

Hugh Stewart Barbour
August 7, 1921 - January 8, 2021

Hugh Stewart Barbour, a resident of Kendal on Hudson in Sleepy Hollow, New York, died on January 8, 2021. He was 99 years old. A lifelong scholar, academic, peace activist, and punster, he was still formulating plans well past his mid-90s to write a paper on the meaning of Jesus to Quakers.

Born in 1921 in Beijing, China, the first of three sons of an American missionary mother and Scottish geologist father, Barbour had a peripatetic childhood. By his own account, by the time he was sixteen, he had crossed the Pacific five times and the Atlantic ten, and had been “the outsider in ten schools.” Perhaps this feeling of exclusion helped to shape some of his later, lifelong concerns: Overcoming divisions among Christians generally, as well as among Friends; fostering ecumenism; and supporting those who suffered hardship for their religious convictions. He particularly focused on Quakers and other Christians in regions experiencing religious oppression.

Hugh attended boarding schools in England before entering Harvard College, from which he graduated magna cum laude in 1942. There he majored in the History of Science, but also valued his participation in the Student Christian Movement, where he connected with others across denominations and nationalities. Many in the Student Christian Movement between the World Wars became pacifists and practiced a social gospel committed to justice. These concerns for peace and for justice led Hugh eventually to join the Religious Society of Friends—though not before serving as the pastor of a Congregational church in Coventry, CT, as part of his training in divinity school. Concerned that, as a young man, he couldn’t deliver the Truth that his church members wanted to hear, he chose to pursue teaching instead.

Hugh was accepted at a number of distinguished medical and divinity schools, and chose Union Theological Seminary, earning a B.Div. He studied with Paul Tillich and Reinhold Niebuhr, and received his Ph.D. in 1952 from Yale University, where his mentor was Roland Bainton. His Yale dissertation became a book, *The Quakers in Puritan England*, which has been an indispensable resource for Quaker historians ever since. Over the course of his career, Hugh authored or co-authored six additional books, including *Early Quaker Writings*, *Quaker Cross-Currents*, *Slavery and Theology*, and *The Quakers*, as well as more than 70 articles, reviews, chapters, and pamphlets. At his retirement, many esteemed colleagues honored Hugh with a weighty Festschrift.

Hugh joined the faculty of Earlham College, in Richmond, Indiana, as professor of religion in 1953. There he met Sirkka Talikka, a Finnish exchange student, and the two married in 1959 in Helsinki. She had been a refugee from Karelia who spent her childhood years in Lapland and

Sweden during World War II. She and Hugh connected deeply through their shared experiences of dislocation and uprootedness as children, and a yearning for home and belonging, which they found together at Clear Creek Friends Meeting and the Earlham College community. Through their many years in Indiana and beyond, they kept close ties with family in Scotland and Finland. Hugh taught widely at Earlham, first focusing on Quakerism, church history, and biblical studies, but then widening the curriculum to include Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, and other traditions of East Asia, which he combined into a very popular course in World Religions. Early in his career, when the Earlham School of Religion came into being, Hugh was among its founding faculty. Not long after, when Earlham established its program in peace studies, Hugh became a steady contributor to its offerings. Through all his decades of teaching, he continued to earn his well-established reputation as an “absent-minded professor,” and stories—both reliable and apocryphal—abound.

From his youth, Hugh was a citizen of the world, and he sought to enrich through international experience the lives of his students. He and Sirkka led foreign study groups to Germany, Austria, and the Soviet Union, and also taught summer school at Viittakivi, an International Quaker Institute in Finland. They introduced Earlham students not only to the cultural riches of Europe but also to the genuine difficulties faced by dissidents who lived under repressive governments. He particularly honored East German Friends for their valiant internal stance, and sought to convey such experience in his teaching.

Hugh was committed as much to contemporary Quakerism as to its history. He was active in numerous Quaker organizations, including the Friends World Committee for Consultation, which Hugh represented in Kenya and Japan; the Friends Committee for National Legislation; and the World Council of Churches. Always aiming to promote understanding among different sorts of Quakers, he was active nationally in Friends General Conference and Friends United Meeting. A seeker of truth all his life, Hugh came from a family that combined science and religion, with high expectations that he lead a life of service to others. Hugh pondered deeply the relationship of the authority of individual experience with the conviction that truth resides in community, always on guard against the human tendency toward self-deception. Hugh’s reading of the young George Fox’s relationship with his family focused on love and rebellion—a fitting description of tendencies in Hugh himself. Toward the end of his life, he spoke personally about the meaning of Jesus for early Quakers, emphasizing his ability to bring grace and solace to those burdened by efforts to redress the world’s ills. The twinkle in Hugh’s eye, for which he is remembered by so many, suggests that he may have experienced this grace all along.

Hugh had a lifelong love of the outdoors, and often took his family on camping and canoeing trips to the wilds of Canada and New England. Squam Lake in New Hampshire was a mutli-generational extended-family retreat, where Hugh could recharge with two of his favorite pastimes, boating and birding.

Hugh was a cherished member of Clear Creek Meeting in Richmond, Indiana, from 1953 to 1991. There, he was active in many ministries of the Meeting. From 1991 to 2005 he was part of Friends Meeting at Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he had been active as a student in his college years, and where he and Sirkka served together as Resident Friends for four years. He was a member of Chappaqua Meeting from 2005-2021, where he is remembered for his gifts in teaching and for the weightiness that he brought to the life of that community.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

David Bonner
March 8, 1937 - November 10, 2023

David Bonner, a long-time attender at Friends Meeting at Cambridge, died peacefully in the presence of his family on November 10, 2023, at the age of 86. David was active in FMC for nearly 40 years, along with his spouse, Jane Jackson. Their children Aaron and Kate grew up in the meeting.

David was born on March 8, 1937, in Ithaca, NY. where he spent his early years with his family on the shore of Lake Cayuga. When his father was drafted as an Army physician in World War II, the family followed him to postings in Florida and Texas. After the war the family settled in Rochester NY, where David's father practiced medicine from an office located in one end of the family home. In high school, David worked at a bowling alley picking up pins between frames (this was before the era of automatic pin machines.) He also worked the early morning shift at a bakery. He discovered an interest in ham radios and fixing all things electronic. He spent several treasured summers as a camper and counselor at Camp Pathfinder, canoeing along the rivers of Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario. His love of the outdoors and of canoeing stayed with him for the rest of his life.

After graduating from Princeton University in 1959, David went to Officer Candidate School in the U.S. Navy, and served as a supply officer in the Pacific, visiting Japan three times. After the Navy, he went to Harvard Business School, emerging with an MBA in 1965. That world of business was never a good fit for David, and after a few years of trying different sales jobs in California, a more genuine persona emerged: he dropped out of the business world, moved to San Francisco, and immersed himself in hippie culture, living in a commune and teaching photography at a "free school." In the late sixties, he worked with others to staff an antiwar GI coffee house in Colorado Springs.

