

Framingham Friends Meeting

Memorial Minute

Julie Heagney

September 6, 1945 – July 5, 2023

Julie Heagney was born in Madisonville KY where her father's family, rooted in the South, were from. She grew up in Carbondale, IL where she also attended college, graduating third in her class at Southern Illinois University. By her reckoning, her early years were quite parochial and imbued with a racist perspective that for the rest of her life she sought to reject. Following college, she moved east and began her journey away from her roots toward an understanding of the hard lessons of racism that her southern Illinois childhood had left her with. That journey ultimately brought her to membership in the Society of Friends and a second career as a teacher of English as a Second Language and director of Framingham's Literacy Unlimited program.

Julie was ever a seeker, rarely satisfied to simply accept the unacceptable. She was also resilient in the face of the many obstacles life presented, resting always in her compassion and love for her family and community. When her PhD in English Literature from Boston College did not lead to the academic position she would have expected, she reinvented herself and used her writing skills first in Vermont and then in Massachusetts in state government planning. Not satisfied with this path, she eventually opted for early retirement and returned to graduate school to get a Masters in Linguistics which then opened the door to the second career she came to love. Along the way, she married Terry and together they adopted Rafa as a young boy from El Salvador. Rafa was a gifted soccer player and so Julie became the quintessential soccer Mom, supporting him in his athletic pursuits. When Rafa married and had two sons with his then-wife, Julie warmly embraced his wife and her daughters by a former marriage, as well as her two grandsons, providing the stability and security they needed. Even after Rafa and his wife parted ways, Julie remained invested and involved with her former daughter-in-law and her step-granddaughters all of whom spoke poignantly of the love they felt for and from Julie at her memorial meeting.

Julie's capacity for love and compassion was generously shared with Framingham Friends Meeting where she had many roles. She served as presiding clerk of the meeting as well as clerk of the Peace, Justice and Earth Care Committee for many years. She also served on Ministry and Counsel where she was also clerk, was very active on the Working Group on Racism and was the meeting's representative to the Framingham Interfaith Community Association for several years. She served on the New England Yearly Meeting's Puente de Amigos Committee supporting the "bridge of love" between New England and Cuba Yearly Meetings. Beyond her service, Julie was a good friend and caring confidante to many members of the meeting who found in her a generous and kind heart.

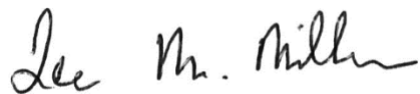
Her journey into Quakerism deepened with her participation in the Nurturing Faithfulness program in 2017-2018. Then she experienced the "cracking open that allows the Light in" which deepened her sense of the mystery of the Divine and which sustained her as she approached her end far too soon last July. In her final years she was a gentle and attentive participant in a faithfulness group formed as part of

this program, generously sharing her life with the other participants, and likewise sharing her deep wisdom.

Julie was and remained a seeker. As she faced the reality of her impending death, understandable fears and doubts arose. There were so many things left undone in her life. She had started a memoir she wanted to finish but more importantly she wanted to be sure that Terry, Rafa and her grandchildren were going to be OK. One of her final requests was that we rehome an exotic frog for her. At the end, she was still thinking of others, concerned for their welfare, wanting to be sure they were OK. Ever the writer, she wrote farewell notes to her family members. It was that generous love and her wish to live from that loving place that we have all missed in the months since she died. That love for her family, for her community and for all creation is what defined her life and is her legacy.

This memorial minute was approved by Framingham Friends Meeting at its Meeting for Business on 4th month, 21st day of 2024.

Submitted to New England Yearly Meeting Permanent Board in lieu of Salem Quarterly Meeting, by Lee Miller, presiding clerk, Framingham Monthly Meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee M. Miller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed text of the document.