

# Memorial Minutes 1992

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY  
MEETING *of* FRIENDS

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 7:00 P.M.

Memorial minutes were read for Teresina Rowell Havens, Karl Erikson, David Allan Norton, Lawrence Kennison, Dorothy Evans Meshenuk, and Gordon Townsend Bowles. We also remembered Elizabeth Ballard of Hanover Monthly Meeting and Miriam Jones Brown of China Monthly Meeting, who died during July 1992. In this memorial meeting, the lives of these Friends were remembered with gratitude for the ways they have touched us with their deeds, words, and spirits.

### *Memorial for Teresina Rowell Havens*

Teresina Havens joined Northampton Meeting, in 1940 and Mt. Toby Meeting in 1964. She brought new ideas and energy to all her endeavors, whether serving on Meeting committees, planning celebrations, spending time with Meeting children, or sharing in regular maintenance activities. She was always ready to sing or to suggest a celebratory dance. At age 75, she was part of a crew that re-roofed the Meetinghouse.

A memorial meeting for Teresina was held at Mt. Toby Meeting on February 29, 1992. This gathering reflected the joy and intensity of Terry's life, and appreciated the unique ways in which Quaker and Buddhist thought shaped the spiritual, physical, and intellectual strands of her being. Her love of nature, her deep concern for people, and her passion for economic justice were movingly recalled.

Teresina Rowell was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, on January 13, 1909. She graduated from Smith College in 1929, and in 1933 received her Ph.D. in world religions from Yale. She then taught religion at Carleton College and later in her career, Smith College, Adelphi University, Wilmington College (Ohio) and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

In 1936, Teresina traveled to Japan. There she came in contact with Itto En, a Buddhist-Christian community. When she returned to the United States, she discovered Pendle Hill and Quakers. Eventually she and three others went to live in the black ghetto of Chester, Pennsylvania, where they practiced meditation and the Buddhist tradition of performing humble labor.

In 1947, Teresina published an article about Itto En in the *Friends Intelligencer*. This article led Joe Havens to travel to Chester and join the group there. Joe and Teresina were later married and had two children: Lucia Rowell and Wilfred Thwing.

In 1973, Teresina and Joe founded Temenos (the Greek word

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for the sacred space surrounding a temple), a Quaker-Buddhist spiritual retreat and conference center on Mt. Mineral in Shutesbury, Massachusetts. In 1989, they moved to Portland, Oregon. Both alone and with Joe she led workshops all over the country. She was active in the Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology and in Friendly Economics. She wrote *Buddhist and Quaker Experiments with Truth*, a publication of the Religious Education Committee of FGC; and a new Pendle Hill pamphlet, *Mind What Stirs in Your Hearts: A Guide to Quaker Breathing and Walking*, which she completed during the last weeks of her life.

In January 1992, Teresina was diagnosed as having congestive heart failure. Although she and Joe considered the surgical procedure which might have given her another 10 years of life, she declined that possibility. Instead, she joyously affirmed the time to move on to the next phase. She was comforted by the words of Richard Hubberthorne, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Quaker: "Do not seek to hold me, for it is too strait for me here; and out of this straitness I must go, for I am wound into largeness."

### ***Memorial for Dorothy Evans Meshenuk***

Dot's sensitivity to beauty led her to study art in Philadelphia, to teach art in the public schools, express it in her paintings and in her radiant approach to all around her, especially children. Her pen and ink drawings, for example, adorn two pamphlets by Moses Bailey, "A Quaker and the Bible," and "Light in School: Words on Wings."

Born to a Quaker family of the Medford, New Jersey, meeting, she married Archie Meshenuk June 29, 1946, and "traveled with Travelers" Insurance Company, as her husband's job required the family to move often. At each move, she transferred her membership to the local meeting and participated actively. They finally settled in Windsor, Connecticut, in 1956, where they raised their three children, Darianne Martha, Christina, and Michael Charles.