Looking back in later years, David remembered that he always had a great interest in radios, especially short-wave radios. Having moved to Somerville MA with his first wife, David used his GI education benefits to attend Mass. Radio School and earn a first-class radio license. When his marriage ended, he moved into a group house in Somerville and began working at Somerville Media Action Project, an after-school program for at-risk high school students. The Project taught photography and video production, taking advantage of Somerville's being one of the first cities in the country to have community access cable TV. Later, he founded Bontronics, a company in Somerville, MA that provided audiovisual rentals and design for boardrooms, classrooms, churches and restaurants for over 25 years.

David was always generous with his skills and resources, happy to support things he cared about. Bontronics donated AV equipment for many community events and gatherings. As one

Friend recalls, “As a Somerville resident, I’d always appreciated how David supported so many causes and initiatives in this community. And in the earliest days of media, ‘ville activists still fondly remember how David showed up and recorded local events.”

In 1974, Jane Jackson moved into the group house in Somerville. “It was not love at first sight,” Jane recalls, but David and Jane gradually warmed up to each other. They married in 1977. A spiritually deep person, David was attracted to Buddhist teachings, especially the writings of Thich Nhat Hanh, and joined a Sangha which he attended for several years. He loved Dylan Thomas, and memorized several of Thomas’s longer poems as he was driving around for his business. He was a long-time practitioner of Tai Chi and yoga.

David, Jane and their children started attending FMC in about 1985. At FMC, David taught First Day School and served on Outreach and Fellowship, Landscape and Gardening, Memorial Meetings, Cambridge Quaker Earthcare Witness, Peace and Social Concerns/Justice. For several years, he was a steady member of the Sunday lunch team. He was an “ever-helpful tech guy,” contributing to many improvements in the FMC audio-visual systems. (“Who ya gonna call? David Bonner, of course.”) One friend remembers David for his “wonderful dance parties...and great sense of humor.” Another: “I worked with him many times during coffee hour, which can sometimes feel like a chore but with him it was a fun, joyous time. He was a lovely, kind, helpful man.”

A man of peace, David was a staunch member of Veterans for Peace and faithfully attended events and commemorations. Many of us remember the two forums in which he and fellow veteran Sev Bruyn spoke powerfully about their perspectives on war and on Memorial Day. One Friend observes, “David never met a peace vigil he didn’t like.” He was a faithful presence at the FMC monthly meetings for worship outside of Textron and then Raytheon. Friend John Bach recalls: “For years, David and I stood side by side with placards or at opposite ends of big banners proclaiming ‘Quakers Standing for Universal Justice and Enduring Peace.’ David knew where to stand and he stood there. It was a tribute to our individual journeys and spiritual openness that we could link arms in sync and en flesh our understanding of Quakerdom and our testimonies. David understood what it meant to be an activist and it was an honor to stand by his side.”

In 2007, David had a serious fall from a ladder at work. A Friend remembers that “the whole meeting came together to pray for him. I don’t think I’ve experienced that for anyone else.” During treatment for that fall, a benign brain tumor was found, which was later removed. David recovered from the fall but suffered a stroke a couple of years later that affected his speech. However, “Even after his fall, when he was frustrated by having difficulty speaking, it was well worth the wait for little gems.” A Friend who was in a Yearly Meeting Anchor Group with David remembers that “although he had the opportunity to share, it felt like

his speech impediment always made it a challenge for him to feel heard. After one of our meetings, David and I shared a lovely conversation on an outdoor bench where he did most of the talking and I most of the listening. David loved to talk!" One Friend remembers his playful approach to one of the less desirable effects of radiation: "There were his cute hats when his hair loss was a patchy phenomenon - and then he abandoned hats for a "this is who I am" Look."

David served on a long-lasting Resident Friend's support committee that turned into a monthly breakfast club eventually dubbed the "Senior Scouts." John Bach remembers, "We were on a first-name basis with our Greek waitress and soon well on our way to dispensing with checks and engaged in a delightful routine of being ridiculously under-charged and responding with generous over-payment. It was a good example of Quakers walking (and dining) cheerfully in the world. The laugh-per-minute was high, with wide smiles, and David's challenges in speaking never impeded the communication at the table amid the closely knitted circle of older gentlemen." Another member of the group remembers that David was the one who "instigated group hugs whenever we parted."

In retirement, David developed his artistic side. He took tap dance lessons and learned to play the ukulele. He loved to dance and make music with friends. His love of the outdoors "bloomed" in his last years, when his favorite times were spent outside, identifying plants and trees on his phone, tending his plants, looking at seed catalogues, planning next year's garden.

A stroke in 2022 did more serious damage. David's last year was one of isolation and silence; his understanding of speech declined, and he could speak and write only with great difficulty. With Jane's help, he continued his faithful attendance at the once-monthly meeting for worship at Raytheon, attending for the last time only a month before his death. "David showed up, despite all his infirmities. His persistence inspired me."

To the end, David loved to be out in nature. He loved this world in all its variety and beauty. He took great joy in his children and grandchildren. As one Friend remembers, "He loved his family so much." David departed this life gracefully, surrounded by love. Staying true to his commitment to the environment, he had a green burial in Westview Cemetery in Lexington.

We at FMC benefited steadily from David's gentle, persisting witness for peace, his life-affirming lightness of spirit, and his generosity of heart. We miss him!

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, October 5, 2025, Chris Jorgenson, clerk.

Robert "Bob" Leland Carter
March 3, 1928 - April 29, 2020

Many of us at FMC remember Bob Carter best as he stood at the bottom of the main stairway in the Friends Center, in his characteristic corduroy pants, as solid and stable as a giant oak, welcoming all who entered. One Friend remembers: "I would arrive in a hectic bustle with too many things to do before worship, and there would be Bob, calm and serene, his presence reminding me that everything would be all right." Another remembers her two year old daughter gravitating to Bob as he stood there, hugging his leg, feeling safe. "This unassuming man had an aura of welcome and safety." Still another remembers his ministry of welcome, "Bob was my welcome to FMC. We talked about everything. I felt seen, listened to, respected, and welcomed. When I saw Bob as I entered the Friends' center, I was here." And another: "I always looked forward to seeing Bob on Sunday morning when I came to forum. I felt that he was truly fond of me. It is a true gift to a person who is new to FMC to encounter someone who seems genuinely fond of them."

Robert Leland Carter had traveled many life miles to stand up among us in this way. He was born a birthright Quaker on March 3, 1928, in Indianapolis, Indiana. He grew up with two sisters, Elsa Littman of Donaldson, Indiana and Charlotte Harris of Boulder, Colorado. He was an avid Boy Scout and was awarded the Order of the Arrow, an honor for those who "best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives." In high school, Bob was awarded a special leadership award from the Indianapolis YMCA. Bob attended Earlham College, as his father had done. For two of his undergraduate summers, he served as a commissary director for Boy Scout camps.

