

Memorial Minutes ~ 2020 ~

NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

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.

Eileen Babcock (1951–2018)
Alexander Banks (1961–2017)
Lois Pitkin Booth (1922–2019)
Severyn Bruyn (1927–2019)
Bainbridge Davis (1940–2019)
Shawn Donovan (1947–2018)
Robert First (1922–2019)
Ruth Gates (1927–2019)
David Holdt (1941–2019)
Natalie Kempner (1924–2019)
Mary Mangelsdorf (1927–2018)
Paul Mangelsdorf Jr (1925–2015)
Clarabel Marstaller (1922–2019)
Michael Meller (1935–2016)
Anne Moore (1929–2019)
Elizabeth “Brad” Noel (1930–2019)
Stella Penzer (1921–2018)
Jean Robinson (1927–2017)
Leon “Jack” Ross (1928–2019)
Marlee Turner (1933–2018)
Gregory Williams (1949–2019)
Paul Zorn (1927–2016)

Eileen Babcock
June 17, 1951 – March 20, 2018



It is with real sadness that we announce the passing of Eileen Babcock, who had been a member of Durham Friends Monthly Meeting for the greater part of her life. Eileen grew up in the Meeting, participating in Sunday school and vacation Bible school. She was active in many Meeting committees and activities, including trustees, the Women's Society, youth groups, and benefit dinners for the Kakamega Orphans Care Center. At the time of her death, she was the trustee in charge of the Meeting's cemeteries. She was deeply committed to following God's will and doing her best for the Meeting. She was always there to lend a hand in whatever was needed.

Eileen was active in the Durham community, working at town elections, helping organize the local Republican Town Committee, and holding at different times every elected office in the Durham Extension Homemakers.

After a brief teaching career, Eileen was a helper. She took care of her parents and other family members, and many, many others.

Eileen really enjoyed helping, experimenting with new recipes, walking with family members, and making cider with her father.

She was a giving, sharing, extremely private person, who is greatly missed.

Eileen is survived by her significant other, Tommie Frye; by her brothers Wilbert and Jerel and Jerel's wife Sheila Babcock, sister Priscilla Wormwood, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Francis and Vivian Babcock, and her sister Sylvia Davis.

DURHAM MONTHLY MEETING
FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING

Alexander W. Banks
(August 14, 1961–December 18, 2017)



Alexander W. Banks, a kind and gentle light, passed from this life on December 18, 2017. Alex was a skilled and compassionate lawyer, a generous and engaged teacher of law and, most important, a loving father and friend. He was a thoughtful man who reserved judgment of others and believed in seeing the good in everyone. His life reflected his sensitivity and commitment to people in need through his professional practices and in the ways he conducted his life. As a lifelong Quaker, Alex demonstrated a heartfelt interest in helping those less fortunate. He was devoted to equality and employed his legal skills to the benefit of humanity. Alex loved others, but sadly found it difficult to find love for himself. And alas, it was too much alcohol and a bout with *E.coli* that took Alex from this world.

Alex was devoted to his family. He and Sheilagh Smith were married under the care of Swarthmore Friends Meeting on August 12, 2000; their marriage was later made legal by a Baptist minister on Prince Edward Island. They began attending Hanover Friends Meeting in 2001; Carter was born in 2002 and Cole was born in 2004. Alex attended meeting for worship as his busy life allowed and nourished his Quaker roots in worship. His ministry was always welcomed and often reflected his gratitude for his family. Carter and Cole were often in worship, nestled in their parents' laps, before time to leave for the children/youth programs.

Alex and Sheilagh's marriage dissolved in 2006 and they divorced in 2008. Throughout this time, both were accepting of the support provided by the Meeting in helping them to listen to and use their Quaker values and inner beliefs as a guide to their interactions and process of divorce. It was not always smooth, but both remained involved in the Meeting. Sometimes Alex worshipped with us but often helped in the kitchen to prepare the morning snack. He loved his sons and tried to be sure they got

to the activities and events that fed and nurtured them—both within and outside the Meeting. Alex adored spending time with his sons.

Alex was born in Philadelphia, PA, on August 14, 1961, the second child of the late Richard W. Banks and Ruth Alexander Hipple. He graduated from The Hill School, and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in 1983 from Bates College and a Juris Doctor degree in 1987 from Vermont Law School, where he was a member of the National Lawyers Guild and Women's Law Group. He was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 1987, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania in 1987, the Vermont Bar Association in 1995, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont in 1996.

From 1987 to 1995 he served as a staff attorney and eventually as a managing attorney at Northwestern Legal Services, assisting many low-income clients. Alex also wrote and implemented one of Pennsylvania's first countywide, mandatory pro-bono plans requiring members of the county bar to provide free legal assistance to low-income individuals. From 1995 to 2017 Alex taught at Vermont Law School (VLS) and served as a staff attorney at the South Royalton Legal Clinic, where he advocated for victims of domestic violence and children. He designed and implemented the clinic's Children First! legal advocacy program, which provides representation to children involved in difficult family proceedings, and served as a mentor to countless VLS student clinicians. He served on several county and state boards and committees organized to confront domestic violence and work toward judicial reform. Alex received numerous awards and certificates of appreciation, including the Outstanding Victim Advocate Award in 2000 from the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services and Vermont Domestic Violence Network. In 2005, he was recognized by the Vermont Supreme Court for Service to Children in Vermont Family Court, and recognized again in 2008 and 2011 by the Vermont Supreme Court for his advocacy and training with the Vermont Guardian-ad-Litem Program. Throughout his professional life, Alex was devoted to serve those in need and those without a voice—without the strength to fight for themselves.

His own hearing difficulty seemed to help him in his dealings with others who struggled with some difficulty, while it was, at times, difficult for him to navigate a career based on intense and frequent communication demands. He did so well.

Alex was a quiet, passionate, sensitive, compassionate, empathic, loving, and caring man. But indeed, he was also a complex man. While he often acted in service to others, Alex was always too hard on himself. He struggled with alcoholism for years, which dimmed his bright Light and contributed to his death. We can learn from his struggle and are better for having had him as a part of our faith community. He leaves behind his two boys, Carter and Cole, who are active members of our Young Friends

group. Hanover Friends Meeting continues to hold them in the Light as they move forward in life, with their father in spirit.

HANOVER MONTHLY MEETING

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Lois Pitkin Booth
June 14, 1922 – September 13, 2019



Lois Pitkin Booth, born in 1922, passed away in September 2019, having lived a long, inspiring life. She was raised in a Methodist family and in the 1950s she became an early member of the newly formed Concord (NH) Friends Meeting.

Lois was the fire that kept Concord Friends Meeting warm with her core belief in Love's power and her indomitable optimism. She was joyfully welcoming to all. She had a wonderfully inclusive ability to draw out strengths and gifts of service from others. In her humble way, she was able to step aside and let others assume leadership once they showed interest. She led by example and through her countercultural life modeled the change that she wanted to see in the world.

Lois started the Meeting's First Day School program with the central value that every child feel loved. The Meeting grew as families were drawn to the culture of love and respect that she cultivated with her gentle compassion. She promoted music and hymns as an important way for children to connect with the Spirit, believing that these songs would provide a resource they could draw upon for the rest of their lives. Thus, singing became a regular part of First Day School. This led to the whole Meeting singing together before unprogrammed worship, which has become an important Spirit-building part of our Meeting.

Lois was a strong supporter of families; in the Meeting and in her extended family she was an advocate for communication and expression of feelings as a way to strengthen family relationships. Ever sensitive to the feelings of others, she made sure that people felt welcome in Meeting regardless of their ability to contribute financially, reminding us that we all bring diverse gifts to the community. Don and Lois' commitment to their 65-year marriage was an inspiration, as was her patient care for her father in her home in the last years of his life.

Lois' witness in the world grew out of her compassion for others, her belief in the transforming power of love, and her keen awareness of inequality and injustice in its many forms. Her deep faith in a loving God centered her actions and witness. Her commitment to peace led to war tax resistance, starting with the Korean War. She was a person willing to speak truth to power, and a gentle yet persistent force for peace and justice. From the Nuclear Test Ban movement through the steady stream of wars and military actions since then, Lois was there organizing and educating. She believed that citizens would respond well to good information and that education would lead to positive change. She also was clerk of Peace and Social Concerns Committee for years.

Lois was a key force behind opening a New Hampshire office of the AFSC in 1978; she organized Canterbury Citizens for Peace and Justice in 1981 and she helped found New Hampshire Peace Action in 1982. For over two decades, Lois focused her energy on NH Peace Action as a full-time volunteer and lead fundraiser.

Lois concentrated on the root causes of problems rather than on the symptoms. She had a keen sense of how to motivate and organize people in order to not only achieve a purpose but also build community. We learned from her the lesson of the importance of food, music, and fun to engage us in community as we work for change.

Lois raised six children in their no-frills country home built by her husband, Don, who conscientiously opposed war and performed Alternative Service during World War II. Their yearning for deep relationships with others led them in the 1950s to try living in several intentional communities around the country. To our great benefit they always returned to Canterbury to deepen their roots there, where they lived from 1951 until 2003 when she and Don moved to the Havenwood Retirement Community in Concord. "Living simply so that others may simply live" was her way, not just a motto.

Lois loved to garden. It was a natural part of living simply. She grew a large portion of their vegetables, baked her own bread, and was committed to healthy eating, feeding her family whole grains and sprouts and vegetarian meals long before it was fashionable or common. She maintained an extensive flower garden and regularly brought a beautiful array of flowers to Meeting, another way of sharing God's bounty. She offered wholesome meals and a bed to many who came to the Concord area to try out lifestyles that earned them little money. She and Don joyfully shared their cars, their tools, their labor, and the fruits of her garden with others in need. The way they so freely shared was an expression of their love and sense of community. This generosity was a deep inspiration to many.

Although Lois was highly intelligent and a college graduate, she put her family, the Meeting community, and her peace work ahead of paid work outside the home. She did become a realtor and, as such, gave spe-

cial attention to the appropriate use of the land, making wise purchases and then reselling to good people for good purposes whenever possible.

Lois and Don's generous spirit was also evidenced in their gift of land on the Merrimack River to the town of Canterbury, to become the town beach and the Riverland Conservation Area. Our meetinghouse would not have been built without their generosity. First, Lois's offer of land reignited a languishing meetinghouse project. Then when that plot proved too small, an organization to whom the Booths had previously donated another, larger tract of land, gifted a portion of it to the Meeting which is where the meetinghouse now sits—a powerful demonstration of the ripple effect of Lois and Don's witness of love and generosity.

