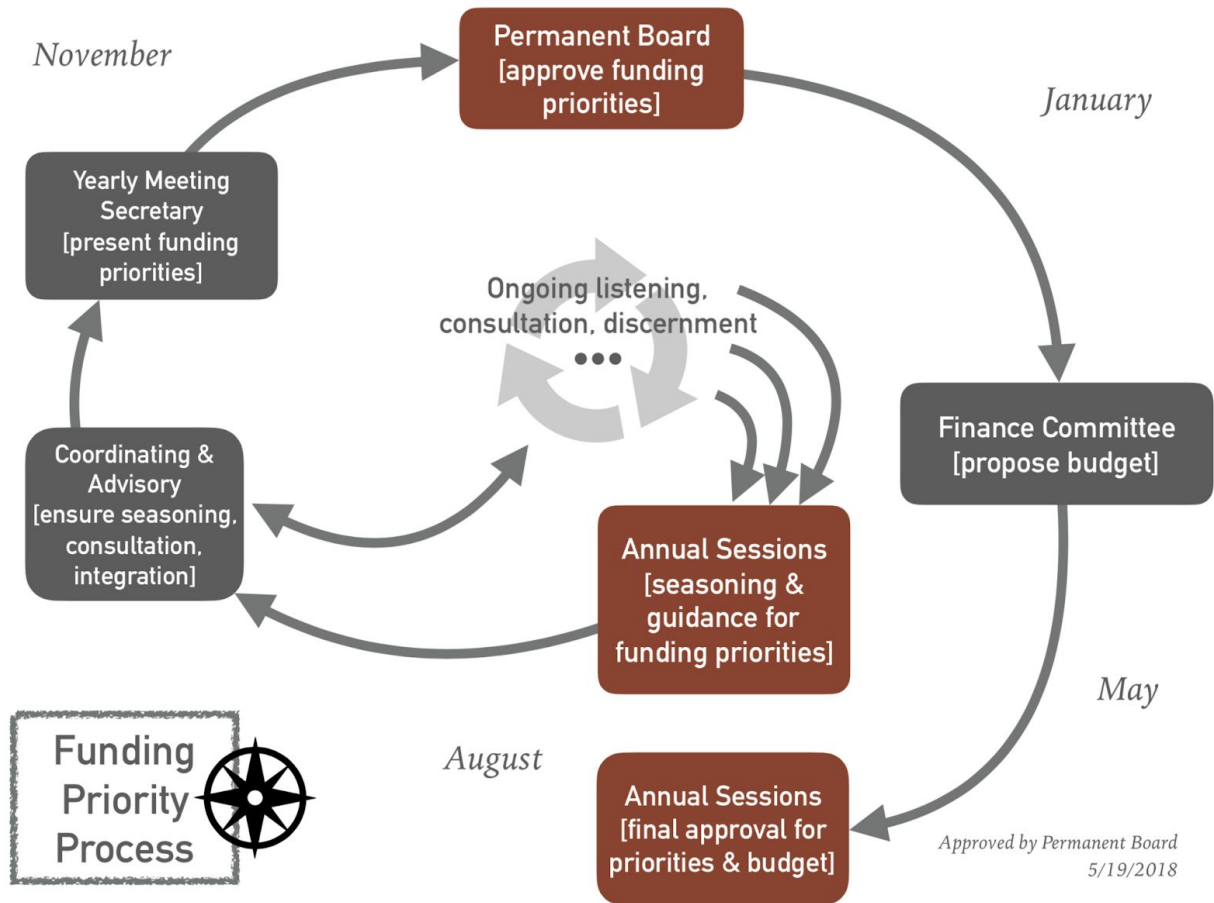
The LTFPC presented proposed additions to the Yearly Meeting's budgeting process.

In the current budgeting process, Finance Committee drafts a budget starting in January/February; brings the budget to the PB for comment in May; edits the budget; then brings the budget to Annual Sessions for approval in August. There is currently no formalized way to incorporate into the annual budget process the wide-ranging discernment ongoing in the broader YM.