She was devoted to the Hartford Meeting, especially its children, skillfully bringing out the individuality of each one, and giving them a sense of belonging to the Society of Friends.

From 1964 in New England Yearly Meeting, she served from the start with youth and children, notably in her arts and crafts programs during free afternoons. Long active on the Christian Education Committee, she also served on the Permanent Board, the

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Executive Council, and Program Committee. At the 1967 Friends World Conference in Guilford, North Carolina, she was one of New England's representatives.

Her husband and children kept vigil during her six days of coma with music, poetry, fragrances, conversation, and laughter at her bedside. Many at her memorial meeting testified to her quiet and positive impact on their lives in their times of trouble, her spirited enjoyment of nature, and the gently, kind vitality in everything she did.

“Precious in God’s sight is the death of saints.” Ps.116:15

At the memorial service, many spoke warmly of her great love for children and young people, and of her skill in bringing out the individuality in each of them. Her devotion to Yearly Meeting and to Hartford Meeting was exemplary, as was her teaching of art in public schools. In everything, she did, her Quaker gentleness, kindness, and vitality showed through.

### ***Memorial for Gordon Townsend Bowles***

We celebrate Gordon Bowles’s life of service and the memory of a Friend whose gentle loving care sparkled with a mischievous sense of humor. He and Jane Thomas Bowles, whom he married in Nanking, China, in 1932, conferred special blessings on South Berkshire Monthly Meeting, which they helped found.

He led an international life, at home with people and cultures everywhere, but especially in Japan. He recognized universals while appreciating differences, enjoying the use of other languages, and enriching his own faith through understanding other religions than his own.

Born in Tokyo to Gilbert and Minnie Pickett Bowles, Quaker missionaries, he graduated from the American School there, attended Westtown, Pennsylvania, Friends School, and graduated from Earlham College in 1925. He taught anthropology at the University of Hawaii, Harvard (where he earned his Ph.D. in 1935), Tokyo, Columbia, and Syracuse Universities. His interest in Native American studies included work with the Iroquois and recently in the newly-formed Mahingan Institute in Monterey, Massachusetts. With the United States government from 1942 to 1947, he became chief of the Japan-Korea section of the State Department, served on the education mission to Japan in 1946, and was Executive for the first Fulbright exchange program in 1948.

In retirement at Monterey, Massachusetts, he was one of our

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Yearly Meeting representatives on the Corporation of the American Friends Service Committee, and as a trustee of Woolman Hill arranged the transfer of its records to the Yearly Meeting archives, and prepared a history of Woolman Hill.

### ***Memorial for Karl Erickson***

Karl Erickson, who was one of the oldest members of Allen's Neck Monthly Meeting, died on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1991, at the age of 89 years. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, his three children, nine grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

While he and his family lived in the local community, Karl was an active participant in the life of Allen's Neck meeting. He faithfully attended monthly meetings for business and first day morning meetings for worship, even during the later years of his life. He was clerk of the Allen's Neck Monthly Meeting in 1959-60. He was an elder on the Ministry and Counsel Committee for many years. He served on several monthly meeting committees, including the Nominating Committee, the Finance Committee, the Building and Grounds Committee, and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. He cared very much about Allen's Neck Friends, as well as about people in the surrounding community. Karl was also active in the Society of Friends beyond the monthly meeting level. During the mid-1940s, Karl was an agricultural teacher in Westport, Dartmouth and Silver Lake Regional High School. Many students there benefited from his knowledge and wisdom. He was also director of Bristol County Agricultural School.

Since Karl's death, many newcomers to Allen's Neck Meeting have commented about how Karl made them feel welcome in the meeting and the community. Karl will always be remembered by his family, Friends, and everyone who knew him, as a wise and gentle man who cared about all people. He will be sorely missed.

### ***Memorial for Lawrence Kennison***

For many years, Lawrence Kennison was the greeter at Westport Monthly Meeting. Friends and visitors recall his firm handshake and hearty, "Hi, good to see you."