One of Lois' greater gifts was her tolerance in the face of conflict. Many learned about Quaker ways from her creative responses to interpersonal conflict and her loving acceptance toward all people, particularly difficult people and those with mental illness. She fully embodied the concept of "let peace begin with me" in her interpersonal relationships and within the Meeting, the community, and the world.

Lois trusted in the power of prayer; for example, she suggested that members of the Religious Education Committee pray for Meeting children individually. Wisdom born from difficulty and hardship in her own life attracted others to seek her counsel. They were always met with compassion and prayers. She believed completely in a loving God, and often said that God is Love. Even in her last years, she gave vocal ministry of the loving words of Jesus.

Lois was never frustrated or bitter as her body and mind aged. She remained cheerful to the end. Lois' understanding of the importance of spiritual education for children, her leadership in peace and justice issues, and her personal warmth helped to make the Concord Friends Meeting a welcoming place that has attracted other Spirit-led people for generations.

Lois Booth's example continues to shine brightly in the lives of those who knew her. Many of us have asked ourselves, "How would Lois deal with this problem?" finding Light and courage in the answer.

CONCORD MONTHLY MEETING

DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING

Severyn T. Bruyn
October 26, 1927 – May 26, 2019



Severyn T. Bruyn, a noted college professor, vibrant peace activist, and long-time member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge, passed away peacefully on May 26, 2019, in the presence of his beloved wife and partner-in-life, Louise Muenzer Bruyn, and other family members. Sev died at home, in the Newton, MA, house where he and Louise had lived for more than 50 years.

Sev was born in Minneapolis, MN, in 1927. At one point during the Great Depression, his father lost his job, and Sev and his mother and sister went to live with relatives in California; from then on, Sev loved watching waves come in and playing in the water close to the shore.

Back in the Midwest after his father again found employment, Sev pursued his love of water and, during high school, won the Illinois state championship for high diving.

Sev and Louise met when they were students at the University of Illinois, where Sev took his B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees, and Louise trained to be a teacher. Family lore has it that one day, while Sev and Louise worked waiting tables at a dormitory cafeteria, he asked her out. “I have a date,” Louise famously replied, “but I can break it.” That first date led to 67 years of marriage and 3 children—Rebecca, Susan, and George, whom Sev and Louise adopted when he was 11. Sev was so busy teaching and writing during his children’s growing up that he was not often a hands-on father, but a story his daughters tell captures his spirit of play as a dad. One summer, to free Louise to teach dance for several weeks at a summer camp in Michigan, Sev drove with the three children to California. They camped along the way. When mosquitoes swarmed and pestered at one memorable picnic lunch, Sev saved the day by giving each mosquito a name. He addressed the mosquitoes as friends in such a comical way that his daughters remember a lunchtime of uproarious laughter.

Shortly after their 1951 marriage, Sev and Louise joined the small Friends meeting at the Champagne-Urbana campus of the University of Illinois. “They were a fine little group,” Louise remembers. “They drew us in, made us feel welcome, told us what they were working on, let us join in.” During the several years that Sev taught at Illinois College in Jacksonville, they found their way to a small Quaker group that met for worship in people’s houses. When they moved their family east so that Sev could teach at Boston College, they transferred their membership to Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC), and they have been with us ever since.

Not long after they joined the FMC community, Louise experienced a leading to walk the 450 miles from Newton, MA, to Washington, DC, in 45 days, to protest U.S. expansion of the Vietnam War to Laos. “I said to Sev that somebody ought to walk to Washington and tell them they should stop this war. He looked at me and quietly said ‘That’s what it might take.’ Immediately, I got up and began looking for our maps.” Sev supported Louise in this leading, start to finish.

As a professor, Sev was far from an ivory-tower academic. Louise recalls the beginnings of his groundbreaking form of scholarship: During several years of teaching at Illinois College, Sev did research on teens in trouble, known at the time as “delinquents.” “He developed an idea of how to work with them, not just scold [or study] them ... we felt it was a more Quakerly way.” The young people came to the house, made themselves comfortable, put their feet up on the living room furniture. “It was Sev’s way of working with them,” Louise says with a smile. Sev’s research approach evolved into “participant observation,” a method that changed the field of sociology. He wanted sociologists not simply to analyze social problems, but to tackle them as well. Louise remembers him in the same Illinois living room, “lying on the floor with his head down, surrounded by books, using a typewriter or scribbling on paper.” That book, his second, was *The Human Perspective in Sociology: The Methodology of Participation Observation*. It helped to land him the coveted job at the Boston College (BC) Department of Sociology, where he would teach, write, and organize for social justice, democracy, and peace for many decades to come.

At BC, Sev continued to marry scholarship and activism. When worker-owned businesses became a center of his inquiry, for example, Sev worked on an ownership overhaul of a Massachusetts factory. As a teacher, according to a former student, Sev was “warm, welcoming, enthusiastic, curious, thoughtful—pretty much simultaneously.” He was “rigorous” in scholarship, and “intellectually passionate.” A former dissertation advisee recalls how Sev inspired her towards study and action for nonviolent social change. “Sev not only did no harm,” she says, “he showed how to do good.” In addition to teaching and advising, Sev helped to develop BC’s signature Leadership for Change program. Among his many academic grants, awards, and recognitions, standouts include a National Institute of

Mental Health (NIMH) grant of \$200,000 to support 18 Sociology Ph.D. students (1979); the Alpha Sigma Nu, National Jesuit Honor Society, Social Science Award for A Future for the American Economy (1991); and a celebration of his career contributions at a joint meeting of the American Sociological Association and the Society for the Study of Social Problems (2011). Fueling this illustrious career, and grounding all his work, was what a long-time colleague recalls as “Sev’s indomitable hope, his deep belief that the future can be more just.”

A “gentle giant of a man,” Sev was committed to mobilizing for peace. Having served briefly in the U.S. Army stateside towards the end of World War II, he became a stalwart and vigorous member of the Boston Chapter of Veterans for Peace, known as the Smedley Butler Brigade. A fellow member recalls, “In many ways Sev was the conscience, if not the heart, of our chapter of Veterans for Peace.” At Smedley events, Sev spoke, read poetry, and even performed stand-up comedy to raise funds. His consistent, heart-felt message was that war is fought and suffered by the many to benefit the very few. As he told a young journalist at BC in 1980, “You have to stand up for what you believe, right down to your toes.”

Sev’s retirement in 2000 led to no diminution of activity, but rather to a riotous creativity that included writing a novel about the future of higher education, as well as painting, throwing pots, and sculpting. After learning to write music on the computer, Sev composed and produced musical pieces that ranged from famous poems set to song, to an oratorio on nonviolent direct action, to “The Song of Evolution,” a musical debate between poets and scientists, performed at Boston College in 2010. In all, as a friend wrote, “the energy that came from him was astonishing. He was involved with just about everything that a person with a heart of gold could be.”

During their decades in Newton, Sev and Louise’s family grew. Rebecca married Cindy Rosenbaum; Susan married Michael Collyer (now deceased), and they had a son, Matthew Collyer; George added two grandchildren to the family circle—Sev Bruyn (Jr.) and Tiffany Brister—and later partnered with June Epperson.

During his early and middle years at FMC, Sev’s chief Quaker service was with the American Friends Service Committee. After retirement, Sev joined Meeting activities with gusto. He was a steady presence in morning worship until the very last weeks of his life, sitting side-by-side with Louise. He rose, when moved, to speak with awe and joy of his unfolding spiritual adventure—even, at least once, to dance. Sev was a regular, too, in Afterthoughts, where he listened intently to every speaker and shared his own wisdom from a lifetime of social justice, teaching, and activism. A Friend recalls saying to Sev, “If I get to heaven and find it’s all you say it is, Sev, then I will be so delighted.” Sev responded passionately, “You will! You will!”

We were lifted by Sev's passion for justice and his generous versatility, by his sense of humor, his exuberant laughter, and his infectious love of music. A fellow Vet for Peace remembers, "When we would have our fundraisers at Johnny D's in Somerville and the band would start playing, the first one onto the floor was Sev. If music was playing Sev couldn't keep still." As Louise said, "Sev loved the sound of the drum." How fitting that a drumming circle closed his memorial meeting for worship at FMC.

We imagine that Sev is finding heaven to be all he'd hoped. We miss his great spirit immensely.

FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Bainbridge H. Davis
June 28, 1940 – November 24, 2019



Beloved member of Bennington Monthly Meeting Bainbridge H. Davis, 79, passed away on November 24, 2019, in Scarborough, ME.

Bain was born in Washington, DC, to Bainbridge C. Davis and Virginia H. Davis on June 28, 1940. He went to school at Sidwell Friends and St. Albans in Washington, DC, and graduated from Oakwood Friends in Poughkeepsie, NY. He graduated from Drew University and continued at Drew in seminary, during which he served as student pastor for three Methodist churches. He was recorded as a Minister among Friends in Chicago Monthly Meeting.

Bain taught and raised funds for the Ecumenical Institute and the Institute of Cultural Affairs for 15 years. He also was involved in Quaker education, both as a teacher and fundraiser at Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie. Bain served as a community developer and was involved with the Greater Bennington Interfaith Council, where he worked to help set up the free health clinic. He served on the Faith and Practice Revision Committee of New England Yearly Meeting, as well as on the board of Woolman Hill Conference Center. He also worked on a cooperative project with Southern Vermont College, teaching a world religions course. His ministry included writing several articles for the weekly Sunday “Speaking of Religion” column in the *Bennington Banner*.

Bain is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marjorie Hawes; sons Henry, Shawn and his wife Maria and their son Ryan, and Kirk and his wife Miriam; and sister Dana, along with several nephews and nieces.

Bain is remembered primarily as a bridge between groups and an ambassador for Quakers. Although for much of his life he considered himself Quaker, he was also involved with Methodists, the United Church of Christ, Episcopalians, and the Bennington interfaith group. He never considered himself Quaker to the exclusion of anything else but repre-

sented the best of Quakerism. He was committed to a deep concern for inequality between people and the violence and oppression that are used to maintain that inequality.

In his own words, “I began life as a Friend/Quaker and remain so today with a brief interlude as a Methodist and then UCC pastor. But spirituality for me is much deeper and broader than institutional religion. Whatever story you live out of is one of the most critical factors of our individual and collective journeys—along with the symbols we use to help us remember what’s really important.”