In the newly proposed *funding priority process*, the YM Secretary is asked to prayerfully integrate a wide range of ongoing consultation and discernment (including but not necessarily limited to informal consultation, listening sessions at Living Faith and/or other events, monthly meeting input, online surveys, committee and staff proposals, and discernment during the preceding Sessions) into a formal set of annual funding priorities. This annual workflow would be shepherded by Coordinating & Advisory Committee, and the resultant proposed funding priorities would be brought to the November meeting of the Permanent Board.

At that November meeting, PB would then further discern those proposed priorities. Based on that discernment, PB would give direction regarding financial priorities for the coming fiscal year's budget to Finance Committee. This sort of direction could include, for example, a need to save for a planned capital expense over multiple years; budgeting to make possible a new initiative in ministry; or any other clear discernment around financial priorities. The Finance Committee would receive this direction in advance of their January/February meeting, when the YM Secretary would present the first draft of the budget. In this way, Finance Committee could better incorporate the priorities and discernment of the wider YM into its ongoing budgeting process.

The Board approved this new process. (illustrative slide follows)



**18-27: Request and Recommendation to Lay Down LTFPC**

With the adoption of the new funding priorities process to guide the annual budget, the ad hoc Long Term Financial Planning Committee feels that the work it has been charged with is complete, and the clerk asks that the committee be laid down at Sessions. PB approves sending this recommendation to Sessions, with gratitude for the labor and discernment of this committee. Friends approved.

**18-28: Development Committee**

At the 17 February meeting of Permanent Board, Development Committee sought and received approval to engage formally with Everence, a financial services ministry of the Mennonite Church USA, to create a planned giving program in New England Yearly Meeting. At that time, Permanent Board asked Development Committee to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Everence outlining responsibilities of both parties and other matters for the May meeting of Permanent Board.

Development Committee presented the draft MOU for Permanent Board discernment and approval. The Board approved, and authorized the Secretary to sign the MOU on behalf of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends.

### **18-29: Legacy Gift Committee**

We heard a presentation from Legacy Gift Committee (LGC). LGC has raised a concern regarding the growing interest and involvement of New England Friends in sanctuary projects. Recognizing that this work could result in financial repercussions for involved meetings, LGC wishes to ensure that the YM has enough flexibility to support these meetings.

The co-clerks of LGC; the YM Secretary; the Treasurer; and the clerk of PB will consult in order to make sure that these concerns are fully addressed.

We affirm that it is the understanding of the Permanent Board that the Fund named "Sufferings--Unrestricted" may be used to support the needs of local meetings consistent with the terms of the fund, as well as for individuals who suffer for their witness to Truth.

### **18-30: Treasurer's Report**

We heard the Treasurer's report. Finance Committee is proposing a balanced budget this year. Our reserves are at a higher level than anticipated. We are meeting our fundraising goals. We accepted this report with celebration.

### **18-31: Presiding Clerk's Report**

The Clerk brought forward the revised purposes and procedures for the Friends Camp Committee and for the Archives and Historical Records Committee. Permanent Board approved, and forwards these to Sessions for approval.

The Publications and Communications Committee currently is dormant. There are no members and many of the tasks assigned to that committee are performed by staff. C&A recommends that Permanent Board forward a recommendation to Sessions that this committee be laid down. The Board approved, with a request that C&A consider any further needs related to publications, and how they might be supported going forward.

The Publications and Communications Committee has long managed distributions from the Mosher Book & Tract Fund of New England Yearly Meeting. C&A is considering how the MBTF may be managed, and expects to bring a specific proposal to the September PB meeting. In the interim, decisions related to Mosher Book and Tract funds will be made by the Permanent Board.

### **18-32: Friends Camp Director's Report**



We heard a joy-filled report from the Friends Camp Director, Anna Hopkins. Friends Camp is doing well; last summer, Friends Camp achieved its first re-accreditation by the American Camp Association and this summer the camp may well reach, for the first time, 100% capacity.

Permanent Board also heard how Friends Camp acts as an entry point to Quakerism in some families, and about the aging physical plant. The report was received with gratitude.

