

Erica Brinton Memorial Minute

October 14, 1948-January 27, 2022

Hanover Friends Meeting's long-time member, Erica Brinton, passed away quietly in her modest home in Norwich, Vermont on January 27, 2022.

Erica was a community activist, avid bike commuter, faithful Christmas Revels actor, loyal shape-note singer, cheerful Morris and Contra dancer, dedicated Registered Nurse, and famous cook for each and every pot-luck supper where, like at all activities, she was a cheerful presence. But most of all, Erica was a friendly face to everyone she met.

Erica was born on October 14, 1948 and raised in a Quaker household in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and graduated from George School. After spending every childhood summer vacation at her parent's hillside farm "Wenlock Edge" in Ludlow Vermont, it was Hanover Friends Meeting's good fortune that she decided to relocate permanently to New England. After graduating from Russell Sage College with a BS in nursing, she took a job at Mary Hitchcock Hospital and settled into the Upper Valley so she could spend her free time back at Wenlock Edge.

From the time Erica moved to the Upper Valley, her life became a tableau of community happenings. Her life was filled year 'round with events that drew people into her circle. In the Spring, she'd be inviting people to walk a local trail. Summer would be a time to help weed community gardens. Her apple cider mill would be grinding away on sunny autumn days. And winter would be filled with Revels rehearsals and contra dances.

Erica wore her Quaker values on her sleeve. She attended every vigil against war and injustice that she could. She volunteered in the Meeting's First Day School program, served as Presiding Clerk and on a number of its standing committees as well as the AFSC-Vermont Committee, and regularly attended her faith's quarterly meetings. To expand her circle of friends beyond northern New England, she joined a religious delegation to visit a Quaker church in Havana Cuba where she taught New England folk dances to gales of laughter and much hand-clapping and toe-tapping. Now,

years later, Cuban Quakers still fondly invoke memories of “Erika” with warm smiles.

To allow her more time for civic engagement, Erica traded in her full-time nursing job for a part-time job at Kendal at Hanover where, once again she made lifetime friends.

Erica Brinton’s life was cut too short by medical challenges. But she will be carried in the hearts of all who knew this person who exuded the divine presence with such grace and charm.

Approved at Hanover Friends Meeting Business Meeting on March 16, 2025

Endorsed by Northwest Quarterly Meeting, June 7, 2025