BENNINGTON MONTHLY MEETING

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Shawn Donovan
July 13, 1947 – February 19, 2018



Hanover Friends lost our member Shawn Donovan, 70, suddenly, on February 19, 2018. Raised in the Catholic church, Shawn first attended Hanover Friends Meeting in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Subsequently, he and his wife Margaret chose the Unitarian path for their family and helped to found the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley in Norwich, VT. He loved his extended family and his children, Elias and Sarah, and maintained a warm friendship with Margaret in the years after their marriage ended in 1996.

Shawn returned to Hanover Friends in the early 2000s and became a member in 2004. He brought great energy, diverse skills, and passionate social activism to his work within and beyond the meeting for the 15 years that remained to him.

From an early age, Shawn was acutely aware of injustice. He named as his heroes Daniel Berrigan, whom he met in his high school years, and Dorothy Day, with whom he worked in the Catholic Worker Center in New York. Passionately opposed to the Vietnam War, he dropped out of the College of the Holy Cross to work with the Catholic resistance to the war, only returning several years later to complete his degree. In 1972 Shawn co-founded the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker's Center in Worcester, MA. His association with this organization, whose members provide services to those in need while aiming to live according to spiritual values, continued through monthly trips for board meetings and service activities until his death.

He was a dedicated member of groups providing free monthly community dinners through the LISTEN organization in Lebanon, NH, annual luncheons for local senior citizens through the Black Community Center in Hanover, NH, and suppers at Dismas House in Hartford, VT.

Shawn's search for truth in reading, in various faith communities, and annual retreats at St. Joseph's Abbey, a Trappist monastery in Spencer,

MA, fed his spirituality. It was many years before Hanover Meeting Friends knew the depth of Shawn's roots in social justice work. We learned that his suspicion of today's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents grew from his personal experience in the early '70s, when the Catholic anti-war community he worked with to remove draft files from Selective Service offices was infiltrated and raided by federal agents. Long quiet about these activities, in the '90s Shawn came to understand their importance in the Vietnam War resistance and to share stories of his involvement with family, friends, and colleagues. In the 2000s, Shawn was proud to speak as an authority on Dorothy Day at a national conference in Miami.

A concern for the environment, developed and nurtured by summers spent on the Maine coast in his youth, life close to the land in New England in young adulthood, and study at Antioch New England, influenced his career in planning, engineering, and construction management. His activities helped lead to the development of several regional planning commissions and the creation of Advance Transit, which provides free bus service to riders in the Upper Valley.

Shawn used his planning skills and sense of justice when he worked with Rita McCaffrey, founder of two Dismas Houses in Vermont, to bring this program to our area. A Dismas House program provides supportive transitional housing for people recently released from prison. Overcoming much public resistance, Dismas House of the Upper Valley opened in Hartford, VT, in 2014. Shawn spoke with pride of the success of many Dismas House residents, whose recidivism rate was markedly lower than that of others who had not completed its program.

His commitment to the value of each person and the protection of vulnerable and marginalized people propelled other projects as well. When homeless people congregating in Lebanon became the subject of police monitoring, Shawn insisted that homelessness is a community problem, not a police issue, and organized efforts to help these homeless people. He collected warm clothes and camping equipment, and one winter he housed a homeless person for several months. He encouraged the development of housing for chronically homeless and very-low-income people, and would have been happy to see the opening of the Parkhurst building in downtown Lebanon in June 2018.

In recent years, Shawn trained as a facilitator of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), begun 30 years earlier when inmates at Green Haven Prison in New York State asked local Quakers to help them teach incarcerated youth to face the anger that led to their imprisonment and to resolve disputes without violence. Shawn served as a facilitator to AVP groups in prisons in Norfolk and Gardner, MA, and engaged other members of Hanover Friends in this work.

HANOVER MONTHLY MEETING

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Robert Stanley First
September 19, 1922 – May 25, 2019



Robert Stanley First (“Bob”) quietly passed away early Saturday morning, May 25, 2019. Bob was 96 years old at the time of his death and was surrounded by members of his family.

Bob was born on September 19, 1922, in Mt. Vernon, NY, the younger son of Lewis and Ruth (Gross) First. The Great Depression that occurred during his youth shaped Bob and set much of the course of his life. He was a serious student and loved mathematics, attending the University of Iowa, where he worked as a waiter to pay his way while earning his Bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering. Bob enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 and served on several ships as an electronic technician’s mate. He was honorably discharged in June 1946 following his last tour.

Bob moved to New York City, where he met and eventually married Nancy Genevieve Belcher of Darien, CT, in May 1955. They celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary just days before his death.

Bob and Nancy moved to Wilmington, DE, where their first child, Ginger Lee, was born. It was also in Wilmington that Bob and Nancy discovered a Friends Meeting where they began their lifelong devotion to the Quaker faith. Bob started a consulting firm in New York City and the family moved to Mt. Kisco, NY, where they had their second child, Katherine Ann. Mt. Kisco is where they raised their girls and made their home until 1992. They also joined and became deeply involved in the Quaker community at the Purchase (NY) Friends Meeting.

Bob returned to school to earn his Master’s degree in business administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Bob loved international travel and his consulting firm, Robert S. First, Inc. was very successful, expanding to offices in Brussels and Tokyo. Bob retired in 1991.

Bob and Nancy moved to Olympia, WA, in 1992 to live near family. Bob was an avid hiker and took advantage of many fantastic hikes in the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges. After ten years of being in community with family and Quaker friends in Olympia, they returned to the east to be near daughter Katherine and her family in Leeds.

Northampton was Bob's home for the remaining 17 years of his life, where he attended Northampton Friends Meeting, transferring his membership from Olympia Friends Meeting to Northampton in 2006. He enjoyed his grandchildren, continued to sip piping-hot coffee while reading the *New York Times* from cover to cover, and took over the job of shopping and cooking. Bob loved dogs and enjoyed taking his late, beloved dog Maggie for long walks in the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation area and later along the Northampton Bikeway.

Bob had a sharp wit and showed his affection for Friends with playful teasing. No matter how quick the response, Bob had another comeback at the ready. Some Friends were also fortunate to know a gentler side of Bob, and to enjoy his thoughtful conversations and kind heart.

Bob's voice and actions in the life of our Meeting served as a relentless and provocative reminder to act. He was impatient and never satisfied that Friends' efforts were adequate to the needs and sufferings of the world.

NORTHAMPTON MONTHLY MEETING

CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Ruth Estelle Taber Gates
June 27, 1927 – July 23, 2019



*I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still
on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear, The Son of
God discloses.*

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there, None
other has ever known.*

*I'd stay in the garden with Him, Though the night around me be
falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe, His voice to me is call-
ing.*

This hymn, which Ruth Gates asked to have sung at her memorial meeting, captures her life in both practical and spiritual terms. Her long life was anchored in her Christian faith and in the small but abundant garden that she and her husband Don lovingly tended.

Born in Greenfield, MA, Ruth graduated from the Northfield School, where she enjoyed volleyball, basketball, and choral singing. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Simmons College, and started her first job as a visiting nurse in Worcester. She met Don Gates in a non-Quaker church youth group in 1952 and married him after a brief courtship, just before he was called up for military service. They later joined Worcester Friends Meeting, transferring to Providence when they moved to Rhode Island in 1960.

Caring for others was central to Ruth's life. Her nursing jobs most often involved visiting new mothers and newborns. After she retired in 1982, she cared for an elderly aunt, and then for her husband during his final illness in 2008. She took a break from nursing while raising their four children, pouring her energy into her family. Her children could always find

her in the kitchen, where they helped her bake cherry pies or can apple-sauce or tomatoes from the garden. The Meeting counted on Ruth's pies for potluck meals or on meeting work-days. She taught First Day School and served on the Sewing Committee. She also quietly drew in newcomers to the meeting, introducing them to other members and getting them involved in helping with coffee hour. Friends remember her quiet, steady presence; her caring visits when a new baby joined a meeting family; her warm sense of humor; her practical assistance with tasks that almost went unnoticed but undergirded the meeting community; and her authentic example of how to live a good life.

Ruth lived in the faithful assurance of God's living presence, reflected in Psalm 139, which was read at her memorial meeting: "O Lord, you have searched me and known me" Her daughter also shared one of Ruth's favorite poems, which showed the faith undergirding her life of service:

*God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through,
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, Peace without pain.*

*But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labor, Light for the way,
Grace for the trials, Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, Undying love.*

Ruth Gates died peacefully after a period of declining health, a few weeks after joyously celebrating her 92nd birthday with her extended family. We are grateful for her many gifts to our community.

PROVIDENCE MONTHLY MEETING
SOUTHEAST QUARTERLY MEETING

David M. Holdt
May 12, 1941 – December 6, 2019



David M. Holdt passed away peacefully from Alzheimer's Disease on December 6, 2019. Born in Cleveland in 1941, David grew up in Stratford, CT, and graduated from Stratford High School in 1959. David received a B.A. in government from Wesleyan University in 1963, an M.A. in history from Duke University in 1967, and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in the humanities and writing from Wesleyan in 1993. He was a lifelong lover of nature who once canoed the entire length of the Hudson River, as well as a skillful writer and an astute historian. A master teacher, David taught at Hotchkiss School from 1963 to 1965, Germantown Friends School from 1967 to 1970, Westledge School from 1970 to 1977, and Watkinson School in Hartford, CT, from 1978 to 2008. David also taught at the University of Hartford from 1995 to 2011, where he was given the Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award.

David was beloved by his students, who understood that, in spite of his fascination with content, his primary focus was always on their growth as human beings. Upon his death, their testimonies to David's impact on their lives were remarkable. As the parent of three former students offered:

If you are lucky, a few times in your life you will encounter someone whose heart is so massive, whose aim is so true, that they transform all who have the great good fortune to know them. David was a magician, a sorcerer for good, seeing beauty in everyone.

One former student wrote:

David was such a close family friend, advisor and teacher. I feel so lucky to have known him for the majority of my life and to have him there to celebrate all of the special milestones. We will miss him so

much. His wisdom will continue to inspire me as a teacher for the rest of my life.

Another volunteered:

An indescribable loss. He was the Fred Rogers in our lives. The always available wisdom giver. I know how much he loved Robert Frost and I think it's fitting he passed when "the woods are lovely, dark and deep."

David's long commitment to Quakerism, nourished at Germantown Friends School, flowered at Hartford Friends Meeting, where David became a dedicated member, served as recording clerk, contributed to various committees, and regularly offered moving messages. He also served for several years on the board of Moses Brown School in Providence, RI.