Bob was a conscientious objector to World War II and did alternate service with the YMCA. Following graduation, he met and married Beverly Stone, then attended the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, and obtained a Master's Degree in Library Science.

Bob and Beverly raised their three children, Paul, Elsa and Amy, in Watertown, New York. There, from 1959 to 1966, Bob directed the North Country Library System, the oldest, largest cooperative library system in New York, consisting of 70 public libraries along its northern border with Canada. In this position, he started many local libraries in northern New York towns, and managed a bookmobile serving small villages all the way up to the St. Lawrence Seaway. Under his leadership, the library system became the major source of films on art for public libraries in the state of New York. He went on from that position to set up the first regional library system in the State of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana; he planned a new system headquarters building for the Lincoln Trail Library System, which coordinated library services in nine surrounding counties. Bob later served as Library Director in libraries in New Canaan,

Connecticut and Endicott, New York, and rounded out his book-related work many years later at the Harvard Coop Bookstore.

Bob's creative, knowledgeable and industrious efforts up to his early mid-life, unfortunately, did not yield personal satisfaction. As a result, he made a significant career and family change. In 1974, he moved to the Berkshire mountains in Massachusetts with his new wife, Mary Anne Becker, his son Paul, and her two sons, Allen and Andrew Becker. He became kitchen manager of Gould Farm, a therapeutic community in the Berkshire mountains for people troubled with mental illness. In 1980, Bob and Mary Anne moved to Great Barrington, where he continued food service work. After his second marriage ended in divorce, Bob remained in Massachusetts as head cook for Nature's Classroom, a school-age environmental education program, and served for several summers, as cook for Friends Camp of New England Yearly Meeting in China, Maine. His favorite thing to serve was a buffet with homemade soups and casseroles. He valued the praise he received from staff and campers for the superior meals he provided.

In the early 1990's, Bob came to Friends Meeting at Cambridge, and lived for a period as a resident in the Friends Center. As his daughter Amy writes, "Bob deeply trusted his fellow members of Cambridge Friends Meeting, where he found people who appreciated the unique person he was." Bob attended Sunday worship regularly, sitting where he could assist people who came up the ramp to the side door. He was a steady member of Wednesday morning worship, after which Nancy Cirillo, a professional violinist, remembers long discussions of classical music. He particularly enjoyed telling Nancy that his great grandmother had sat on the lap of Brahms! Bob was also an active part of his local worship group. Though he never spoke in meeting that we can remember, Bob let his life speak of a deep and steadfast faith.

Bob worked part-time for the Meeting for most of his last thirty years, often as the serene, attentive and reassuring welcomer that so many of us remember standing in the Friends Center entry way or at the end of the driveway to guide guests arriving for a wedding or memorial worship. Saturday mornings, he welcomed all who arrived to attend the weekly AA meeting, and guided new attendees to the Friends Room. For these seekers, he was the face of the meeting, a welcoming, affirming and steady presence. Bob did not want to leave his work at FMC. We sense that even our great affirmation and gratitude at his goodbye gathering did not assuage his sadness and disappointment at becoming too unsteady on his feet to do the work.

In the late 1990s, Bob joined with a group of Meeting members and others to found and build Cambridge Cohousing, a cooperative community for people and families of all ages who shared weekly meals, gardens and community spaces. He lived in this cohousing community for most of the final two decades of his life, and clung to living there considerably past the time when his

children felt it might be physically safer for him to move to assisted living. He did finally move to the nearby Cadbury Commons, and came to enjoy being there as well.

Many in his family recall Bob's generous nature. Amy remembers him as "a quiet, caring and generous man." She expresses pride in her father's "highly developed esthetic sense which found greatest expression in his hobby of picture framing. He framed art reproductions, using craftsman skills with materials he carefully selected, to give his family great beauty for the walls of their homes." Paul remembers him as "quiet, gentle, and a hard worker, a generous father who enjoyed playing Santa Claus to his family at Christmas time."

During the memorial service, Bob's stepson remembered him as an "adventurer on the inside" who took his new stepson on many excursions to "see the world" and provided a solid place in a tumultuous life. "The light of Bob Carter stays with me, and for that I am grateful." Bob's grandson John shared fond memories of Bob's signature corduroy pants ("He was easy to shop for!"), and the way Bob hummed when feeling amused. Bob's granddaughter, Lea, expressed gratitude for the way he enriched her life through the many picture books and reading books that he gave to his grandchildren. Leah taught herself to read in order to be able to read the books that her grandfather sent. She benefited from "his quiet nature, his listening. You cannot underestimate the power of listening to a child." She has chosen to be a kindergarten teacher; she loves to read to children, and hopes to pass this loving practice along.

Bob's passions were nature, fine art, picture framing, music and books. He never owned a TV and had little interest in computers. One of his prize possessions was the very large, very old Bible that had been passed down through his Quaker family. He was a simple man. Visitors to Bob's one-room apartment at Cohousing, and later at Cadbury Commons assisted living center, remember entering a room filled with the sounds of classical music and graced by shelves full of books that he knew well.

When Bob could no longer get to Friends Meeting to worship in the community, Friends met with him for worship in his room at Cadbury Commons. Bob died peacefully at the Parlin House, Wayland MA at the age of 92 on April 29, 2020. He is survived by his daughters Amy Clark and Elsa Carter, currently in Gallup New Mexico, and Paul Carter of Southborough, Massachusetts; two step children, Alan Becker of West Stockbridge, MA and Andrew Becker of Queens, New York; his grandchildren John Carter and Lea Holloway Gambuti, and her son, Bob's greatgrandson, Ashton Cree.

We deeply miss Bob's ministry of quiet presence.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, November 14, 2021, Tom Sander, clerk.

Elisabeth Cotten
September 29, 1931 - August 26, 2023

Friends Meeting at Cambridge member Elisabeth Cotten (nee Graf) died on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at age 91. Elisabeth was born in Basel, Switzerland on September 29, 1931.

Elisabeth loved languages, culture, and travel from a young age. She was fluent in five languages. As an exchange student in high school, she lived in England, Holland, and France. After high school, she studied in France and Italy. Elisabeth worked in numerous countries including Finland, Italy, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, the United States, and Canada where she met her husband, George Cotten.

She transferred her membership to Friends Meeting at Cambridge from Stamford (Connecticut) Monthly Meeting on December 12, 1962 along with the memberships of her three young children Janet, Gerald and Richard. Her husband George pre-deceased her on June 5, 2009.

From 1990 to 2002 Elisabeth served faithfully as the FMC Recorder. Elisabeth was a naturalized US citizen. Her resignation from that role in 2002 was precipitated by the Meeting's decision to join the Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People. At that time Recorder was an officer of the meeting and as an officer she felt she faced greater personal risk than native-born citizens in regard to possible penalties due to the Meeting's action. Elisabeth also served on the Center Furnishings Committee and the Exhibits Committee.