### **18-33: ad hoc Challenging White Supremacy Working Group**

Permanent Board received the report of the Challenging White Supremacy Working Group including about its workshop at the recent Living Faith Gatherings, "Call and Response: How Meetings Can Engage With the Minute on White Supremacy." Permanent Board also received a warm invitation to attend the working group's racial dialogue facilitation training at Wellesley Monthly Meeting from 9:45 am - 3:00 pm on 9 June.

### **18-34: Vassalboro Minute**

On 5 May, Vassalboro Quarter approved a minute: "The 2018 Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival." Permanent Board heard this minute with gratitude. It will be forwarded to Sessions for consideration.

### **18-35: Travel Minutes**

Permanent Board endorsed Travel minutes for Melody Brazo, and for Vicki Elson and Tim Wallis.

### **18-36: Nominations**

Permanent Board approved the following nominations:

#### **From Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee:**

Deana Chase (Westport): Development Committee and Co-Clerk of Development Committee; Class of 2021

Note: This means that Deana Chase will step down as a member of Permanent Board (though she is still a member *ex officio* in this new role!) and that Chris Gant is now also a co-clerk of Development Committee.

#### **From the Committee for Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School:**

Carl Bogus (Providence): Moses Brown Board of Trustees: Class of 2021  
Victoria Ekk (Providence): Moses Brown Board of Trustees: Class of 2021  
Tad Jose (Alexandria): Moses Brown Board of Trustees: Class of 2021  
Ruffin Powell (Providence): Committee for Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School:  
Class of 2021

**From Permanent Board Internal Nominating Committee:**

Hannah Zwirner Forsythe (Beacon Hill): Permanent Board Recording Clerk: Class of 2021  
Will Taber (Fresh Pond): Internal Nominating Committee and Clerk of Internal Nominating  
Committee: Class of 2021  
John Reuthe (Vassalboro): Friends Camp Nominating Committee: Class of 2021

**From Clerks Nominating Committee:**

We approve forwarding the slate for the 2019 **Clerks' Table** to Sessions 2018:

Bruce Neumann (Fresh Pond): Rising Clerk: from 2018 through Sessions 2019; Presiding Clerk:  
from end of Sessions 2019 for up to three years

Gina Nortonsmith (Northampton): Reading Clerk: from end of Sessions 2018 for up to three  
years

John Humphries (Hartford): Reading Clerk: 2019 and 2020

Fritz Weiss (Hanover): Presiding Clerk: through Sessions 2019

**18-37: Memorial Minutes**

Throughout the day, we heard five more memorial minutes: for Mary Connie Lyon Comfort,  
William Wistar Comfort, Ann Cotton Levinger, George Klaus Levinger, and Connie Sattler.  
According to our good order, all six of the minutes we received today will be forwarded to  
Sessions.

**18-38: Closing Worship**

Our meeting closed in loving prayer for our dear Friend Greg Williams of Beacon Hill (MA)  
Monthly Meeting.





*Presiding Clerk report to Permanent Board*

*August 2018*

Dear Friends

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of Love and of a sound mind” II Timothy 1-7 (Quoted in the epistle from Sierra Cascade Yearly Meeting’s epistle from their first annual gathering. )

Our theme for this annual sessions includes our very human fear “In fear and trembling” and the God’s joyful power “Be bold in God’s service”. One of my tasks during June and July is to work with the reading and recording clerks to develop the agenda for this week and to touch base with the Friends bringing a concern or report in the business meetings. I am refreshed by the measured joy and confidence I hear as Friends prepare for reports and discernment on money, discipline and witness. Please read the advance documents.

C&A has met three times. This is a busy time of year for all of the members of C&A. We have prepared for sessions, supported each other, worked on the Secretary’s evaluation and have worked with the EarthCare Ministries Committee of their purpose, procedure and composition document. We are bringing the ECM committee purpose statement to this meeting for PB approval, as the that committee hopes to present it during their report this week on the continuing witness addressing climate disruption among Quakers in New England. C&A met with the RSEJ committee and their “shepherd” in July to respond to the concerns they have raised in their epistle which is included in the advance documents.