David was a gifted and prolific writer whose work spanned multiple genres. He published poems, short stories, essays, prose, and plays; and attended the Breadloaf Writing Conference and Wesleyan Writers Conference, as well as serving as Artist-in-Residence at the St. Lawrence Theatre festival. For ten years he participated in the University of Connecticut Memoir Club. David also shared his poetry with many other writers in various poetry-writing groups including, most recently, the Poets of the River's Edge. The last few lines of his poem, *Sun Through Trees*, reflect David's generous spirit.

*The way to live is to get to your
self, and give;
to hang on there to what is real:
that which you cannot touch but only
feel.
No story ends,
it just blends in.*

David's family always was a central focus of his life. He is survived by his loving partner, Karen I. Case; stepdaughter, Amanda Frost, and her husband, Michael, and son, Sef; his daughter, Brooke Stratton, her husband, Peter, and children James and Ada; and his son, Christopher Wood-Holdt, his partner, Jenna Wetzell, and their daughter, Avery. They will always cherish their times with David, especially the long walks in the woods, Red Sox games, and sitting around talking and laughing.

HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING
CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Natalie Faith Pierce Kent Kempner
January 18, 1924 – November 14, 2019



Natalie Faith Pierce Kent Kempner, a long-time member of Brunswick Friends meeting, died on November 14, 2019. (She was always adamant about not using any other phrase to express our departure from this world.) She was born on January 18, 1924, to Gertrude Lindahl and George Kyle Pierce in Binghamton, NY. In a 2018 oral history interview with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, she noted that she got two big things from growing up: frugality from the Depression and pacifism from the war. Through a family she babysat for while attending Smith College in Northampton, she discovered the Society of Friends and joined the Northampton Friends Meeting. In her oral history she noted “One of the things that drew me to Quakerism was the ‘practice’ part of faith—finding things to do to witness to your faith.”

She married Orlow Albert Kent, a friend from her early school years, in 1947 and they settled in Ithaca, NY. In keeping with her commitment to putting her faith into action, in 1948 they set out for two years of voluntary service with the American Friends Service Committee in Munich, Germany. Working in Bad Aibling at the International Relief Organization’s Children’s Village, their job was to provide, as much as possible, a “home life” for some of the international displaced children who landed in the village after the war. After their first child was born in Munich in 1950, Natalie and Orlow returned to Ithaca, where they worked as co-directors of the Ithaca Children’s Home and where their second child was born. From 1951 to 1953 they lived at a low-income housing project in Cleveland while Orlow was in graduate school, and a third child was born there. The next four years saw them in Rhinelander, WI, where Joe McCarthy was Senator. “It was a time when even my small job as International Project Director for the Girl Scouts Council was considered suspect. My reaction was to take a strong political stand!” Their youngest child was born in 1956.

During 1963 and 1964 the family lived in newly independent Tanganyika, East Africa, where Orlow directed the AFSC's Voluntary International Service Assignments (VISA), which provided grass-roots work experience for young adults and alternative service for conscientious objectors to the draft. In 1964 Orlow died in an automobile accident, and Natalie and the children returned to Ithaca. Here, Natalie worked as program coordinator for the parents of Head Start children and then became a full-time student at Cornell. She earned an M.A. in teaching history and social studies, designing a program of African studies for Ithaca High School.

Natalie married Fritz Kempner (who had immigrated to the U.S. from Germany just before the war) in 1971, moving to Philadelphia where she taught elementary school, focusing on environmental education. She co-founded and directed the Norris Square Neighborhood Project, a non-profit bilingual learning center in a Puerto Rican neighborhood in Philly which is still active today. By 1981 she was a very active participant in Philadelphia's Sanctuary Movement, giving shelter to Central American refugees at the Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting house. The Sanctuary work and the Norris Square project were very significant passions of hers.

In 1990 Natalie and Fritz retired and moved to Woolwich, ME, where they joined Brunswick Friends Meeting. Continuing her focus on action, Natalie served on the National Board of the American Friends Service Committee. At various times in her life she served as clerk of Friends meetings in Ithaca, Philadelphia, and Brunswick. Even when not clerking, she acted as a center around which the Brunswick Meeting swirled. She represented the Meeting at the Brunswick Peace Fair, drove other members to Meeting when they could not drive, participated in monthly play readings, and opened her Kennebec River-side home to the Meeting for potlucks and cookie baking. Most of all she relished sitting in the silence of unprogrammed meeting for worship, where she felt renewed. In her last visit with members of the Meeting, she asked that her love for the Meeting be passed on, and reminded us all to "be wise."

BRUNSWICK MONTHLY MEETING
FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING

Mary Burnside Mangelsdorf
April 3, 1927 – October 24, 2018



Mary Burnside Mangelsdorf, 91, died peacefully after a brief illness on October 24, 2018, at Riddle Hospital in Media, PA, surrounded by family. A member of Sandwich Monthly Meeting on Cape Cod, she was active in West Falmouth Preparative Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, and Swarthmore Friends Meeting in Pennsylvania, where she and her husband, Paul, lived during the academic year for more than four decades.

Mary was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA, on April 3, 1927, the daughter of Malcolm MacNair Burnside, a Scottish immigrant who rose up through the ranks to become president of a local department store, and Helen DeRemer Burnside, a nurse. Mary graduated from Wyoming Seminary, an independent school in Kingston, PA, in 1944 and from Swarthmore College in 1948, with a degree in history. At Swarthmore, she met fellow student Paul C. Mangelsdorf Jr. while volunteering together for a Democratic candidate for Congress. They married in August 1949 and enjoyed more than 65 years of a very happy marriage until Paul's death in March 2015.

Mary and Paul became members of the Religious Society of Friends in the 1950s. When they moved to the Cape, there was only one meeting open on Cape Cod, the Yarmouth Preparative Meeting, as both West Falmouth Preparative Meeting and East Sandwich Preparative Meeting were inactive for lack of members. Paul and Mary, along with several other Quaker families living in the Falmouth area, were instrumental in reopening the West Falmouth Meeting, which has been open continually since the early 1960s. While active in the Swarthmore Meeting, Paul and Mary felt a great sense of loyalty to West Falmouth and kept their membership there, attending summers and year-round during sabbatical years.

Quakerism became a major part of Mary and Paul's shared life together. Mary served as a member of the board of managers of the Quaker magazine *Friends Journal* for more than a dozen years during the 1980s and 1990s. She worked for 17 years as the secretary for Swarthmore Friends

Meeting, where her wide-ranging duties included everything from facilitating meetinghouse rentals to creating the meeting's monthly newsletter and helping prepare for the annual Swarthmore Meeting "jumble sale" fundraiser. In West Falmouth she served as meeting librarian and was active in vocal ministry and in Children's Meeting (First Day School). Mary also engaged in significant research on the Quaker history of West Falmouth, giving a presentation at the Falmouth Historical Society and playing a role in a reenactment of an early Friends' business meeting. The Mangelsdorf family, with their four children, regularly attended New England Yearly Meeting Sessions, where Paul and Mary became the "Quaker Books People," running the Sessions bookstore together for many years. With Paul, she was involved in the creation of the new Friends hymnal, *Worship in Song*, published by Friends General Conference in 1996.

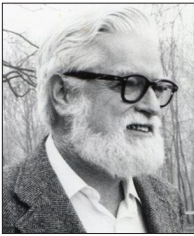
Mary is survived by her four children and their spouses: Helen Mangelsdorf and Roman Tybinko of Philadelphia; Paul Mangelsdorf III and Laurice Mangelsdorf of Atlanta, GA; Sarah Mangelsdorf and Karl Rosen-gren of Rochester, NY; and Martha Mangelsdorf and Roy Peabody of Boston, MA. She is also survived by her brother-in-law, Clark Mangelsdorf of Carmel, IN, as well as by five grandchildren and nine nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by both her husband and her brothers, Frank Burnside and Robert Burnside.

Mary will be deeply missed by her family and friends. She is remembered for her kind heart and lively intelligence, her integrity, and her concern for social justice. Her many interests included history, Quakerism, choral music, and politics. She had a great love of books and reading that dated back to her childhood and that permeated many aspects of her life, whether she was reading to a small child, working or volunteering in a library, relaxing with a good book, or sharing her insights about something she had read. She remained actively engaged in community, family, and intellectual life until just a few days before her death.

A Friends memorial service for Mary was held on March 30, 2019, at Swarthmore Friends Meeting. An additional memorial service celebrated her life at West Falmouth Meeting on June 29, 2019.

SANDWICH MONTHLY MEETING
SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

Paul Christoph Mangelsdorf Jr
January 31, 1925 – March 6, 2015



Born on January 31, 1925, Paul Mangelsdorf joined the Religious Society of Friends in Chicago in the 1950s, at the same time as his wife, Mary Burnside Mangelsdorf. His early life was in a scientific, non-religious household, but he felt that Quakerism was a religion that did not conflict with his own life as a scientist. He graduated from Swarthmore College, where he met his future wife, and received his Doctorate from Harvard. He returned to Swarthmore to teach physics for 29 years, concurrently working as a research associate at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, where he worked summers, vacations, and sabbaticals. At Woods Hole he studied the chemical composition of oceans and their sediments. His research took him around the world and even up the Amazon River.

Living in both Swarthmore, PA, and Falmouth, MA, gave Paul a perspective on Friends that few will ever experience. He and Mary were part of the small group of Friends who in 1965 restarted the West Falmouth Preparative Meeting of Sandwich Monthly Meeting as an unprogrammed meeting, bringing it back to its 1685 roots. Previously the meeting had been open only in the summer for many years, and had before that been a pastoral meeting during the Gurneyite separation. Paul's devotion and affection for the meeting continued until his death. His engagement with the Society of Friends both in Swarthmore and West Falmouth led him to be a confident explicator of Quaker practice both to youth growing up in a meeting and to adults experiencing Friends' ways for the first time. Most summers from the '60s on, Paul and Mary attended New England Yearly Meeting Sessions with their children. He and Mary ran the Yearly Meeting bookstore and built it up into the large resource it is today. Paul participated in Yearly Meeting in other ways, serving on the Permanent Board and acting early on as advisor to the then newly hired secretary of Yearly Meeting, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, but most publicly and perhaps

most joyously playing trumpet in the “coffee house” Dixieland band that marked the last night of Sessions. He had learned to play trumpet as a child, hardly missed an opportunity to play with Friends, and played for more than 20 years with the Falmouth Town Band.