For many years, Elisabeth was one of the small group of stalwart regulars at the Brookhaven Worship Group under the care of Friends Meeting at Cambridge. It met outdoors, weather permitting, where a few Friends from FMC would sometimes join them, especially during the COVID pandemic when FMC only held worship online. Also, in recent years she served as the contact for the group answering inquiries. One Friend recalled, "Elisabeth was the group's shepherd, phoning me and others every week to say whether they would meet or not. She was amazingly stalwart; I remember her donning coats, gloves, boots, scarves well into December. Only rain kept her away. She arrived early each time, having overseen the set-up of outdoor chairs by Brookhaven staff, and would stay afterwards to chat with visitors. It was clear that other Quaker residents prized her energy and held her in great affection." Happily, she was able to attend worship at Brookhaven the Sunday before she died.

September 10, 2023, when Elisabeth's death was announced, Friends held Elisabeth in the Light and shared memories of her ministry, organization, and care and love for the community. She is survived by her daughter Janet Feuerman and her husband Brian, son Gerald Cotten and his wife Kimberly, son Richard Cotten and his wife Ann, four grandchildren, and niece and nephew.

A memorial service was held at Brookhaven at Lexington October 20th.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

C. Russell (Russ) de Burlo, Jr.
September 1, 1924 - February 24, 2024

C. Russell (Russ) de Burlo, Jr., a long-term member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC), died on February 24, 2024. Born on September 1, 1924, he was 99 years old. There was a richness, warmth, and breadth in Russ's life. He was a fun, compassionate, and energetic friend to so many people; living as a good Friend was important to him.

Russ and his late wife Edith (Edie) Thatcher de Burlo were active in the FMC community from the early 1950s and transferred their membership from Swarthmore (PA) Monthly Meeting in January of 1960. At that time, Russ was involved in the financial life of FMC on the Trustees Committee and also taught in the First Day School.

Russ and Edie were among the founding families of the Cambridge Friends School (CFS) in 1961. Russ was an active CFS Trustee, becoming Treasurer of the School in the Spring of 1969—all while working to keep the School and the Meeting closely connected.

Beginning in 1972, Russ filled a vital need, helping New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) to invest responsibly, and offering socially responsible, Quaker-values-based investing advice to Meetings in NEYM. He became the Investment Advisor for the NEYM Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds. He was an original architect of the Pooled Funds, created to pool the resources of all New England Meetings to centralize financial expertise and especially enable Meetings with limited size and finances to generate greater growth and income of their assets.. He assisted Friends General Conference and Friends Journal similarly. When Beacon Hill Friend's House (BHFH) needed to repair their building, Russ worked with the banking partner on the complicated task of allowing BHFH to use their share of the Pooled Funds as collateral. He was delighted that the process worked for BHFH, demonstrating how Pooled Funds could help other NE Meetings in new ways. His commitment to determining ways to help NEYM Meetings financially continued throughout his life.

Russ grew up in Havertown (PA) in a modest-income family and was the first in his immediate family to go to college. He entered Swarthmore College when the country was in WWII, and remembered studying very hard at Swarthmore which was then a year-round program with classes on Saturdays and science labs even on Thanksgiving! At Swarthmore he was introduced to Quakerism and meeting for worship. He attended a campus meeting in the Friends Meetinghouse during the first week and wrote that "the simplicity and quiet of the space had a lasting impact on my emotional being." He was drafted into the Navy just before the end of his junior year, completed boot camp in June 1944, and was finally discharged in June 1946. Returning to Swarthmore, he met his wife to be, Edie Thatcher, a birthright Quaker and member of Swarthmore Meeting, when they were both working for the Swarthmore post office. Edie was

a freshman and Russ a returning senior. Russ described her as his “inner light.” They were married in May of 1948 under the care of Swarthmore Meeting.

After Swarthmore, Russ graduated from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School with an MBA and the family then moved to Medford (MA) as Russ began a long career at Tufts University as both a faculty member in the Economics Department and an administrator. He also worked toward a DBA from the Harvard Business School which he was awarded in 1960. The de Burlo family moved to Princeton (NJ) for two years in the fall of 1963 while Russ served on the administrative staff of the College Board organization. On their return to Boston, Russ resumed his service at Tufts University, culminating as University Treasurer and Vice President for Administration.

In 1987, Russ and two colleagues from Tufts co-founded The de Burlo Group, an early pioneer in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investing practices. The de Burlo Group took on the advisor role to the NEYM pooled funds, Friends General Conference, Friends Journal, and many other Quaker organizations. A treasurer for two of those organizations during the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s reminisced: “Russ was wonderful to work and talk with. He was both warm and practical. He kept his humanness in the world of financial management. He listened closely and was present in working and community relationships. I looked forward to his ... visits and our phone conversations were generally more than just the numbers. I truly remember the frequent smile in his eyes.” Russ was a principal officer of The de Burlo Group until he retired from active participation in the summer of 2020.

Russ also served too many non-Quaker organizations to list here but they included being Assistant Treasurer of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Rhododendrons were a passion of his and he enthusiastically provided many tours of the specimens he diligently cared for around his house.

He is survived by his children Jane de Burlo Waln, of Lincoln, California, John Todd de Burlo of Burlington, Vermont, and Laurie Ann Kutner also of Burlington, Vermont; four grandchildren, and a great grandchild. He was pre-deceased on June 8, 2008, by Edie, his wife of 60 years, and earlier, on August 6, 2005, by his son Charles Russell de Burlo.

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J. Malcolm “Jock” Forbes
May 12, 1932 - July 19, 2021

J. Malcolm “Jock” Forbes was born May 12, 1932, and grew up in Cambridge MA. Jock was a lifelong activist for world peace and justice. Jock was also a pillar of Friends Meeting at Cambridge. His commitment to working for a better world and the depth of his spirituality was certainly influenced by his early experiences.

In 1941 when Jock was nine his father, J. Malcolm Forbes, was drowned at sea and never found. When he was 18 Jock had a near fatal mountain climbing accident. His aunt Barbara Cummings remembered poignantly sitting with him while he was in a coma. His eldest daughter Cynthia wrote in his obituary that these events “contributed to a heightened awareness and acceptance of loss and ambiguity as the human condition.”

When Jock was 12, he became an associate member of FMC by “parental request” of his mother, Ethel Cummings Forbes Amory. Jock transferred to full membership in 1953 when he was 21. The Meeting minuted it was “very glad to welcome him.”

Jock was educated at Exeter and Harvard, receiving his M.A in History from the University of Wisconsin. He taught American, European, and Russian history in high schools, including BB&N and Choate. He developed a Global Education curriculum which addressed some of the many contradictions and omissions in recorded history.