FGC has begun hosting regular conference calls among YM clerks. These calls have allowed for some sharing of disciplines, advices and challenges. NEYM is among the largest of the yearly meetings, and our annual sessions is the largest among the yearly meetings represented on the calls. One of the disciplines we have encouraged is that each clerk is praying for each annual sessions as it occurs. I enter this week knowing that there are at least a dozen YM presiding clerks praying for New England this week.

In my preparation for this week, the gospel story that has come to me is the story in Mathew when Jesus calls to the disciples to “Come” as he is walking on the water. Peter leaves the boat and walks across the water towards Jesus, until the wind and waves scare him. Then he sinks and cries out to be rescued. May we find the courage to leave our boats and walk, or swim, as we are called.

Love

Fritz Weiss  
Presiding clerk

**Earthcare Ministry Committee Purpose:**

The Earthcare Ministry Committee (EMC) envisions the Beloved Community, with a worldview that rejects human exceptionalism, and sees humanity as a part of and living in harmony with Earth. This worldview informs our awareness of the systemic interconnections between social and environmental justice and Earth's fragile human and natural ecosystems. Social injustice and the disruption of our natural ecosystems are diametrically opposed to Quaker beliefs and values. We believe that the Religious Society of Friends must take a Spirit-led, active stand against these injustices, inseparable from our other activities. We join with others who are led by the Spirit to support and strengthen "a vibrant and growing web of monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and other Friends communities, helping us to do together what we cannot do alone." In our call to justice, "we strive to obey the promptings of the Spirit to bring healing, wholeness, and transformation to ourselves and to the world." We are all connected. (quotes from NEYM Purpose Minute 2015-64)







## **Memorial Minute for Mary (Molly) Duplisea-Palmer**

May 13, 1935- April 4, 2017

Molly Duplisea-Palmer, a sweet, loving and gentle soul, who embodied great joy and caring, and endured many trials, died on April 4, 2017. In 2007 Molly was honored by the Woolman Hill Quaker Retreat Center for her devoted and inspired leadership through 20 years of journaling workshops. Her journaling prompts ranged from the whimsical: (“Write a letter to a part of your body [a fat stomach? an aching back?]”) to the profound: (“Write an unsent letter [to a child, parent, mentor]” then “Answer the unsent letter.”)

As a retreat leader, as in all she did, Molly was a devoted and gentle spirit. Her humility and authenticity, as well as her own self-disclosure, invited everyone into a loving and trusting container for deep sharing and beautiful writing – for those who were experienced, gifted writers, as well as for those who had never done any journaling or serious writing before. In the words of one retreatant: “I believe that Molly’s gentle and loving ways profoundly affected many of those who attended those weekends.”

Molly’s gift for offering a transformative and healing ministry of presence, both in individual encounters, and at her retreats, was born of her personal experience with shattering loss and unexpected joy.

Molly was born on May 13, 1935, in Waltham, MA. Although her mother had been raised Quaker, her father, an atheist, preferred long drives with the family on Sundays rather than letting them go to any church. Molly’s cousin, Margie Burckes, reflected on their growing up together: Molly sharing her tricycle with her, and them creating plays with puppets. Margie also recalled Molly’s life-long love of cats and kittens, gardening, puzzles, singing, music, dancing, and playing games. Molly loved to celebrate the holidays (particularly Christmas), and she even threw her own, balloon-filled 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party that ended with a contra dance.

Molly’s Quaker faith came to her through long family tradition. Her mother’s relatives were Friends in England who came to Pennsylvania when it was an English colony. Her ancestors had faced hanging for being Friends and were among the first Friends in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. They were involved in establishing schools, in supporting the suffrage and abolitionist movements, and they helped plan the revolution against England.

Molly’s personal Quaker faith took root as a teenager at Farm and Wilderness Camp in Vermont where she and her future husband, Eric Duplisea, experienced and absorbed Quaker process and delighted in Meeting for Worship around the campfire. She held that delight in Quakerism in her heart as she finished high school and attended Wheelock College. Central to Molly’s spirituality was her belief that war was not the

answer, and that young people and young adults deserved full attention and support from adults.