Paul’s Quaker life was active also in Swarthmore Meeting, where he would serve a simple breakfast to students coming to worship and often was called upon to explain Friends’ ways at weddings and memorial meetings. His activities for Friends General Conference (FGC) included serving as a representative to the World Council of Churches and as a member of the committee that produced the FGC hymnal *Worship in Song* (published in 1996). In its inclusion of African-American hymns and spirituals, songs from the civil rights movement and anti-war protests of the ’60s and ’70s, as well as newly composed songs celebrating famous Quakers, the new hymnal reflects the rich spiritual diversity of 20th century Quakerism as well as a historical perspective. The historical notes included in the hymnal are mostly Paul’s scholarly work. Paul also was a founding member of Friends Association for Higher Education, served on the board at Pendle Hill Conference Center, and in retirement volunteered at the FGC office.

Paul was a witty, aphoristic, and carefully gentle speaker, easy to like, brilliant in insight. He felt the world was endlessly fascinating and worth learning about, from the most local details of the Quaker cemetery surrounding the West Falmouth meetinghouse to abstruse science, the arts, and the sometimes recondite matters of history. He died on March 6, 2015, in Newtown Square, PA.

Paul is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mary Burnside Mangelsdorf; four children, Helen Mangelsdorf (Roman Tybinko), Sarah Mangelsdorf (Karl Rosengren), Paul Christof Mangelsdorf III (Laurice), and Mary Mangelsdorf (Roy Peabody); five grandchildren; a brother, Clark Mangelsdorf (Peggy); and nine nieces and nephews.

Two memorial services celebrating Paul Mangelsdorf’s life were held in 2015, one in the spring at Swarthmore Meeting and one in the summer at West Falmouth Preparative Meeting. His ashes are buried in the West Falmouth Meeting’s graveyard.

SANDWICH MONTHLY MEETING
SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

Clarabel Hadley Marstaller
November 19, 1922 – December 2, 2019



Clarabel Marstaller, 97, died peacefully on December 2, 2019, in Brunswick, ME. Clarabel was the daughter of Milton and Freda Morris Hadley, born November 19, 1922, in Vermilion Grove, IL. She was the last surviving sibling of six: Mark, Robert, David, Ruth, and Phillip. Robert and Phillip died in infancy.

Clarabel graduated from Olney Friends School, Barnesville, OH, in 1940, and Earlham College in 1944, with a B.A. in mathematics. She worked for Eli Lilly Company for a year and taught for three years at Olney Friends School and Earlham College before she married Louis Marstaller of Freeport, ME, in 1948.

Clarabel was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, and friend. She loved people, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In her later years when she didn't see them very often, she got tremendous pleasure in talking on the phone and seeing pictures and videos of her grandchildren, and then great-grandchildren. These were some of her most joyous moments. She was devoted to her communities and communicated with people near and far, taking interest in their activities and families. Her Christmas card list numbered in the hundreds! When her mobility made travel difficult, she continued to correspond with many and appreciated visits.

She helped in the family business, the Maine Idyll Motor Court, and served as treasurer of its corporation for over 20 years. She did substitute teaching in Freeport and Brunswick during the 1950s and served as office secretary of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends from 1959 to 1982, while Louis was its field secretary. She and Louis opened their home to many travelling and local friends and Friends, generous with time, food, and hospitality. She was a mentor to many in her local meeting and broader community.

Clarabel was known for her deep faith. She wrote: "I thought I could be a good person without God's help, (but) realized I couldn't." She prayed

and read the Bible and other religious works daily, and helped others on their spiritual journeys. She was courageous and stood up when she saw injustice, and was generous with her support of organizations that helped others.

Clarabel was a birthright and faithful Friend and member of Durham Friends Meeting from 1949. She served as presiding clerk, trustee, Sunday School teacher, choir director, organist, on Ministry and Counsel and on the Christian Education Committee, and was active in the Women's Society. She was recorded as a Friends minister for her gifts in ministry by Durham Friends Meeting and Falmouth Quarterly Meeting. She served the United Society of Friends Women of New England Yearly Meeting as president, newsletter editor, and treasurer, attending several triennial sessions of the United Society of Friends Woman International. She was active in Friends United Meeting for a number of years, serving on boards, as recording clerk and assistant clerk. She served several years as a representative to the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC.

She was a member of the Freeport Woman's Club from 1968 and served it as president, treasurer, and on committees. She represented the Woman's Club on the Women's Legislative Council for many years and encouraged others to become and stay interested in issues that affect communities and our world.

She is predeceased by her husband Louis, daughter-in-law Judy (Robert's wife), and Judy's son Michael Burns.

She is survived by her children, David and wife Sally of Brunswick, ME; Nancy and husband David Brooks of Harpswell, ME; Robert of Savannah, GA; Thomas and wife Betsy of South Hampton, NH; grandchildren Wesley (wife Rebecca and their children Will and Pippa), Tess, Amelia, Syretha, Erik, Kris, Ashley, Darrik (wife Kate), and Lance.

DURHAM MONTHLY MEETING

FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING

Michael N. Meller
December 26, 1935 – July 3, 2016



Michael N. Meller of New London, NH, generally known as Mike, died July 3, 2016, at the New London (NH) Hospital, surrounded by his family. Mike was born in Budapest, Hungary, on December 26, 1935. His parents were cultural but not assimilated Jews who saw the imminent rise of Nazism and Hitler and converted to Catholicism. Mike was baptized and attended the Christian Brothers School in Budapest during the war. His mother, Dorothy, wanted to leave the country for the United States, where they had relatives, but Mike's father, Victor, a fourth-generation lawyer, would not leave the country as an illegal immigrant. Consequently, they stayed in Budapest. Victor served time in Hungarian Jewish work camps that were hard but not fatal.

Dorothy was associated with Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved many Budapest Jews from Auschwitz. The Meller family lived in Swedish Protected Housing in Budapest. It was because Sweden was a neutral country that they were allowed to operate housing in the city during the war. The family has documentation to suggest that Dorothy worked for Wallenberg and was there when the Russians arrested him.

This was far from an ideal childhood for Mike. His own grandmother died after the Russians came in 1945 and had to be carried to the Jewish cemetery in a converted ox cart. Mike was frightened about being called a Jew and was reluctant to tell even close family for fear of being arrested or bullied.

After living in Sweden for a time, the family immigrated to the U.S. in 1948, when Mike was 12 years old. Eventually, his father found work at the Voice of America as a Hungarian broadcaster. Mike graduated from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, with a B.S. degree in chemical engineering. He also graduated with a law degree from George Washington University, specializing in patent law. Mike gravitated to international work, as he knew four languages and felt the American establishment did not

welcome him as a foreigner. He became very well regarded in patent law for founding one of the first patent-law journals and for his book, *International Patent Litigation*. In the 1980s Mike traveled extensively to Asia, Europe, and China, where he helped write patent laws. He also sponsored many Chinese interns at his law office.

Mike married Elizabeth Voelker in 1965 and they raised three children: Michael, Gretchen, and Katie. They lived in several places, but finally settled in Sleepy Hollow, NY. Liz worked as a visiting nurse in Upper Manhattan and Mike's law office was in the city as well, so they commuted together. Mike spent his early years as a patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, DC. Later he worked as a patent attorney at General Electric Co. and then with Exxon. He had private practices first in Chicago and later in New York City in the international arena.

Mike taught at the law schools of the University of New Hampshire, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Fordham University, and wrote extensively on international patent law. He represented major U.S. companies as well as Japanese and European companies. The international travel that Mike's profession required was a high point in Liz and Mike's life together. Liz and Mike's children were introduced to international travel during some of these trips.

Mike remained a practicing Catholic until 1980, when the family found they could no longer embrace the teachings and practice. He and his family became Quakers in 1982 after finding so many "like-minded people" at the Chappaqua (NY) Friends Meeting. Mike served there in many capacities, including clerk of the meeting and on Ministry and Counsel, and was involved with Powell House, a Quaker conference and retreat center. The family especially enjoyed the Meeting for the strong sense of community it fostered. Mike ended up hiring more than a few members of the Meeting to work in his law firm. He also hired several former felons to work in his firm, where they began a new life both personally and professionally.

Mike and Liz retired to New London, NH, after Mike witnessed the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center from his office in New York City. They became members of Hanover (NH) Friends Meeting in January 2006. Two of their grandchildren, Jacob and Jersey, attend Hanover Friend Meeting's youth programs. A third grandchild, Sofia has attended on occasion.

Mike became involved in local politics. He carried particular concerns around issues of equality and justice, having seen the deterioration of life in Hungary during the war. He ran for the New Hampshire House of Representatives and was the president of the New London Democratic Party.

Mike was also active on several committees at Hanover Friends Meeting and especially enjoyed the men's group. This dedicated group came to visit Mike often when he became too ill to travel, and he greatly appreci-

ated their visits. One friend related that because of Mike's frequent travels and experiences, he was especially tolerant of others and their foibles.

HANOVER MONTHLY MEETING

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Anne Hollingsworth Thomas Moore
August 15, 1929 – January 24, 2019



Anne Moore did not arrive at Northampton as an empty vessel. She came to us as an alabaster jar filled with precious ointment. It has been wonderful to learn the ingredients.

Anne Hollingsworth Thomas was born on August 15, 1929, and grew up in a small house on the edge of the Thomas family farm and tree nursery near Valley Forge, PA. She attended Old Eagle Elementary School, George School—where she was exposed to Quakerism—and Swarthmore College, graduating in 1951. After college, Anne worked at Baxter Labs in Evanston, IL, and worked as a research assistant at Penn in Philadelphia. After hitchhiking across the country with her sister Amy, Anne was cooking at a Friends General Conference in Cape May, NJ, when she met Tom Moore, who was attending the conference as part of his exploration of Quakerism.

Anne married Tom Moore in 1954 and they moved to Lansdowne, PA. In 1956 their first child, daughter Lydia, was born. In 1957 Ann and Tom moved to Washington, DC, to be co-directors of the International Students House. Their second child, Howard Thomas, was born in Washington in 1958. In 1960 they moved to Lawrence, KS, where Tom was director of the University of Kansas Student YMCA. Their third child, Charles David, was born in Lawrence. For the next two decades, while raising three children, Anne was active in a number of community institutions. She was one of the core members of the Oread (KS) Friends Meeting. She was a member of the board of the American Friends Service Committee and collected clothing for them. Anne was also active with the Friends Committee on National Legislation from 1957 until 2018. She sold cards for UNICEF and pecans for Koinonia Farms, a racially integrated farm community in Americas, GA.

Anne was a director of the Volunteer Clearing House, which connected organizations in need of volunteer labor with people seeking to do volunteer work. She was a supervisor of Volunteers in Service to America

(VISTA) volunteers, a founding member of the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice, and an organizer of Breakthrough, a mental-health support group. She was a founding member of the Lawrence Peace Center, organized Nuclear Freeze activities, and lobbied Bob Dole against the war in Vietnam.