Over the years Jock served on many Meeting committees including Ministry and Counsel and clerked the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. He was clerk of the Cambridge Friends School Corporation, and the CFS trustees. Jock also brought his teaching skills to his work with the Junior Business meeting of First Day School and served on the FDS committee.

The FMC minutes provide testimony to his influence in many other capacities, as well, recording him as welcoming new members, serving on marriage committees, and working with ad hoc committees on meeting projects, such as the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the building of the Meeting House.

Jock worked with Randall Forsberg on the Nuclear Freeze Campaign. He was a leader in the Sustained Boston Coalition for a Strong United Nations, which produced eight conferences of U.N. issues, such as peacekeeping, environmental preservation, and U.N. Reform. These took place at the Kennedy Library from 1993 to 1997. He also worked with members of UNESCO. A colleague remembers that it was Jock’s sense of peacefulness in himself which provided the grounding for harmonious work together.

Jock's office in the Cambridge AFSC building was the World Federalist headquarters in the Greater Boston region. He was also a founding member of Earthnet, which brought together in dialogue those with conflicting views. Jock was a leading figure in the Sustainable Cambridge Coalition and in Mass Peace Action. He brought these concerns and connections to his work with FMC.

Jock and Ariadne Politou met at FMC, where Ariadne was volunteering in the AFSC Clothing Room. They were married in the meeting and were faithful members.

Ariadne and Jock had five children, Cynthia, Anne, Rebecca, Malcom, and Lydia. Their home was full of music — two of the children, Cynthia, and Lydia, have become professional musicians.

Many friends and family remember the wonderful way Jock taught a wide range of skills such as sailing, rowing, chess and playing the guitar. He and Ariadne also served as host family to many Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) foreign students.

After 67 years of marriage, Jock Forbes died July 19, 2021, only one month before Ariadne died in August. A memorial meeting for them both was held in the Spring of 2022 when pandemic restrictions allowed.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, May 15, 2022, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, clerk.

Walter Lenk
March 26, 1947 – October 7, 2022

Walter C. Lenk, born March 26, 1947, died peacefully October 7, 2022, in the comfort of his Cambridge home with Debby Knight, his longtime partner in life, music, and dance at his Side.

Walter grew up in a former Quaker Meeting House in Chadds Ford, PA, was a member of Birmingham Meeting, and attended Westtown School, an experience that had a major impact on his life. His early spiritual life included a connection to the outdoors with Scouting summer canoe trips, especially in the Quetico-Superior wilderness area.

In 1967, after one year of college, Walter relocated to the Boston area as a Conscientious Objector during the Vietnam War, serving primarily in the respiratory therapy department at Beth Israel Hospital. The vibrant music scene and the many people with shared interests he encountered led him to put down permanent roots in the Cambridge community. He volunteered at the American Friends Service Committee, and in 1976 he and a friend bought a Victorian house on Broadway, which remained his home until the end of his life. In 1969 from his diary, Walter wrote of just one of his many adventurous wanderings. “From Philadelphia I traveled to Washington, DC and stayed at 'William Penn House'. While in Washington I went to the Senate and visited FCNL [Friends Committee on National Legislation]. Later when I got home, I hitched to FGC [Friends General Conference] in Wilmington, Ohio after the bike's transmission blew up in Cambridge. I got a ride back to Long Island with a FGC family, and then hitched home.”

In the mid 1970's Walter was attending Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC) and met with other Young Adult Friends from FMC in a worship group – including current FMC members Bill Satterthwaite and Wendy Sanford, who have fond memories of that time. He served on Ministry and Counsel, Membership, and Oversight and Fellowship Committees. Walter's life sometimes felt like a Who's Who of the 70s. At one point he “had started doing private secretarial work for Daniel Ellsberg, and . . . had occasional use of his BMW car when he was away.”

Walter worked repairing, designing, and building sound equipment. He served Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians, Tom Rush, Aerosmith, venues such as Sanders Theater and Carnegie Hall, and festivals such as New Orleans Jazz and Heritage, Brandywine, Wheatlands, Mariposa, and the Great Hudson River Revival where he became friends with Pete and Toshi Seeger.

Through those experiences he was introduced to old-time music and dance as well as

contra and square dancing, which became a decades-long passion. Walter began calling dances and writing new ones. He was part of dances at FMC and Cambridge Friends School. Ever generous and playful with his sound engineering skills, Walter helped friends and neighbors create rousing block parties in the era of Saturday Night Fever, providing a sound system that moved young and old out to the street, where they line-danced for Hours.

It was through music that Walter met Debby Knight. She had been told Walter had sound equipment for musicians and wanted his help, but figured she should meet him first. When she asked him to dance, he turned her down. Soon, however, their lives interwove. Although Debby was never officially a Quaker, her promotion of Quaker values through her 42 years at Cambridge Friends School meshed well with Walter's experience as a Friend. Singing squares were a regular part of Walter's repertoire. When health issues prevented him from taking a more active role in the dance community over time, he continued to enjoy the social connections and the opportunity to call a few singing squares at the contra dance in Carlisle, MA until a few years ago.

As diabetes and multiple sclerosis impacted his ability to continue much of his earlier work, Walter gracefully navigated those changes, finding ways to follow his passions while reinventing his work life. He enjoyed researching the history of his Cambridge neighborhood and interviewing numerous people who had been involved in Boston-area contra dancing in the 1970s and assembling an archive of their stories.

Walter did not attend meeting when his health started deteriorating but enjoyed talking about the meeting and his memories of his past Quaker experiences, especially Westtown. Over the past decade, he developed deeper connections to Westtown, creating an active class email list focused on reunions, then collecting and assembling information from classmates to create a 50th Reunion Book. He also enjoyed the occasional visits with current Westtown staff who made trips to New England to connect with alums, and through that process shared stories and contributed photos to the school archives. Walter embodied the generosity, dry wit, and graciousness for which so many of us knew him. He gave a sense of truly listening to us. His stories and ability to engage people on wide-flung topics from electronics to history to music and dance were a gift to all of us, attested to by the number and diversity of attendees at his memorial service. Contractors who had worked on his house on Broadway were there, as was a former health care worker who traveled from Virginia to attend. Walter will be missed.

In addition to Debby, his beloved and loving partner of 40 years, Walter is survived by his sister Larhken Carroll of Oakland, CA, and brothers Ted Lenk (and sister-in-law Susan Weaver) of Nelson, NH, Gabrell Carroll of Swoope, VA, and Charles Lenk of Oakland, CA.

A memorial service was held at Friends Meeting at Cambridge, 5 Longfellow Park, on Saturday, October 29, 2022.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, April 16, 2022, Tom Sander, clerk.

Everett Mendelsohn
October 28, 1931 - June 6, 2023

Friends Meeting at Cambridge was Everett Mendelsohn's spiritual home. He frequently delivered powerful messages during meeting for worship. Many appreciated his booming, professorial voice and uniquely pronounced messages. He'd often synthesize what others had offered to create a surprising new message. Probably few realized that he was an esteemed historian of science, linking science and society, and more used to public speaking than most Quakers. As a professor at Harvard he was beloved and widely honored.