She married her first husband, Eric Duplisea, began a family, and they moved west to Ohio, and then to Indiana. Molly and Eric had three children: Catherine, Sarah, and Ric; five grandchildren; and one great grandson.

In 1969 Molly and Eric joined with Jack and Caroline Bailey to purchase a farm in Mount Holly, Vermont – Forest Echo Farm. Other families joined in this endeavor and – three generations later -- this community continues to be a valued place for families to work together, relax, and conserve and enjoy nature.

In Indiana, Molly and Eric began attending Bloomington Friends Meeting. After Eric finished his PhD degree, the family moved to Bangor, Maine. In 1972, along with Ed Snyder's mother (Mary Snyder) and Bob Coe, they established Orono Friends Meeting. Molly served Orono Friends, Vassalboro Quarter, and New England Yearly Meetings in many ways throughout her life. In the 1970's and 1980's, she oversaw a vigorous First Day School at Orono Friends, and she served as Meeting clerk for many years. Later Molly helped to establish the still thriving Fall Gathering Family Retreat of the Vassalboro Quarter, emphasizing and elevating the vital role of children and families for our Quarter.

Molly also expressed her love and concern for children in her career as a dedicated, creative, and compassionate 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. Ellen Fisher, a fellow teacher, recalled that Molly's "calm demeanor and dry sense of humor made teaching look easy." As a way of getting to know each of her students better, Molly would "invite herself" to tea at each child's home. Her kind and gentle manner opened many doors. Besides the traditional curriculum, her students were treated to spontaneous songs, poetry, many walks with nature, and decorations/costumes for all the holidays – especially Halloween when she wore her complete black witch's outfit and crept cackling down the hallway.

Molly's husband, Eric, died tragically and unexpectedly in 1987. Molly's response to Eric's death and the family tragedy of alcoholism was to devote herself to transforming the loss through participation in Al-Anon, therapy, personal spiritual deepening, journal writing, helping others to write, and through humble, open-hearted service. Molly maintained faithful spiritual friendships devoted to one-on-one prayer and worship-sharing with friends from the School of the Spirit, and other Quaker connections.

Molly's service extended to New England Yearly Meeting with a nearly unbroken record of attendance at Sessions over 30 years. During that time, she offered many journaling workshops and served on eight NEYM committees, including Ministry and Counsel, Permanent Board, Nominating, and Correspondence.

Beyond NEYM, Molly was also devoted to Friends of Kakamega and the Kakamega Orphans Care Centre in Kenya. When Molly met Kenyan Quaker Dorothy Selebwa and

learned of the plight of AIDS orphans there, Molly was moved to action. In 2002, with two other Maine Quaker women, she founded Friends of Kakamega and traveled to Kenya to meet the USFW-Kakamega women who devoted their lives to the Project. Molly served on the board of Friends of Kakamega for a number of years, bringing wisdom and loving discernment to its early years. Support from Vassalboro Quarter and many Friends in NEYM has been vital to the Project from its beginning.

Great joy came into Molly's life when she met Jim Palmer in 2002. He moved to Maine in 2003 to be with her. They were seen at Sessions laughing and beaming happily at each other as they used brightly-colored chalks to draw huge heart shapes on the sidewalk that said "Molly loves Jim" and "Jim loves Molly." In 2004 they were married in a quietly vibrant Quaker wedding followed by a potluck and a contra dance. Molly graciously wrapped her love around Jim's four daughters (Donna, Naomi, Susanna, and Maureen) and his four grandchildren.

In her later years, Molly struggled with the onset of dementia. In 2012 she wrote: "I didn't know losing my memory would be so hard and so painful." In 2014, she lay down her Orono Clerk duties: "I am noticing more and more that I am not comfortable leading a Business Meeting. I am noticing that it is difficult for me to keep on track -- VERY different from decades ago when my brain was very sharp." For years, Molly's peaceful presence in silent meeting could be felt by many. She continued to attend Quaker Meeting almost to the end. She is deeply missed by all who experienced the warm sunshine of her presence, kindness, and wisdom.