Anne and Tom moved east to live with and care for her parents in 1983. She became active with Pendle Hill Conference Center, the American Friends Service Committee, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and Valley Friends Meeting (Wayne, PA).

Anne's father died in 1993. A year later, her daughter Lydia, a doctor in Kansas City, died in a car accident. In 1998 Anne and Tom moved to the Hickman, a Friends senior community in West Chester, PA. Anne joined the Chester County Peace Movement and was an early supporter of the Nonviolent Peace Force. She served on the Hickman Building Committee and was active in West Chester Friends Meeting.

In 2008 Anne's husband Tom died; a month later her mother died. Anne's sister Amy died in 2013, and that summer Anne moved to Northampton, MA, to be near her son Howard and his family. She quickly made new connections, becoming an active and vibrant presence in Northampton Friends Meeting and attending New England Yearly Meeting. At Northampton Meeting, she served as clerk of Pastoral Care Committee and as elder to the Meeting clerk. She became active with the local chapter of the American Friends Service Committee, the Pioneer Valley Interfaith Refugee Action Group, and Swarthmore Alumni. She truly valued each of the people she knew throughout her life and maintained many connections.

When first meeting this quiet, tender, forceful woman, it was clear that her life was a continuous expression of faith into action. Anne had the uncanny capacity to mentor younger folks into engagement in social action without communicating disappointment if her mentees did not pick up on the mission she regarded as essential. She had the rare gift of being able to cast seeds of inspiration onto the earth, hoping that some rooted and grew, and knowing that some would never take.

Her death marked the end to a decline that had been increasing over the previous year. Yet Anne continued to participate as much as her health allowed, walking with her walker from her apartment to vigils in downtown Northampton. She spearheaded and coordinated the Voluntary Carbon Tax Initiative at Northampton Meeting, and we are still trying to find ways to fill all the roles in which she served our community and for our community. Anne continued to grapple with her own understanding of race and class, a feeling of pride in her own family history, and perhaps embarrassment at her own unearned privilege. She continued to strive to express her ideals through action. Action was important to her. Many of

Anne's conversations wrapped up with "Well, this isn't getting the dishes done."

Anne is deeply missed in our Meeting and by the many people whose lives she touched and inspired.

NORTHAMPTON MONTHLY MEETING

CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Elizabeth Bradford Foulds Noel
October 24, 1930 – January 23, 2019



Brad Noel was known for her dedication to Hartford, her students, her family, and travel, as well as for being a cheerful participant through it all.

Born in West Hartford, CT, Elizabeth Bradford Foulds, or “Brad” as she was known, lived most of her life near her home town. At least 60 of those years were spent attending Hartford Monthly Meeting of Friends with her family.

After graduating from Hall High School in West Hartford, Brad attended Oberlin College in Ohio because it was co-ed and didn’t have sororities. She earned her B.A. in history there in 1952 and then spent a summer volunteering in European workcamps sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). At Cornell University, where she went for a graduate program in guidance counseling, she met her husband, Don Noel, at a meeting of Young Friends. He had attended Friends’ summer camps and was a pacifist and conscientious objector. They were married on August 29, 1953.

The early years of their marriage were spent in Japan, where they directed workcamps for AFSC and Don fulfilled his alternate draft service obligation. They then traveled home through Hong Kong, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Israel and, finally, Europe, where they directed another work camp in Berlin. In later years, they traveled around the world again, and twice went halfway around and back!

Brad and Don built their first home in New Hartford, CT, from a Japanese design, often with the help of family or friends from Hartford Meeting, which they had begun attending. Daughter Emily was born in 1958 and son Ken in 1960. In 1967 they moved to a racially changing community in Hartford called Blue Hills, where they lived until 2018, both of them being very active in community affairs.

Brad’s professional life was spent in service to students in Hartford schools. She was a guidance counselor and then head of the guidance

department at Weaver High School for 25 years. She pioneered the use of computers in maintaining guidance records, led a student exchange with Japan, co-wrote a booklet encouraging young women to take control of their own lives, and helped hundreds of students become the first in their families to attend college.

In subsequent years, she was the first woman trustee of the Fox Foundation, which awarded scholarships to Hartford students, and served four terms on the Hartford Board of Education. Brad had a lovely way of getting the attention of her superiors there who felt they were too busy to see her. She would bring a bouquet of garden flowers to the secretary with a reminder that she wanted to see “the boss,” who somehow then became available! She later used her vast experience with public schools to initiate and host a public-access TV program, *Brad's Beat*, dealing with city schools.

In addition to her international travels, for many years Brad and her family enjoyed a vacation home in Jamaica and were part of a group of friends from Hartford who bicycled 70 miles for concerts and camping at Tanglewood, MA. At home she loved her garden and the birds who visited there, enjoyed canning, sewing, knitting, and mowing her own lawn. She taught First Day School in the early years at Hartford Meeting, and later ensured that her greeters committee made newcomers and visitors feel welcome. With other Friends, she helped start a women's book club that is still going today. She and Don loved and supported the arts in Hartford.

While her son Ken predeceased her, her daughter Emily has continued to live in Hartford, and grandson, TJ, was a source of pride. During Brad's final years she was tragically robbed by Alzheimer's Disease of her memories of the full and rewarding life she had lived. Three years ago, she and Don moved to Seabury, a retirement community in Bloomfield, CT, Brad in the memory unit. She died while being cared for in the skilled-nursing unit there.

HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING

CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Stella Slawin Penzer
September 9, 1921 – August 7, 2018



Stella Slawin Penzer, 96, died on August 7, 2018, at home in the Old North End of Burlington, VT, embraced by family and friends.

Stella and her twin brother, Lazar (“Lolek”), were born on September 9, 1921, to Ala Wajnsztejn Slawin and Szaja Slawin. Stella graduated from the Warsaw School of Nursing in spring 1942, after it was relocated to the Warsaw Ghetto. She escaped the Ghetto shortly thereafter and survived by assuming the gentile identity of Sabina Gasiorowska. Her parents meanwhile were killed by the Nazi-led genocide and buried in a mass grave in their hometown of Otwock, Poland, in August 1942. Her aunt Szenka Wajnsztejn, uncle Abram Willendorf, and cousin Aleksandr perished at Treblinka that same month. Her twin Lolek was recognized as a Jew and shot dead by a police informant.

Stella met her future husband, Victor Penzer, in a displaced persons camp after the war. Together, they came to the United States as refugees and settled in the Boston area in 1950. In their Boston apartment, Stella found a discarded copy of *The Deepening Stream* by Vermont author Dorothy Canfield (later Dorothy Canfield Fisher). Considered a biographic novel, this is an account of a girl growing up into the fullness of womanhood and marrying into a Quaker family. Matey, the protagonist, helps in the relief efforts in France during World War I. Pacifism is a strong element in the story. *The Deepening Stream* became a treasured family book.

In 1962–63 Stella and her family took in 18-year-old Moses Scott, a black youth whose Virginia county had closed its schools to protest desegregation. The placement was under the aegis of the American Friends Service Committee initiative, Prince Edward County, VA, Emergency Placement Program. Moses finished high school while living with the Penzers. So began the family’s first contact with Friends Meeting in Cambridge.

Stella worked tirelessly for civil rights, nuclear disarmament, ecological conservation, and many causes relating to peace and reconciliation. She

boycotted Woolworth's during the lunch counter sit-ins by Black students in 1960, followed by her opposition to American involvement in Vietnam. In 2001, she joined demonstrations to oppose any military response to the terrorist attack at the World Trade Center. For nearly 40 years, Stella sent letters to the *Boston Globe* focused on peace and social justice.

Throughout this period, the Society of Friends was a central point for her inspired activism.

In 2012, Stella moved to Burlington, VT, to live with her daughter, Martha Penzer. Stella's love of life was irrepressible and nowhere more evident than in dancing. She was dancing in the last months of her life—at Burlington music festivals and in the streets. Stella's great joys also included poetry, music, friends, and family. She is survived by her beloved children Martha, Daniel, and Rosita (Rosie) Hopper, son-in-law Roy Hopper, two grandchildren, cousins, and many friends.

Stella attended meeting for worship at Burlington Monthly Meeting with Martha and Martha's partner, Paul Hood, where she often exclaimed "I love the Quakers!" Among the many poems penned by Stella is the following verse.

Brooklyn Friends Meeting—November 17, 1985

*Shadows above the white-creamy
windowsill
giggly, squiggly, volatile
exchange vows with pyracantha bows [sic].*

*Pyracantha in orange and green truth,
shadows on the white-creamy ceiling
their testimony into the Silence spilling.*

*The Silence tolerant, forbearing
Welcomes all—is not forswearing
Agnostic nor believer.*

*Unruffled by accidental sounds, stillness
You bring respite from the wordy world.
Into your presence, joys and sorrows flow
to be sustained by tranquil glow.*

BURLINGTON MONTHLY MEETING
NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Jean Elmer Robinson
December 4, 1927 – January 21, 2017



Jeanie Elmer Robinson died at her home at Kendal at Hanover on Saturday, January 21, 2017. The daughter of Wellington and Elizabeth Taylor Elmer, and stepdaughter of Paul M. Butterworth, she was born in Bronxville, NY, in 1927, and grew up in West Hartford, CT.

Jeanie weathered some difficult times as well as wild adventures and rich experiences throughout her lifetime. From age two to seven, she lived with her grandparents while her parents traveled seeking a cure for her father's asthma—leaving her with a sense of abandonment that never fully left her. After her father's death, her mother married a birthright Quaker, Paul Butterworth, who was a founder of the Hartford (CT) Monthly Meeting of Friends. Paul was a loving and attentive father, and gave Jeanie an early introduction to Quakerism. She attended George School for a year and then transferred to the Walnut Hill School in Natick, MA, to be closer to the family during the war.

Jeanie had an early interest in nursing, and started working in the operating room at Hartford Hospital when she was 15. She was on duty when victims of the Hartford Circus Fire came to the hospital, an experience that affected her profoundly.

Jeanie graduated from Smith College in Massachusetts in 1950. She attended the Yale University School of Nursing from 1953 to 1954 and earned a Master's degree in nursing. She met her future husband, Franklin Robinson, who was at Yale training as an Episcopal minister, and they were married soon afterwards. She worked as a nurse in Connecticut before their son Morgan was born in 1955. When he was still a baby, the family moved to the Philippines for three years as missionaries for the Episcopal Church. Jean and Franklin served at the Brent School in Baguio and Holy Trinity Church in Zamboanga City.