Everett died on June 6, 2023 in his Cambridge home of a stroke at the age of 91 and FMC held his memorial meeting on October 28, 2023.

A Harvard colleague, Professor Anne Harrington, said, "In the classroom, Everett had a gift of gathering together the threads of a discussion, tidying up any incoherence and distilling the deeper insights. 'Let me see if I can pull together what I am hearing here,' he would say. Then he would show students an elevated and elegantly synthesized version of their contributions, so that they would all find themselves amazed and impressed by their own collective thoughtfulness." (Quoted in the New York Times)

About his activism (quoting the Harvard Crimson), "Mendelsohn was involved as an activist and organizer since his undergraduate days at Antioch College, where he — along with fellow classmate Coretta Scott King and others — was involved in the local labor [and civil rights] movements. 'I made a commitment to myself then, to work towards those goals I saw for society,'" Mendelsohn said in a November 1973 interview.

He and his first wife, Mary Leeds, brought their children to First Day School. His stepson, Marshall Wallace (who Everett raised from age 4) told me that Everett didn't believe he had any enemies, just people with a different understanding. He didn't feel he needed to convince people of his positions. They shared common ground.

Although devoted to FMC as his spiritual home, he never became a member, wishing to honor his Jewish heritage. Since a youth, he was dedicated to nonviolence, expressing it through his conscientious objection to military service. Inspired by his Jewish roots promoting justice and peace and thru the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) he secretly organized meetings of Israelis and Palestinians in his home and at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge. The intent, occurring before the Oslo Peace Accords in the early 1990s, was to fashion a long-term solution to the violence. Through his participation in the AFSC (he clerked the Executive Board) and as chair of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' Committee on Middle East Studies, he authored and co authored books on the troubles in the Holy Land,

notably *A Compassionate Peace: Future for the Middle East* (1982). His messages in worship were often about his visits to the Ramallah Friends Meeting and Ramallah Friends School. He was one of the few in the FMC community who traveled regularly to the region, often two or three times a year; he and Skip Schiel (perhaps other travelers as well) often commiserated about their travel experiences. Preparing for his own trips, Skip often read Everett's writings on the subject.

Of special interest to Quakers and our Peace Testimony, Everett was a founder of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Committee on Science, Arms Control, and National Security, and its Committee on International Security Studies. He was a founder and first President of the Cambridge-based Institute for Peace and International Security.

Everett continued to attend FMC with his second wife, Mary Anderson. When asked recently what message Everett might bring to Meeting during the War on Gaza, Mary said, "He'd ask, 'what next, once the violence ends?'" And—"contact your legislators and the White House". He perpetually sought long-term solutions for many issues. Quoting *The New York Times* again, "His family, in a prepared obituary, said that he considered the dearth of progress on that front 'his greatest life failure.'"

Mendelsohn derives from *menachem* in Hebrew which means consoling or one who consoles, and that seems especially fitting for Everett Mendelsohn.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

Lita Newdick
June 27, 1930 - February 21, 2020

Lita Newdick, an active member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge for 18 years, died on February 21, 2020. Having been born Sally Larsh Wreszin in 1930, she legally changed her name to Lita, from “Salita,” a nickname given to her by her father and beloved godmother, Ludi Clare. She was born in New York City and grew up in New Canaan, Connecticut. Her family had a beautiful home which also housed a married couple who worked for them.

Sally went to New Canaan High School before her parents sent her to boarding school in New Hampshire. Her father, Henry Wreszin, was a Jewish immigrant from Europe. Lita would often point out that he was able to buy a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, despite the anti-Semitism of the time. Henry later helped Jewish relatives relocate to the U.S. Her mother, also named Sally, was an actress before marrying Henry. Originally from New Mexico, Lita’s mother attended Wells College and met Lita’s father in New York. Lita had two halfbrothers, Michael and John, and a sister, Robin Resin, currently living in Connecticut.

From an early age, Lita loved going into NYC to attend the theater with her father and then dining at Sardi’s among the theater crowd. Inspired, Lita graduated from Northwestern University’s prestigious School of Speech for drama. She took part in “summer stock” productions and, later in life, embraced community theater at Boston’s (Unitarian Universalist) Arlington Street Church. There, she sang occasional solos in the choir and played the piano. Lita was an active Unitarian for more than 30 years.

Lita married Edwin “Ned” Newdick of Boston, whom she met at the Unitarian Community Church of New York. Both musicians, they were drawn to each other as they shared a hymnal. They began dating long distance as Ned frequently visited his sister, Ann, in the City. After getting married in 1966, they bought an undervalued historic brownstone in Boston’s South End. Ned and Lita spent years refurbishing two buildings as rental and commercial properties. Lita was proud of her success in real estate, which financed her retirement and her daughter’s college tuition.

In 1967, soon after they were married, Lita and Ned had their child, Vivian Ann Newdick. Vivian now resides in Austin, TX, having moved to Austin for graduate school after living in Chiapas, Mexico. Lita was proud of her daughter’s 2012 Doctorate in Sociocultural Anthropology. Milo Newdick Pratscher, Lita’s beloved grandchild, was born in 2009, when Lita was 79. Intrepid, Lita would frequently visit Milo in Austin, boarding pre-dawn planes and sometimes arriving back in Boston after midnight. An adopter of new technologies, she could be found joyfully playing simple video games with Milo on the couch when he was a small child. Though she

disapproved of video games, she loved to snuggle up with her computer next to the otherwise rambunctious child.

Lita was inspired by the Feminist Movement of the 1970s and 80s and viewed her life in that light. She worked in New York as an advertising copywriter from young adulthood through the early 70s, earning a number of industry awards. Toward the end of her career she acted upon her criticisms of the industry. She says in her memoir “I was often uncomfortable, questioning the practices of cigarette and drug companies, for which I finally declined to write.” After marrying Ned and moving to Boston, she owned her own small agency and remembers, “Before I left the advertising industry in the mid-seventies, I testified on a Boston TV panel as one of several advertising women, revealing the sexism in the industry. Women were routinely downgraded and I myself had been fired in 1967 for being pregnant.”

Despite the sexist conservatism of the time, Lita took a break from the advertising industry in her youth to sail to Europe where she lived alone in Florence and Paris for a year. She had many memorable adventures there. Lita was an avid reader of many genres of literature and relished reading classics as well as novels, though Shakespeare was her favorite. She cultivated her mind and loved intellectual engagement. She started learning Spanish in the last decade of her life and practiced it with her housekeeper, friend, and caretaker, Estela Manc.a. Lita considered Estela extended family, and the feeling was reciprocal. Estela, originally of El Salvador, remembers Lita as a grandmother to her children.