April 8, 2018 – Approved by Orono Friends Meeting

May 5, 2018 – Approved by Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting

**Georgana Falb Foster**  
May 15, 1928 – July 2, 2017

Georgana (Gee) Falb Foster grew up in Elgin, Iowa, daughter of George Henry Falb and Myrtle Marie (Kerr) Falb, both second-generation immigrants. In sharing her spiritual journey at Mt. Toby Meeting in 2001, she said she thought of it “in terms of the communities of Christian faith which I have been a part of. These nourished me and gave me the company of others who were trying to discover how they could have comfort and the companionship of others and then perhaps reach out to the world.”

In that talk she described some of these communities and how they nurtured her: a childhood in the Methodist Church in a small Iowa town, mentors in Campfire Girls, her college years with the Wesley Foundation and the Methodist student movement, her time in India with a cohort of Methodists who were short-term missionaries, and the sisterhood there of the feminist missionary women, and a number of British universalist Quakers. It was also in India that she met “my life’s spiritual partner and lover, John Foster.” Finally came the community of several Friends Meetings, mainly Mt. Toby, which she helped found and where she worshipped for over 50 years.

She and John Foster married under the care of Providence, RI, Monthly Meeting in 1954. When they married, she became part of a long line of New England Quakers, one where – in John’s words – “women did things.” Gee joined Friends shortly after and began a lifelong interest in Quaker history, particularly the role of women in that history.

When they settled in Leverett, Massachusetts, in 1956, they quickly became active in the Middle Connecticut Valley Monthly Meeting of Friends and dedicated themselves to building a community for their children and children of many other local attenders from Amherst, Northampton, Greenfield, and other area towns. Even though Quaker families lived far from each other, monthly gatherings and picnics were useful in helping them all come to the realization that a single meeting and a meeting space was their goal. The Fosters’ two sons, Ethan and Joshua, were among the children who benefitted from the creation of a single Friends meeting in the Amherst area, as it developed into Mt. Toby Monthly Meeting of Friends, the name it took when its meetinghouse was completed in 1964.

Gee appreciated the gradual progress of building a Quaker community in the Amherst area and had a passion for relating this evolution to more recent members and attenders of Mt. Toby Meeting. Eventually she wrote *The History of Mt. Toby Meeting, Volume 2: 1954 – 1990s*, continuing Helen Griffith’s *History of the First Twenty Years of Mt. Toby Meeting (1939 to 1959)*, which expanded into *The History of Mt. Toby Meeting, Volume 1*.

Over the decades, Gee served Mt. Toby Meeting on many committees: Meetinghouse, Ministry & Worship, Peace & Social Concerns, Trustees, and Newsletter. Her deep interest in meeting history guided her work in her later years in the work of the History and Records Committee in collecting and storing meeting records. For the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mt. Toby Meeting, she led the History and Records Committee in relating the story of the founding of the meeting, to the delight of newcomers and old-timers alike. A parallel interest in the lives of individuals at Mt. Toby led her to create a bulletin board where she regularly posted clippings with news of what

both children and adults were doing in our wider communities. We appreciate the variety of ways she connected us to our history, to our activities outside the meeting, and to each other.

She also nurtured our connections to the broader Quaker world. Her many years as the liaison to Friends Committee on National Legislation and as an attender with John at FCNL annual meetings kept us abreast of political issues needing our action. She and John were also faithful attenders at New England Yearly Meeting and kept us informed of NEYM activities. Her presentations at NEYM on the history of Quaker women offered the fruits of her own research and experience among Friends.

Beginning in 1974, she served for six years as NEYM's representative to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) at a moment when the world body was increasing its awareness of Friends in the whole Western Hemisphere. FWCC – Section of the Americas was so named in these years, and the FWCC Triennial in 1976 was held in Canada. Gee was involved in planning a pre-conference to that Triennial in China, Maine with the topic, "The significance of Rufus Jones."