During their time in the Philippines, their daughters Beth, Mary, and Deborah were born. While in Zamboanga, Beth contracted polio, which caused paralysis in one leg. Their son, Morgan, was four years old; Mary

one year; and their daughter, Deb, only a month old at the time. The family moved back to West Hartford, and then to Rochester, NY, where Jeanie devoted herself to Beth and her recovery while working part time, serving as a clergy wife, and managing a large family.

In Rochester the family's ministry included joining an African American church, where Jean sang in the choir and formed lifelong friendships. When Jean and Franklin decided to leave Rochester in 1965, Jeanie planned a journey following the route of Saint Paul. The 4-month camping trip took the family across the Atlantic to England and through Europe to the Middle East, visiting family friends, traveling off the beaten track, and experiencing many wonders.

After this odyssey, the family lived in Princeton, NJ, for a year, then in Greenwich, CT, from 1966 to 1973, where Franklin served as minister at a large Episcopal church. Their youngest son, Ken, was born in 1968. Jean worked as a public health nurse and taught at Fairfield University. The marriage unraveled and the couple divorced in 1972 after 20 years of marriage.

Jeanie moved to Hanover, NH, in 1973 and returned to nursing and teaching at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, where she worked for 20 years. She was a parishioner of St. Thomas Episcopal Church for many years.

When Kendal at Hanover opened in 1991, Jeanie moved in and made her way back to Quakerism. She became a member of the Hanover Friends Meeting and immersed herself in Quaker activities and reflection. Jeanie loved being at Kendal. She loved the Quaker faith and practice, and was very proud to be a Quaker. She served for several years as clerk of the Quaker worship group at Kendal and on Ministry and Counsel of Hanover Meeting.

She was friendly, welcoming, and very caring of others. Jeanie enjoyed traveling and adventure. She participated in College Cevenol, a work camp in post-war France; survived an Austrian avalanche; camped for four months in Turkey, the Holy Land, Greece, and Europe with her young family; traveled in Nepal and Bhutan; stayed in an ashram in Bali and in village homes in the Cook Islands, American Samoa, and Fiji; and was a member of an American medical team studying geriatrics in China. In her 50s she got into shape for a trek led by Tenzing Norgay, a Nepali-Indian Sherpa mountaineer who was one of the first two individuals to reach the summit of Mount Everest. Her time in Sikkim (in the Himalayas) hiking with Tenzing was a peak experience of her life.

She had many hobbies: She enjoyed reading biographies, making pottery, doing puzzles, woodworking, studying Renaissance art, watching old movies, kayaking, and cutting brush around her beloved Squam Lake. She also spoke French and German.

Most of all she was devoted to her large family: her sister, Lucy Townsend of Wellesley, MA; her former husband, Franklin Robinson of Sarasota, FL; her children, Morgan Robinson (and partner, Patti Waller) of Seattle, WA; Beth Robinson (husband, Alan Dehmer) of Chapel Hill, NC; Mary Mailand (husband, Ron) of Center Sandwich, NH; Deborah Robinson (husband, Jay Cary) of Lyme, NH; and Kenneth Robinson of Pittsburgh, PA; and grandchildren, Noah and Zoe Dehmer, Sam and Dillon Mailand, and Ellenora and Rowan Cary, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by two stepbrothers, Oliver and Harrison Butterworth, stepsister Virginia Parmalee, and a foster sister, Shizue Dobashi.

Throughout her life, Jeanie liked planning things—possibly because her own life deviated from the expected. As a young mother, she worked to balance the many demands involved with having five children. As she got older, she struggled with depression and slowly turned inward and became more isolated. As with all of us, she had her public life and the parts of her seen only by those who knew her well.

Jeanie was very caring and giving to many people—families she stayed in touch with and supported in the Philippines for many years, hospital patients and coworkers, students, neighbors, friends, family members. She had a loving and welcoming smile that was enjoyed by all who knew her. She will be loved and remembered around the world and is greatly missed at the Kendal community and at Hanover Friends Meeting.

HANOVER MONTHLY MEETING

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Leon “Jack” Ross
October 16, 1928 – June 5, 2019



Jack Ross, age 90, died at his home in Wellesley, with his loving children, Wendyl and David, at his side.

Jack was born in the “People’s Republic of Cambridge,” the youngest of four children of Somerville Alderman David Y. Ross and Amy (Irving) Ross. He was a WWII-era veteran of the U.S. Navy and spent most of his working life as an active member of the Graphic Communications Conference union member in the lithography trade. He married Ruth Georgette Perry in 1951 and together they raised their family in South Weymouth, MA. In addition to his two children, he leaves four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was the last family member of his generation.

Jack’s passions included current events, civil rights, politics, the Patriots and Red Sox, conversation, humor, gardening, and constant self-improvement—physical, mental, and spiritual. In retirement he finally found time to go to college. At Mass Bay he delighted in the challenges of “keeping up” with his young classmates and was honored to see several of his humorous short stories and poems published in the college paper and magazine.

A “Friend of Bill’s” for 49 years, Jack was a dependable presence in his local meetings and reached out with compassion and humor to guide countless others along the path to sobriety. Jack’s humility did not lead him to speak of his many acts of generosity and service.

He sought his Higher Power in the company of Friends and made his spiritual home at Wellesley Friends Meeting. He particularly enjoyed the AA meetings at New England Yearly Meeting Sessions.

For 32 years Jack lived with his daughter, Wendyl, in the Wellesley Friends meetinghouse. Together, their care of the building, the grounds,

and of the meeting community was a valuable and much appreciated ministry.

Jack is deeply missed by us all; we wish him “fair winds and following seas.”

WELLESLEY MONTHLY MEETING

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Marlee Turner
February 16, 1933 – November 28, 2018



Marlee was ebullient. Like a high-energy blacksmith, she always had as many irons jammed in the fire as possible. She loved to be creative and get things started. It could get chaotic but her good-hearted enthusiasm was irrepensible. She was feisty and compassionate. A lifelong Quaker, she always sought a Spirit-led life.

Marlee Turner of Raymond, ME, died peacefully on November 28, 2018, in Enchanted Oaks, TX, at the age of 85. Marlee was born in Bronxville, NY, to Quaker parents Henry Chandlee Turner, Jr. (son of the founder of Turner Construction Company), and Virginia Ann (Melick) Turner. The family moved where Henry's construction work took him, including several years in the Philadelphia area, where they attended Haverford Meeting. (Turner Construction Company built several buildings at Swarthmore College.)

Marlee graduated from an all-girls school, Rosemary Hall in Greenwich, CT. She went to Swarthmore College for 2 years, then finished at Stanford University, where she received her Bachelor's degree in education. She began a career in teaching in the Greenwich area. She met John "Jay" Whitcraft when he sailed his yacht into the Indian Harbor Yacht Club in Greenwich. They married and together raised three boys, John, Steven, and David, where Jay's work with IBM took them—Cincinnati, Dallas, and Los Angeles. Never content with staying at home, Marlee was active in the League of Women Voters, and in Los Angeles co-founded the public relations consulting firm CKT Associates (which had critical assignments leading to the success of the 1984 Olympics and the start of the Los Angeles "Metro" transit system). During their time in California, the family attended Sylmar Friends Meeting in the San Fernando Valley. In the early 1970s Marlee's marriage ended and she moved to Maine, where she became an owner of Northern Pines Health Resort and Bed and Breakfast in Raymond, ME. She began attending Portland Friends Meeting, where she was active throughout the remainder of her life. Over the past several

years, Marlee went to Texas for Thanksgiving with family and to spend the winter with the many friends she met in the area.

Quakerism was always important to Marlee. She was raised in the Quaker tradition in New York and Philadelphia and at Swarthmore College. For the last few decades she was an involved member of Portland Friends Meeting (PFM) and was also active in Falmouth Quarter. As she began spending winters in Texas, she started sojourning with Dallas Friends Meeting. She also supported American Friends Service Committee and the historic Quaker Ridge Meetinghouse in Casco, ME. We will miss her profound vocal ministry, which was delivered in a few brief sentences.

Marlee loved to build connections with people. This seemed to motivate her in all areas of her life, from her work as founder and manager of Northern Pines health spa to welcoming visitors to Meeting. She ran for the office of State Representative for her district in Maine, and although not elected, she met many new people who became friends. In her Bridgton, ME, community, she was active in many groups including local politics, the Rotary Club service projects, and senior lunches at the community center. On her recent annual Maine-to-Texas train rides, she claimed that they always generated at least one permanent email friend.

Marlee loved to help others connect. Many have commented that this was one of her gifts in her work in Northern Pines; for example, connecting guests with practitioners of the healing arts. Several PFM events were held at Northern Pines, connecting her work and her meeting. Marlee volunteered to visit all meetings in Falmouth Quarter. As she traveled she would enthusiastically work to build connections between meetings. Recently she invented the After Meeting Lunch by standing at the rise of meeting to invite any and all to have lunch for fellowship at some small local restaurant.

Marlee really engaged with her health challenges. She was diagnosed with both cancer and multiple sclerosis in the 1970s. Her thyroid was removed and her cancer was in remission. Her MS slowly reduced her mobility. Her health spa shrank to a bed and breakfast, then to an Air BnB, but each iteration reflected her welcoming care and her belief in nature's restorative power. As she dealt with MS, she treated herself based on her own study and intuition, even against the advice of doctors—a strategy that many of her doctors would come to acknowledge was effective. We will always remember Marlee's faith and courage in these last years as MS decreased her mobility even more. She would use crutches or her walker to climb over obstacles to get to a new lunch place, and let her laughter overcome all.

Marlee lived in the present and was hopeful about what was coming next in her colorful life. Portland Friends Meeting is grateful to have had so many years with Marlee's ebullient spirit.

PORTLAND MONTHLY MEETING

FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING

Greg Williams
August 28, 1949 – February 14, 2019



Greg began his faith life in the arms of his local Catholic parish in New York. The life of prayer and service suited him, and he decided in high school to pursue monastic life. In high school, often coming home late from church activities, Greg would bring his baby sister some kind of sweet and assure her of his love. His departure for the novitiate was a hard blow.

Greg found life as a novice deeply rewarding, but either was not invited or chose not to take his vows after tensions arose when he attended a Black Panther trial. He eventually found his way to the Third Order of the Franciscans, a fellowship of lay individuals committed to following the ideals of St. Francis, an association he cherished throughout his life. Justice leaders who shared Greg's Catholic roots, especially Oscar Romero and Phil and Dan Berrigan, always held a special influence in his heart and thinking.