Lita was also a social activist. She was involved in the “No Nukes” movement of the 80s, racial justice, and environmental activism for many years. Lita was known to have a great sense of humor, which her sister Robin remembers fondly. Lita’s writing often included hilarious limericks and rhymes. She would surprise friends and family with salty jokes.

While we are unclear how Lita found Quakerism, she said it was “the music of her life.” Lita was a seeker, and considered herself so. She was open to engagement and connection.

Lita was very active in a number of FMC committees over the years - Peace & Social Justice, Fellowship and Outreach, Membership, Care and Support, and the Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Committee. In the last years of her life she felt a strong desire to help the mentally ill and to speak up for those suffering from depression.

At her Memorial Meeting many of the messages shared gave us a sense of Lita: her energy, her enthusiasm for life, the breadth of experience. Here are a few of those messages.

- She seemed eternal, vital, and could be silly, fun and wise.
- She was always involved in her spiritual journey, with readings from Cynthia Bourgeault and A Course in Miracles.

- As a member of AA for 30 years, Lita struggled with her emotions as part of her spiritual journey as well as being a survivor.
- She documented what it is to be human in her writing and transcended her pain in her memoir draft, which she shared in the Writers and Artists group.
- A frequent participant in Forum and Afterthoughts, she was seen as a role model. It was said she had a fierce intelligence but did not look down on others.
- A frequent tennis player, she remained active physically throughout her life.
- She always had style and dressed very well.
- Lita always graciously offered help and was willing to take help when needed.
- She didn't understand White Supremacy and struggled with making sense of it. Her honesty in describing this was a good example of her forthright engagement with others.

Lita Newdick was a well-loved member of our community. We miss her.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, September 11, 2022, Tom Sander, clerk.

William Braasch Watson
August 14, 1932 - August 13, 2022

Our member William Braasch Watson died on Martha's Vineyard on August 13, 2022, one day shy of his 90th birthday. The underlying cause was Parkinson's Disease, diagnosed in 2006. He is buried at Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

Will was born in Rochester, Minnesota, on August 14, 1932, but was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He attended Phillips Academy Andover here in Massachusetts before returning to Pennsylvania to enroll at Haverford College, graduating in 1954. He developed his deep commitment to Quakerism at Haverford, shared with his first wife, Patricia, whom he met and married during his Haverford years. Returning once again to Massachusetts, Will earned a doctorate in history from Harvard and was awarded a Fulbright Grant to study in Spain in 1967/1968. He taught history for 42 years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and retired in 2005.

Will and Patricia raised four children in Friends Meeting at Cambridge: Peter, Sarah, Sterling, and Gabrielle Watson. Although early Friends did not celebrate holidays like Christmas, the Watsons certainly did. No one who ever saw their tree carefully lit with real candles can ever forget it. They separated in 1975, and Will married Myra Harrison on Martha's Vineyard in 1988. At Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC), Will served as Recording Clerk from 1973-1976 and, indeed, wrote the book on how to do it. Before *Business Begins: Notes for Friends Meeting Recording Clerks and Recorders* has been gratefully used by many Recording Clerks who came after Will. It was published in 1996 by the Mosher Book and Tract Committee of New England Yearly Meeting. Will also served as FMC's representative to New England Yearly Meeting and as Treasurer of the New England Regional Office of the American Friends Service Committee.

Even long after his Parkinson's diagnosis, Will was a valued contributor to FMC's Peace and Social Justice Committee. It was he who came up with the perfect wording for a new banner when needed for various vigils and marches: "Quakers Standing For Universal Justice and Enduring Peace."

In his last decade, he gave a thoughtful presentation at our Sunday morning Forum on the Spanish Civil War and the costs of the United States entering World War II so late. Will worked for peace, but had a nuanced view of the traditional peace testimony of Quakers, stemming, no doubt, from his research into the Spanish Civil War. That research included Ernest Hemingway's war dispatches, which he later edited. He also read Hemingway's fiction, and ventured out of MIT's history department at least once to offer a seminar for MIT's writing program, on Hemingway and the short story.

Will Watson was a gift to our meeting and Friends throughout New England and we are grateful for his life.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

Marilee Wheeler
August 31, 1933 - June 10, 2020

Marilee Wheeler, a member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge since 1988, died on June 10, 2020. Marilee was, in the words of one friend, “an extraordinary woman – independent, intellectually curious, cultured, courageous, caring and generous.”

Marilee grew up in nearby Wellesley, MA and graduated from Wellesley College in 1955. She earned a law degree at University of California San Francisco College of Law and lived in California before returning to the Boston Area. Marilee lived on Park Street in Brookline for many years, until she moved to Lasell Village in Auburndale (Newton), a retirement community that focuses on lifelong learning and wellness.

As another friend wrote, “Beneath a quiet, kind, pacific and Quakerly exterior, Marilee was a woman with an exciting past and a strong will.” Marilee enjoyed traveling, and lived for some time in Istanbul, Turkey, where she taught English at an American private school. She was always eager to share her knowledge about Turkish culture and customs. Marilee’s parents had a passion for and collected nineteenth-century American art and shared this passion with Marilee. After Marilee's mother died, Marilee organized a gallery showing of her parents’ collection at Vose Galleries. Above all, Marilee was a great lover of music. A regular at the Symphony and Jordan Hall in Boston, she traveled far and wide for the joy that music brought her, from the Metropolitan Opera in New York, to the London Handel Festival, to the New Mexico Summer Music Festival. And one friend remembers “she was always beautifully turned out, with hat, when she came to Cambridge Meeting.”

At FMC, Marilee attended meeting for worship faithfully on Sundays and on Wednesday mornings during the late fall, winter and early spring. While at her home on the Cape during the rest of the year, she attended West Falmouth Preparatory Meeting. At FMC, she served on the Living with Dying group in 1988-9, the Search Committee for Facilities Manager in 1998, and the support group for that Facilities Manager. She served on Trustees, where she joined a subcommittee that worked on the issue of boundary lines with neighbors. In Brookline, she is on record as hosting the Brookline-Brighton Worship Group several times in the late 1980’s. More recently, a friend remembers visiting with Marilee for worship in her apartment while they both lived at Lasell Village. Others remember Marilee’s presence at many holiday potlucks and simple lunches in the Friends Room.

From one family’s story, we get a sense of Marilee’s caring and attention, her gift for life and for friendship. Betsy Hewitt remembers getting to know Marilee through many years at Wednesday morning worship, where Betsy brought her daughter Lydia as a baby. Betsy recalls, “Marilee took an interest in Lydia. When Lydia graduated from UMaine Orono in Marine Biology,

Marilee donated to support Lydia's trip to Costa Rica to rescue endangered sea turtles and kept abreast of her progress and trip. When Lydia got an internship at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute one summer, Marilee offered Lydia a place to stay overnight so Lydia would not need to drive from Newton to Woods Hole and back each workday.