Gee's work with Methodists in India led her to an awareness of the tradition of Hindu goddesses, which became a profound interest throughout her life. She was intrigued by their statues and folk art, which she collected. To better understand the iconography and art history of the items, she took a number of courses, eventually earning a second bachelor's degree with a self-designed program in the worship and folk art of the Hindu goddesses. Her senior project was an exhibit, "Faces of the Goddess: Folk Images of the Female Divinity in India," which was installed by Mount Holyoke College in 1988. Other items from her Hindu goddesses collection of folk art, now housed at The University of Iowa, have been displayed in seven museum exhibits.

Gee enjoyed the life of the meeting in all its forms. She consistently participated in monthly meeting and provided her perspective on a wide range of agenda items brought forward for discussion. She enjoyed her role as "the memory of the meeting" and shared her love for the community by telling stories from our history. In her messages in worship, she often provided an historical perspective to the issues of the day. Gee had an unforgettable personal style: without pretense, forthright, often opinionated, and warm.

approved by Mount Toby Monthly Meeting  
for forwarding to Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting  
April 8, 2018

approved for forwarding to New England Yearly Meeting Permanent Board  
by Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting  
May 6, 2018

Susan Vargo, clerk

## Philip Haines

July 19, 1945 - September 23, 2017

Family and Friends recognize how much his deep Quaker roots shaped Phil Haines' life and character. He was a birthright member of Moorestown (NJ) Friends Meeting in an area of Quaker settlement that included his own ancestors in the late 1600s. Phil went to Moorestown Friends School (NJ) and later, in 1963, graduated from Westtown Friends School (PA), as did Phil's sons later. Phil enjoyed sharing reminiscences of his childhood Meeting and Quaker upbringing. Both influences nourished an energetic and loving way of being in the world, both in Quaker activity and in the wider community. Phil's parents also nourished the awareness of a loving presence in the environment, taking the family on trips hiking and exploring Maine, a state that would come to be central in his life.

Compassionate interest in healthy environment and public resources was reflected in Phil's studies. After high school, he obtained a B.S. from Union College (1967) in chemistry, and a Master's in chemistry from Purdue (1969). Years later a doctorate in Public Health from University of North Carolina, enabled Phil to advance to greater responsibilities in his work in Maine public health.

The Viet Nam era also led to further leadings in his life. His CO alternative service sent him to work in the Yale University Bio-chemistry lab. Someone very important was completing her Master's in Biochemistry there at the time: a young woman from Connecticut named Susan Pitcher. Sue completed her work at Yale when Phil went on to another CO assignment, but they were married in 1970 and in 1972 made their move to Maine. "We knew that we liked it there already," Sue recalls. Earlier she had studied at Bates College. It was then Phil began a career as a chemist in Maine public health.

The birth of their two sons, Josh and Seth, gave the couple the opportunity to pass on their love of nature. The family enjoyed hiking, canoeing, and sailing. When their sons entered school, Sue volunteered there and soon pursued certification to begin a career in teaching.

Maine also brought them a new Quaker home: Vassalboro Friends Meeting. Here their loving presence was invaluable. As in their youth, their spiritual role was nourished by service. Phil served frequently as treasurer and member of the Property and Finance Committee. Phil met these roles with kindly energy.

His warm humor and spirit nourished their local community, as well. Echoing early family values, Phil served in the fire department, the board of selectmen, the ambulance board and other activities. In this he was inspired by family models, such as Grandfather Maurice Haines who served in the Medford, NJ, fire department and Rotary Club and even became mayor. Phil's Uncle Everett and other forbears served in many similar roles.

Phil's knowledge of his Maine community, its resources, and history, was invaluable to Vassalboro Friends. If services were needed, Phil knew whom to contact. He was "the go to guy," and "the Repository of Knowledge," committee members reflected. Phil also encouraged committees "to record what we know and what we did, so that others might better support future needs." Friends recall moments of physical plant crisis when Phil appeared and calmly reflected that he thought he knew what was amiss. He then disappeared to spot and solve the problem. He knew the legal issues of building capacity, leach field limits, town parking regulations and more. A Friend finds she still keeps thinking: "Oh, we'll have to ask Phil about that."

His contributions to the meeting were also spiritual. "He spoke with loving patience and feeling in worship, and afterwards," a Friend recalls; "his antennae were up regarding the needs of members," to be especially mindful of welcoming new

attenders. Often he spoke first in opening a “Meeting for Worship in Celebration of the Life” of a departed Friend.

