

Memorial Minutes 2002

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY
MEETING *of* FRIENDS

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NEYM
2002

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William Burt Kriebel

As one of the builders of God's peaceable world, William Burt Kriebel laid down his earthly tools on July 1, 2001. Bill's life was a life of service. Whether it was his years with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), his work with Friends in both Philadelphia and New England Yearly Meetings, or his teaching computer skills to elders, Bill gave of himself in dedicated service, following the promptings of God's Spirit as he experienced it. He found comfort and inspiration in the gathered meeting for worship. In a recent article on Christianity, Bill wrote that "throughout history, God's Spirit has been unmistakably present among human beings. I have experienced in some silence-based meetings for worship, especially memorial meetings, the overwhelming, loving presence of the Spirit in a silence which is almost physically heavy, as though a great chord has just been played. Beyond doubt, the whole meeting feels it together. Once we have experienced this, we know the existence of the living God, and nothing that ever happens can take this certainty away from us."

Born into a Quaker family on September 18, 1917, in Philadelphia, PA, Bill attended Friends Select School, Westtown School, and Haverford College, finishing his formal education at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Informally, Bill was a life-long learner. Through classes, reading and experimentation, he continued to challenge himself. He loved languages, painted beautiful landscapes in watercolor and oil, and was always involved with editing some sort of newsletter. In going through Bill's papers after he died, a multi-paged hand-lettered newsletter for the Westtown School Stamp Club was discovered. The masthead identified William Kriebel as editor. Bill went on to edit many other periodicals, including the student newspaper at Haverford and *The New England Friend*.

As a conscientious objector during World War II, Bill served his alternative service at the Civilian Public Service (CPS) Camp in West Compton, NH and at Duke Hospital in

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Durham, NC. Following the war, Bill worked with the AFSC in Philadelphia as staff in the Public Relations Department, producing printed matter and visual aids. From 1952-1954, Bill and his first wife, the late Rebecca Taylor Kriebel, went to Austria as the AFSC Head of Mission in a job that made loans available to farmers, enabling them to maintain their operations. Bill went on to serve the AFSC in numerous capacities, including chairperson for the Middle Atlantic Region in the 1960s and as a longtime member and chairperson of the Personnel Committee in the 1970s.

A large part of Bill's life centered around printing—from creating content, either written or drawn, to all that goes into pre-press and final publication. Bill would print handmade Christmas cards, and at one time, there were three printing presses in his basement. Bill's passion for the graphic arts led him to his many years in the advertising department of Smith, Kline and French Laboratories in Philadelphia, where he worked until his retirement in 1980.

Bill's retirement marked not only the end of his paid work life, but it coincided with his move from Moorestown, NJ, to Boston, MA, where Anne, Bill's second wife, began her work as the director of the Beacon Hill Friends House. It also marked a move from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) to New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM). As one would imagine, while in the Philadelphia area Bill served on innumerable Quaker committees—Worship & Ministry, Overseers, Nominating, Yearly Meeting Epistle Committee, *Friends Journal* Board. He was also clerk of Westfield (NJ) Monthly Meeting, clerk of Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting, and clerk of PYM's Personnel Committee.

Shortly after their arrival in New England, Bill and Anne visited Sandwich (MA) Quarterly Meeting where they met, among other Friends, the NEYM Field Secretary Louis Marsteller. The Kriebels, being rather familiar with the formal ways of Philadelphia Friends, were refreshed to meet this plainspoken man, telling jokes, and dressed in a checkered wool shirt from L.L. Bean. In New England, Bill continued to serve Friends on committees of Beacon Hill, North Easton, and

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Cambridge Meetings. His extensive service for NEYM included clerk of Personnel Committee, and Presiding Clerk of the Yearly Meeting from 1988 to 1990.

Bill lived a life of absolute integrity and took delight in whatever he was doing. He was constantly writing and revising his thoughts. One compilation of these thoughts is titled "Considering Truth: How I Try to Make Sense of my Religious Heritage." Bill was always seeking, always considering Truth. While having nurtured and developed strong opinions, Bill realized that Truth is constantly unfolding. He cared about the opinions of others and listened for the Truth that he saw in them. As an example of one who keeps up with things that change, Bill taught himself, and subsequently others, how to use a computer for word processing, page layout, and the Internet. One of Bill's younger relatives observed that Bill was the only one of his generation that kept up with the family through e-mail.

In his low-key, unassuming manner, working quietly in the background, Bill showed us the true meaning of servant leadership. We miss him in so many ways. The earthly tools that he laid down are many and varied, and it is up to us to pick them up and continue on. Many of us remember that at the close of a letter or note, or as he went out the door, Bill would write or say "Cheerio!" Dear Bill, as we hear your final salutation from this life, and as we go about the work left unfinished, we can hear that loving, ever-present voice of God saying to you, "well done, good and faithful servant."

—FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Elisabeth Ambellan

Elisabeth (Lis) Ambellan died in Mansfield, CT, on January 28, 2002. A memorial service for her was held on February 17, under the care of Storrs Friends Meeting.

Lis was an active member of Storrs Friends Meeting for 30 years. As well as attending faithfully, she served over the years on committees on Ministry and Counsel, Peace & Social Concerns, and Finance. In the wider Quaker world, she was treasurer of Quarterly Meeting for many years, and in New

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England Yearly Meeting, she was a member of Peace & Social Concerns, Finance Committee, Permanent Board, and Nominating Committee. She was an avid supporter of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and was an at-large member of its General Committee.

Second only to her devotion to Quaker causes was her interest in, and work for, the United Nations, serving, for example, as Connecticut Education Director of the United Nations Association. One could go on to cite many other organizations to which she gave her time and money, but no such list could capture the spirit of this remarkable woman.

Lis was born on April 27, 1913. She was raised as a Catholic and after being tutored at home, in the third grade she went to St. Francis Xavier Academy in then rural Brooklyn. Here she was often in trouble for refusing to kneel, letting her bloomers show, and other such transgressions. She left to complete her secondary education at the Shore Road Country Day School, also in Brooklyn.

After two years at Cornell University, she went to Washington, DC in 1933 to get into politics or journalism. She did both. For \$5 a week, she wrote articles for an organization that serviced small town newspapers that could not afford a Washington correspondent. At this time, she met a man who steered her to a job at the *Washington Post*, a real newspaper. Through contacts at the National Press Club, she became Executive Secretary of the somewhat moribund Washington office of the American Civil Liberties Union. In 1936, in this role, Lis sprang into action when 10,000 refugees ran afoul of immigration laws and were about to be deported for minor infractions. She enlisted the help of some friends, and enough signatures were obtained to successfully petition the Commissioner of Immigration and forestall the deportation.

Lis left Washington in 1936 for New York, became the textile workers organizing committee of one, and was sent to Connecticut. One of her successful projects was organizing workers at the Cheney Woolen Mills in Manchester. She failed to succeed, however, with office workers in Hartford insurance companies. Needing to make some money, she went back to

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New York City and got a job in advertising. But her commitment to union causes was still strong and she volunteered to help the United American Sculptors with publicity. She married the head of this organization, Harold Ambellan, in 1940.

Their life together in Greenwich Village was exciting. Harold supported them on his \$21-a-week salary from the WPA Art Project. They lived in a floor-through loft, which they improved over the years so well that the Associated Press did a feature story about it as a particularly attractive example of the then-new idea of converting such space to living quarters. The loft served to house semi-permanent guests from the folk music community such as Pete Seeger, and it became a gathering place for most if not all of the luminaries of that world. Woody Guthrie stayed off and on for several years and, finally, a room was built around his cot at the far end of Harold's studio space. A factory they set up to produce silk-screen-decorated tiles improved their economic status. In 1949, Lis and Harold went to Europe and subsequently separated. However, their relations remained cordial all through the subsequent decades and Lis introduced Harold and his art to many in the Mansfield community.

In the 1950s, Lis started on a doctoral program. She received a Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1961 after publishing a number of papers. Her interests were now in genetics and biochemistry. She spent two years in Brussels on an NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship, working with Brachet, a noted biochemist. In 1967, Lis went to Europe, jobless, and came back to a \$100,000 grant she had been awarded to continue her research at the University of Connecticut. In 1985, she finally left her lab after many productive years, always overly modest about her scientific contributions.

Lis had many gifts. Her personality embraced interests spanning the aesthetic, the scientific, and the literary as well as the political. But above all, Lis had a gift for friendship. She became a member of a number of families, as concerned about the children of her friends as if they were her own. She was a *rara avis*, an unusual person. While commemorating Lis's life,

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it is impossible not to mourn her death.

—STORRS FRIENDS MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Clarence (Clay) Steinberger

Clarence (Clay) Steinberger, longtime member of the Storrs Meeting, died on February 7, 2002, in Willimantic, CT. He was 81.

Throughout his adult life, Clay was a committed pacifist and activist, his religious beliefs undergirding his activities. “I take very seriously that there is that of God in every person,” Clay said in a recent interview. “I’m motivated by Quaker traditions combining faith and service.”

Clay was an educator specializing in student counseling. He had been a guidance counselor at Storrs High School, and during the years before his retirement, he had been a consultant for pupil services at the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Among Friends, however, Clay was known chiefly as an indefatigable worker for peace and social justice. As early as 1940, he was working with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). During World War II, he was a conscientious objector, performing service at the New Hampshire educational center for German and Austrian refugees, and subsequently working with the AFSC in Kansas and Indiana. Returning to New England, he continued his activities with the Service Committee, in association with the New England Regional Office of the AFSC and as a member of the national Affirmative Action Committee. Throughout his many years in Storrs, he maintained his involvement with the Connecticut AFSC.