During her summers on the Cape, Marilee loved to swim at Old Silver Beach in Falmouth, MA, swimming purposefully a half-mile along the coast every day that the water was warm enough. Betsy also remembers that Marilee had a close relationship with her sister's son Paul, who taught Physics and Astronomy at Newton North High School. At times she spent holidays with Paul and his family.

Friend Jo Ellen Hillyer remembers Marilee's "gentle generosity...when Nancy Cirillo and I lost our precious husbands within a few months of each other in 2012. Marilee invited the two of us to her home on the Cape the following summer. Her bringing us to her place of much natural beauty and her treating us like honored guests soothed my aching heart for a day. She did not know me well, but she extended herself to someone who was hurting. I continue to be grateful."

After her death, Marilee surprised, awed and inspired the meeting community by leaving us a large bequest. We are seeking Spirit's guidance on how to use this gift, reflecting on all that it means about what FMC meant to Marilee and what her witness to love meant – and means– to us.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

Charles “Chuck” Woodbury
February 6, 1920 - December 20, 2018

“When I think of Chuck, I think of faithfulness — an active faithfulness, something lived.”

Our beloved member Charles “Chuck” Woodbury died on December 20, 2018. A treasured friend, Chuck let his light shine at Friends Meeting at Cambridge and beyond. One-time clerk of our Meeting, he also inspired in countless other capacities. In the words of a tribute from the Farm and Wilderness Camps, where he was involved for decades, Chuck “lived a productive and full 98 years; as a clinical psychologist, a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Quaker, voice for social justice, musician, birdwatcher, square and contra dancer, lover and protector of the outdoors.”

Chuck’s presence in worship, deepened by his daily practice of walks, reading and meditation, felt grounding to many of us. Although he seldom spoke in Meeting, his messages reflected a sense of being touched. Once, distracted by leaves drifting through our open door, he spoke of his own dependence on the winds of the spirit. Another time, he marveled that the love of truth was beauty, and that the truth of beauty was love.

His quiet constancy in Meeting hid an exuberance that bloomed in other arenas — in his unexpected puns, in witty tales, in his love of poetry, and his passion for music and contra dancing. Throughout, as one Friend remembers, “Chuck had a twinkle in his eye.” After one especially talkative Meeting, he confessed to a friend, “Some popcorn is tastier and more nourishing than others.” Chuck danced and played violin into his nineties, and when asked “Have you been dancing all your life?” he famously replied “Not yet!”

Chuck grew up in Washington, D.C.. It was while attending Oberlin College in Ohio that he met his future wife, Betty. He went on to study psychology at Yale, and he and Betty became engaged. Chuck then served a stint in the Army; after training in personnel psychology he was assigned to a travel team evaluating army recruits. He and Betty married on December 26, 1943, on his Christmas leave. After the war, Chuck returned to Yale for his Ph.D.

Chuck and Betty joined Friends in 1953 at the Oberlin Friends Meeting while Chuck was teaching at Oberlin College. In 1955 they settled in Newton, MA, for Chuck’s job as psychologist at Boston’s Judge Baker Guidance Center, and transferred their young family’s membership to Friends Meeting at Cambridge. Thus began decades of worship and service in our community, including Chuck’s years as presiding clerk from 1967-1970, and Betty’s role in Yearly Meeting and women’s retreats. Their children, Steven, Phil, Gail and Peter, grew up in the Meeting.

Chuck and Betty also helped all their children attend the Quaker-based Farm and Wilderness Camps, in Vermont, where the celebration of outdoor skills and living in community, not to mention story and song, reflected their own joys. Chuck's children recall how he would read aloud to them by the fireplace, "with different voices for each character (Winnie the Pooh, The Wind in the Willows, The Hobbit, Just So Stories ...)." Theirs was a home filled with books — "history, anthropology, natural science, progressive politics" as well as music — "hundreds of records, from classical to folk to Gilbert & Sullivan." Of course there was plenty of singing in the car.

As Quaker parents, Chuck and Betty made their home a welcoming place. They often had young people to live with them— a black high school student from the Deep South, during the Civil Rights movement; a Kenyan college student; an art student from Costa Rica; a young man just out of prison. The whole family demonstrated against de facto segregation in the Boston public schools, against the Vietnam War, and for nuclear disarmament. His children remember Chuck as a "doer, not a preacher.... He valued living a moral life, where you did as much good as you could."

When their children were grown, Chuck and Betty were drawn to community living. They helped establish the Friends Community in North Easton, MA, where they lived for nine years until the ambitious project folded. Sadly, Betty died in 1989, and Chuck moved to Brookhaven, the retirement community they had chosen, alone. Active as ever, he supported the small Quaker worship circle there, and organized regular Brookhaven donations to the Cambridge Material Aid and Advocacy Program. He walked the nature trail most days, watching wildlife and the changing seasons. Chuck documented the vernal pools at Brookhaven and was instrumental in their designation by the State as protected places.

Much of Chuck's service to FMC, although quiet and behind the scenes, drew others together. Friends remember Chuck's special concern for young people in the meeting, and his "oneperson campaign of outreach to junior members." On Marriage and Family Life, Chuck and Wendy Sanford held gatherings for friends who were divorced, to explore how the Meeting could better support them. On Membership, he and Sara Sue Pennell visited many applicants together. Meanwhile, he became known for the thoughtful (and often humorous) notes he wrote to friends whose acts of service caught his attention. For years he volunteered at the Cambridge material aid program, often re-knitting sweaters. An accomplished violinist in the Concord Symphony, Chuck also took to the balcony for the Meeting's Christmas Pageant every year, anchoring the all-ages orchestra that gathered for the occasion.

Chuck truly cherished that of God in everyone, and worked from this foundation during the meeting's ten painful years of threshing around same-sex marriage. Polly Attwood and Wendy Sanford remember his steady service on their clearness and care committees for their marriage

under the care of the Meeting. Chuck was someone they wanted close at their side as they took this step.

In his later years, Chuck experienced increasing deafness. He attended worship prayerfully, although cut off from the vocal ministry. Soon, Jessie Brown began to sit beside him to transcribe messages for him. As one Friend recalls, “This itself was a beautiful ministry and relationship to behold. Chuck’s response when reading these transcriptions conveyed curiosity, openness, and gratitude. This modeled a way we all might receive ministry.”

Chuck’s life, a Quaker life, continues to burn bright for all who knew him. “When I think of Chuck, I think of his very ready smile — a sense of gentleness that characterized all his interactions.” Wise as well as generous, he never reproached others for oversights — “He wasn’t that type! He left us with nothing but good wishes.” “The essence of graciousness.” “He had such a warm presence, and an inviting nature. I would love to carry that kind of welcome Forward.”

When a Friend asked Chuck once at coffee hour the secret to his long and healthy life, his response was “Be sure to have music in your life, and to dance!”

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, February 12, 2023, Lynne Weiss, clerk.