

**Memorial Minute**  
**Karen Sheila Levy Cadbury**  
**June 1945 - March 2024**

Friends at Midcoast Monthly Meeting in Damariscotta, Maine give thanks for the many ways Karen Cadbury served the Meeting. She worked on the Finance Committee and the Pastoral Care Committee; she taught First Day School and served as co-clerk; she was the spark that created and secured grant funding for the Meeting's innovative Outreach and Peace project. Karen was energetic and bright - her only sibling, Melaine, described her as "a trooper".

Karen Sheila Levy Cadbury was born in 1945 in Baltimore but spent her early years in Texas, her father's home state. Karen would refer to her father's Jewish background saying she was raised "never to hate". In her teens the family moved to Baltimore, her mother's home area. When Karen was sixteen her mother died. Karen became "like a mother" to Melaine and carried on. She finished high school and enrolled at the University of Maryland. Soon she met David Frederick Cadbury, a student at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). They became a devoted, hard-working couple, sharing a love for birding, ocean sailing, and art for 49 years. David's family was from a Quaker background; Karen would say that her transition to Quakerism was natural. David and Karen moved to Philadelphia and joined Central Philadelphia Meeting, participating there for two decades.


Melaine spoke of a time Karen took her to a civil rights demonstration in Baltimore, saying Karen was "always thinking about people's rights and different cultures." Gradually Karen built a career working for organizations that supported these rights and cultures. She worked in the development office for the University of Pennsylvania and at the university's Museum, where she developed programs that brought Museum exhibits and experts to Philadelphia public school classrooms. She served as staff for the Policy and Legislation Committee of the Peace Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, constantly encouraging Friends to contact their U.S. Senators and Representatives about important federal legislation. She developed considerable expertise on what was happening in Israel and the Middle East, an interest she continued throughout her life. Meanwhile their two children, Benjamin and Rachel, were born.

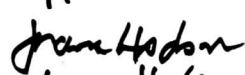
A Friend said of Karen and David: "David and Karen together were an inspiring model of supporting and living with each other through all of life's challenges." When David had a heart attack at age 45, they decided to move to Maine where David's family had summered in the past. Karen got a job with College of the Atlantic and soon set up Cadbury Consultants, continuing her work for non-profits.

A Friend spoke of how hard Karen worked at her job but also reached out with caring to people around her. Another Friend said "Karen was one to bounce back. I was in awe of her anchored trust that the best will prevail. Even in her last days, Karen was imagining ways to share and connect people." Karen lived out Quaker testimonies in her many work endeavors and brought her professional organizing and finance skills to Friends' Meetings and organizations.

Karen had a way with words whether listening or communicating. If there was a misunderstanding among Friends she would make personal phone calls and write letters to offer an ear or loving support. As she was transitioning from a demanding career load, she joined a writers' group and began to write a mystery.

Said a member of Midcoast Meeting, "I will miss her way with words that made Quakerism live for me in a special way. She was a brilliant woman who gave so much to the Meeting."

APPROVED 9/15/24   
GUY MARSDEN CLERK MIDCOAST FRIENDS

Approved Nov. 2, 2024  
  
Jane Hodson  
clerk of the day