The civil rights era and accompanying civil unrest, the horrors and absurdities of the Vietnam War, and the nuclear arms build-up all demanded Greg's engagement as a young black man with acute spiritual and ethical sensibilities. He found the violence perpetrated against poor people and black and brown people intolerable, and never missed an opportunity to name it and call out those complicit in it. He marched, protested, sat in, and organized.

Unswervingly committed to the "least among us," Greg worked in the 1980s with a street ministry that approached people who were homeless as equals and leaders. For decades, he moved between communities of color and Quaker circles, bearing witness and urging those with privilege to take responsibility for transformation. Greg was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War who drew inspiration from both Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, whom he called Brother Martin and Brother Malcolm, and from Quakers Bayard Rustin and Barrington Dunbar. His own prophetic voice in our Quaker world made many uncomfortable and

strained relationships. But his most consistent critics were often his devoted admirers.

His ministry among us posed many questions; important among these was the price of having among us a Friend whose witness was, in spite of Greg's personal gentleness, more prophetic than comforting. Essential to this Friend's life and work was a singular focus on the message with which he had been entrusted. Working with him required a clear-eyed choice; he welcomed the help and comradeship of others, but he would not be diverted from his primary task of building bridges between mostly white Quaker bodies and communities of color.

Greg's formal involvement with Quakers began in his mid-twenties, with a job in the American Friends Service Committee's Cambridge office in 1975, which required him to attend New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions. As he related shortly before his death in a series of interviews conducted by John Fuller, he soon decided that "if I'm going to really do this and learn about Quakers, I've got to be there." Instead of attending just to do a workshop, he began to stay for the whole week. "What I did was hook onto Doris Ashley, and Jan Hoffman. Jan Hoffman! As I wandered through the world, she was my support within Quakers—and she knows a lot about Quakers!" At Sessions, Greg found community among the youth workers. "We decided, 'I don't want to go to meeting. Why would I want to go to meeting? It's boring! Let me hang out with Young Friends. That's where the action is. That's where I can offer them stuff.'" Many adults who are active in the Yearly Meeting today remember Greg as a Resource Person during their teen years. Then and afterwards, Greg unfailingly saw and named the Young Friends as full moral and political members of our Quaker community and the world. Many parents among us also warmly recall his more recent care for their babies and toddlers, as in his later years he often staffed the childcare program during Sessions. With children of any age, he was a loving and unflappable guide who called forth integrity and courage.

Greg's employment with the Service Committee ended in 1984, but he remained involved with the organization as a member of local and regional governance committees in New England, AFSC's nationwide Third World Coalition and National Affirmative Action Committee, and the Corporation. In 2014 he joined AFSC's newly formed Board Advisory Committee on Community, Equality, and Justice. The AFSC Board attests in its memorial minute for Greg that through these many forms of service, he contributed greatly to the Service Committee's understanding of structural racism and the need to address it both within and beyond the organization.

Greg's first membership in the Society of Friends was at New Bedford (MA) Monthly Meeting, and he always recalled his collaboration with others who were also dedicated to reviving and sustaining that meeting, as

one of the spiritual treasures of his life. His many political activities in the city of New Bedford included a run for mayor which, as Greg wryly recalled later, featured a visit by Jesse Jackson—to campaign for Greg’s opponent!

His membership was transferred to Beacon Hill Friends Meeting in May 2014. For several years he and other local Friends maintained the Jamaica Plain Worship Group, which initially met in Friends’ homes but eventually, led by Greg and others, chose to meet publicly—at the First Baptist Church, and later in a trailer out front during repairs to the church building after a fire. It was a precious hope of Greg’s to start a truly accessible Quaker meeting along the lines of a storefront church, embedded in community and actively engaged in justice and outreach.

Though he bore all change with equanimity, the end of the worship group was a disappointment to him. A few months before his death, describing his frustration with the weakness of efforts to bring more Friends of color into our meetings, Greg reflected: “There’s such wonder and beauty in the Society of Friends. That’s what makes me sad. I get to taste that wonder, and other people taste that wonder, but most people don’t.” An active Yearly Meeting Friend, Greg served on the Peace and Social Concerns; Racial, Social, & Economic Justice; Clerks Nominating; and Sessions committees. He facilitated workshops at Sessions, and served as a Reading Clerk at meeting for business. He joined the Faith & Practice Revision Committee in 2013, and is quoted in the “Extracts” sections of the forthcoming edition.

Greg’s vocal ministry often called us to tap into Quakers’ historic legacy of courageous witness. He lamented that “we don’t, as Quakers, know our history well enough so that it’s beating in our hearts.” He delighted in studying and sharing the lives of brave change-makers from every tradition, feeling that if this kind of education were more fully incorporated into Friends’ practice, we would be bolder and more united in our corporate witness. Yet respect for those who came before us, whether Quaker luminaries or civil rights icons, was to Greg no excuse for complacency or delay. Rather, he insisted that the work of the Friends who came before, while it should inspire and guide us, is still not completed. The revered leaders who came before us were often limited by unexamined acceptance of some forms of injustice, even as they accomplished powerful changes and opened the space for more truth to be revealed. Those of us lucky enough to have heard him will not forget Greg’s beautiful voice exhorting each and all of us—now and here—to keep moving toward radical solidarity and true integration.

In the mid-2000s, Greg started a listserv through which he sent out spiritual reflections, and he received a grant from the NEYM Legacy Fund to launch “Stone of Hope,” a ministry originally envisioned as a way to move closer to starting a justice-oriented, fully inclusive Quaker meeting

or worship group. Once started, though, the ministry evolved in response to new light—including from a joy-filled collaboration between Greg and Boston-based drummer and educator Toussaint Liberator. But Stone of Hope was also hampered in its growth by Greg’s increasingly unstable health, and by disorganized oversight resulting from a mix of Greg’s orneriness, a persistent lack of unity in his home meeting about the validity of his ministry, the endemic overcommitment of Friends in New England, and the challenges of cell phones. There was frustration. There was grace. As is generally the way, the grace has outlasted the frustration: A monthly Stone of Hope drumming and conversation circle at Cambridge Friends Meeting, led by Toussaint Liberator, is now in its third year of gathering and inspiring people.

In the months since Greg died, many people have shared some small, precious story about being touched by his grace at a key point in their lives. Many of these are memories of interacting with him in his role as an overnight security guard at hospitals and universities, a position that not everyone would recognize as an opportunity for ministry. Greg was not afraid of sadness in others, which meant that in a crowded space that might feel very lonely to a person carrying a heavy burden, he would come right over, kind and unflustered and present, and you could breathe again. Quaker meetings are sometimes challenged to fully welcome people who behave in unusual or alarming ways—but here, too, Greg’s embrace was always immediate and unfettered.

In fact, he wasn’t afraid of much. As one Friend summed up Greg’s approach to his own personal health and life situation, “Whatever will happen, will happen.” Toward the end of his life especially, this attitude often placed a burden on others, leaving his community to wonder whether our duty was only to support him, or also to challenge him to apply his guiding principles closer to home. Most confusing for some of us, as we look back, is the question of whether we should have urged Greg more strongly to attend to damaged relationships in his own life. Would addressing these issues with the same courage he showed in other areas not only have brought healing, but also cleared some vital channel for his ministry to thrive?

Greg was at home, and a sojourner, wherever he went. He was a Quaker, and a Franciscan. He was a militant and a peacemaker; angry and sad; patient and restless; surrounded by friends and a loner; eager for peace, ready to provoke; ever the same, always on the move. He was a messenger, translator, interpreter, bridge-builder, and provocateur. Many in his Quaker community barely knew him after 30 or 40 years, but respect, admire, and love him nonetheless.

Friend Greg aspired in his youth to the rigorous silence of Thomas Merton’s Cistercians—but his memorial meeting began with the raucous, thunderous, roiling sounds of African drums in the cultivated stillness of

a Quaker meeting room. It was the kind of mischievous disruption of expectations that he thrived on. He dropped his stone into our pond, and the ripples go on.

BEACON HILL MONTHLY MEETING

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Paul Manthey Zorn, Jr.
May 8, 1927 – April 29, 2016



Paul Zorn was a weighty Friend who carried himself Lightly.

Paul Manthey Zorn was born on May 8, 1927, in New Haven, CT. He kept his boyhood love of learning and adventure throughout the course of his life.

Paul enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1945 after graduating from high school. Following his Navy service, Paul attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduating in 1950 with a degree in chemical engineering. While at MIT, he was a founding member of the Logarithms, an a cappella singing group. On a visit to his sister Sue at Bryn Mawr to attend the Army/Navy football game, Paul met Sue's good friend Sally Brown. Paul and Sally were married at Sally's home in Winnetka, IL, on August 30, 1952.

Paul and Sally began their lives together in Reading, PA, where they joined the Religious Society of Friends. They resided in various neighborhoods around Philadelphia, including Concord Park, a planned integrated community dedicated to achieving racial integration in a suburban setting.

Finding work in the chemical industry unfulfilling, Paul pursued an alternative and in 1960 received a Master's degree in teaching from Harvard University. He and Sally moved to Wycombe in Bucks County, PA, where they lived for 42 years. Paul taught chemistry and environmental sciences at William Tennant High School and was the faculty advisor for the astronomy club, inspiring scores of young scientists and stargazers. He designed the sundial placed around the Creation Pole at Bucks County Community College. While living in Wycombe, Paul was an active member of Wrightstown Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, participating in the work of many committees, including a restructuring of the Yearly Meeting.

Paul was a man of many interests. He served on the Mohawk Canoe Club River Rescue Team, which focused on canoeing on the Delaware River. He founded the Wrightstown Township Parks and Recreation Board. Paul and Sally, both avid bicyclists, took several bicycle trips to places

such as the Canadian Rockies and the Mississippi River valley, as well as Belgium, France, Germany, and New Zealand.

Paul retained his love of music and reading all his life. He shared his love of reading by tutoring in literacy programs and working in prisons. After retiring from teaching, Paul developed an interest in the visual arts and produced a number of photomontages and screen prints.

In 2003, the Paul and Sally moved to Northampton, MA, and immediately started attending Northampton Friends Meeting, transferring their membership from Wrightstown Friends the following year.

Paul generously shared his time and gifts with Northampton Friends, whether introducing a college-bound young Friend to MIT or ensuring the Meeting's heating and air-conditioning system operated efficiently.

Paul's presence in our Meeting was a gift that we cherish.

NORTHAMPTON MONTHLY MEETING

CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING



**NEW ENGLAND
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