Larry was born in Ayer, Massachusetts, in September 1905. He graduated from Dartmouth in 1926, received his Masters degree from Brown University in 1928, and his Doctorate from California Institute of Technology in 1931. In 1932, he became a professor of mathematics at Brooklyn College, where he met Jean Anderson

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whom he married in 1937. On retiring from Brooklyn College in 1970, he continued his career as professor of mathematics at Southeastern Massachusetts University, now the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, until 1975.

Larry and Jean joined Westport Meeting in 1971. Larry soon succeeded Evelyn Weston as Recorder and served in this job for 18 years. He was an active member of the Peace and Social Concerns committee and served as its clerk for several years. He also served on Nominating, Ministry and Counsel and Hospitality committees, participated in our monthly turn at the New Bedford soup kitchen and our annual book sale.

Although Larry never held office, he and Jean faithfully attended Sandwich Quarterly Meeting until the time his hearing began to fail. He was an active participant in the Quaker Studies Program. He was a member of Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel, Nominating, and Friends General Conference Committees and clerked the latter.

His wry sense of humor was a hallmark. Larry's last gift to us was his openness as he faced and accepted his cancer. In a world where death and dying are often hidden, he opened his heart and home to us. All those who visited with Larry were ministered to by his undaunted spirit and his willingness to allow us to say our goodbyes. Larry died on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1991. A memorial was held December 7<sup>th</sup> at Westport Meetinghouse.

### ***Memorial for David Allan Norton***

David Norton, who grew up in the Wellesley Friends Meeting community, took his own life on October 8, 1990 at the age of twenty-three. He was not quite two years old when his parents Shirley and Perry Norton first attended the Meeting, and he was active as a Junior Member after they became full members a year later. His immediate family includes siblings John, Steven and Heidi, Steve's wife Jeanne, plus niece Yuri and nephew Jonathan. His parents' divorce and re-marriages greatly expanded this family with Bonnie Norton's four Gatti children and Tom Waring's five. Some of Dave's closest and most supportive friendships were with these step-siblings as he grew up. The eight self-designated "Norgats" were active as Junior Members, and as Young Friends representing Wellesley Meeting at New England Yearly Meeting over a span of many years.

Educated in the Wellesley Public School system, David graduated from Wellesley High School in 1985, and then spent the

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summer in Java, Indonesia as an American Field Service exchange student. At Drew University in New Jersey, he majored in Behavioral Sciences, graduating in 1989. During college, he was an intern at the Washington, D.C. Peace Center while he was a visiting student at George Washington University. Another summer he spent in advanced Indonesian language study in Hawaii, and his final college semester was devoted to research and cultural studies in Bali, Indonesia. During his post-college year, he travelled widely in the United States, settling in Boulder, Colorado.

Dave had many interests, including hiking, carpentry, writing poetry, and music composition. He was an avid guitarist and singer, sang for many years with Youth Pro Musica, and was a founding member of his high school's Barbershop Quartet. With family members and friends, David spent his 13th and 16th summers building two cabins with hand tools at "The Ledges," Tom and Shirley's vacation property in Georges Mills, New Hampshire. His work as a day care teacher in Boulder, as a volunteer "cuddler" in the Intensive Care Nursery at Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover, New Hampshire, and as a special attendant in several Boston area facilities is remembered as an example of his commitment to others and his characteristic giving of himself. From his earliest years, he was noted for his gentleness, his self-sufficient nature, his willingness to undertake new ventures, and his instinctive way of easing interpersonal tensions. With the help of his Quaker community, he formally registered as a conscientious objector.

David's ashes were buried at "The Ledges" which he loved. Wellesley Meeting held a memorial meeting for him on October 14, 1990, at which family and friends gathered to celebrate a life all too brief, but rich in gifts and depth as well as inspiration for all those who knew him.