Phil gave his gifts with a Quaker spirit. As treasurer, he was consulted by a committee seeking to offer financial help to a Friend in need. The committee knew its own coffers were low. Phil did not pause to check a budget but simply answered, “Just tell me what you need. You’ll have it.”

Among those who spoke of Phil at his passing was Angus King, who, in his administration as Maine’s governor, knew Phil in his role as Deputy Director of the Bureau of Public Health. King’s memories include a description of this dedicated and loving Friend that resonates with those who knew Phil. “His shoulder was always to the wheel, but with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his lips . . . The people of Maine (and I) have lost someone special.”

Approved by Vassalboro Friends Meeting 29 April 2018;

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting 5 May 2018



Born on August 23, 1923 to James Hoge Ricks and Anne (Ryland) Ricks, Arnold attended an Episcopal Day school before graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Haverford College (class of 1945, degree awarded 1948) and earning an A. M. in European History from Harvard University in 1954.

Arnold's Quaker roots stretch back to the 17<sup>th</sup> C when a forebear, Isaac Ricks, immigrated to Virginia and there served as first co-clerk of the Virginia Yearly Meeting in the 1680's. Arnold's lifelong engagement in affairs both of the world and of the spirit drew sustenance from examples in his own family, most immediately his father, whom in addition to his role as clerk of the Richmond Friends Meeting and the Baltimore Yearly Meeting was a pioneering judge in the field of juvenile justice reforms. Arnold drew on that embedded history as he sought to live out Friends ways in every aspect of his life.

Arnold brought the scholar and teacher's insistence on precision to his deep Quaker knowledge and sensibility. He was insistent on accuracy of fact, name or punctuation as he also could draw on scripture or the writings of George Fox, Isaac Pennington or Thomas Kelly in a way that could anchor a meeting for worship or help root a quotidian discussion in the workings of the spirit. He had a craftsman's patience that could, for example, in his civic life as a village trustee of Old Bennington lead to the beautiful stone drainage for the streets of Old Bennington, or, the slow consideration over many meetings of the evolution of the minute on same sex unions. His ability to take on and patiently query a contentious or intemperate stance brought a peaceableness to any decision. He framed decision-making in the deliberative process of Quakerism, with a frequent invocation of the nature of the search for truth as one of "continuous revelation."

Arnold's experience as a conscientious objector in the second world war signals the rigor with which he lived out Quaker testimonies. After alternate service stints dynamiting – the dynamite carried on his back – and planting trees, he volunteered for a hepatitis experiment, contracting the disease. But Arnold still saw these services as insufficient in the light of the great suffering of the war and could offer the self-deprecating remark, "I think I had gotten off rather lightly." What then followed immediately after his graduation from Haverford was a two-year stint (1948-50) with the American Friends Service Committee under the aegis of the British Friends Service Council in Cologne, Germany.

Above all, Arnold lived with grace. He met everyone and every encounter with an open countenance, eager to understand and appreciate the person in front of him, or the idea on offer. His grasp was immediate and acute, but always used as a tool for understanding, alert to the many layers any view might embrace. He used that gift to move us beyond the merely pragmatic to a true achievement of unity.

Perhaps a most telling evocation of Arnold came from a young friend who has since moved to the west coast and who wrote, "*While I did not know Arnold well, I thought of him often as an example of what I would like to become. People who have met the Dalai Lama often write about the undivided attention [he gives] when listening. He listens with his whole body, people say, and the awareness that he is hearing, digesting and contemplating every word spoken to him has a profound impact on those with*

*whom he meets. This is exactly how I felt when first meeting Arnold. Not only is Arnold fully present in the deepest sense, but humility and empathy are so fully engrained in his character that his words immediately indicate the reflection, compassion, and intention that formed them. I learned from Arnold a deeper meaning for these words – humility, empathy, reflection, compassion, intention – and how they can become embodied in both ideology and personality. I will miss him, but more than that, I will always be glad and grateful that his light touched mine.”*