Opposition to the Viet Nam war and to compulsory military service led him to take a key role in setting up a peace center at the Storrs Meeting, which among other things provided draft counseling. In 1981, he became active in the Connecticut Nuclear Freeze movement. Clay also was involved in Quarterly Meeting affairs and served on a number of Yearly Meeting committees, including Permanent Board. He was also a member of the Moses Brown School Board of Overseers.

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Of course, Clay's pacifist concerns went beyond those narrowly identified with Quakerism. He was a member and supporter of the United Nations Association and the World Federalist Association, to both of which he devoted time and resources. He worked closely with the Fellowship of Reconciliation and with representatives of other Peace Churches, particularly the Church of the Brethren and the Bruderhof. Toward the end of his life, he developed a special tenderness toward the Tibetan Buddhists and their understanding of Buddhism.

Clay's compassionate nature found further expression in the loving care he gave to his garden, and to his animals. He was fond of African violets and roses of all kinds. At one time or another, he bred and raised special cattle, Nubian goats, fancy rabbits, and exotic poultry. Cats, many, many cats of diverse kinds, found their way to Clay's home, and he welcomed and adopted them all.

When physical disabilities made travel difficult and eventually impossible, he continued his activities from his home using the phone and mail. He was in constant touch with his congressional representative about national and state matters, and he mounted large-scale letter writing campaigns. As he once said, "I commit myself to at least one peace activity every day."

What Clay did was important. Those of us in Clay's religious community, however, know that what Clay was was even more important. He marched to his own drummer, to be sure; but he marched in the Light, the light that guided George Fox and John Woolman, and also Brother Lawrence, St. Francis, the Dalai Lama and Nelson Mandela. Clay reached out in love to all people everywhere. Indeed, he reached out in love to all God's creatures. He was truly a great hearted man.

—STORRS FRIENDS MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Edith C. Browne

We celebrate the life of Edith Carlton Browne, giving thanks for the many gifts she brought us and mourning her passing. Edith was born on February 12, 1922, in Portland,

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ME, and died on November 19, 2002, at Kendal at Hanover in Hanover, NH.

Edith's busy life centered around her four daughters, two sons, fourteen grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and her husband, Gordon Browne, Jr.

A loving partner to Gordon, while he was in numerous Quaker organizations, Edith held a lifelong belief that both racism and war were wrong. She was one of the founding group of the Cape Cod branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and joined other branch members in demonstrations aimed at ending lunch counter discrimination in Woolworth stores. She and her husband became military tax resisters in the early 1960s and continued that witness throughout her life.

Edith and Gordon were active in the re-opening of Yarmouth Preparative Meeting and Sandwich Monthly Meeting in the 1950s and 1960s. She served as clerk of both meetings. She was also the editor of the Sandwich Monthly Meeting newsletter. Upon retirement in Peacham, VT, she transferred her membership to Plainfield Monthly Meeting where she served as newsletter editor for several years. With her family, she helped create the Peacham Worship Group, frequently holding large gatherings for meeting for worship graciously in her home. Due to her cheerful hospitality, these occasions nourished both the body and soul of those in attendance. Edith worked with Gordon at both the United Nations and at Friends World Committee for Consultation, giving of her time and energy in many ways, and interacting with other Quakers at home and abroad.

At Kendal, she was well known as a courageous lady for the gallantry with which she faced her illness, such as sporting jaunty bonnets to cover her radiation baldness. Then there was her winning smile. She readily extended a helping hand to those in need—quietly and without authorship, but with a sense of fulfillment.

Her primary interest, however, was in family life, and she made her home a place of comfort, nurture, humor, and love. Her devotion to her husband and children was slated with

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sharp wit, patient firmness, and delight in harmless fun. She will be remembered by those at Plainfield Monthly Meeting for her keen understanding, cheerful presence, and willingness to be an unconditional friend to those in need.

—PLAINFIELD MONTHLY MEETING, NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Frederick G. Corneel

Frederick G. Corneel was born in Berlin, Germany, on August 19, 1922, the son of Gerhardt and Edith (Solmitz) Cohn. He immigrated to the United States with his sister Agnes in 1937, joining relatives in Little Rock, AR. He attended Little Rock Junior College and the University of Arkansas, cutting his studies short to enlist in the United States Army. He served in Europe in an armored combat unit and was given military assignments drawing on his fluency in German. He earned a Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Silver Star.

After the war, he attended Columbia University Law School, where he was the editor of the law review. Following his graduation in 1948, he served as a clerk to Judge William Bondy of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York. He then spent three years on the State Department staff overseeing the decartelization of the German steel industry under the aegis of the Allied High Commission for Germany.

Returning to the United States, he worked as an attorney in New York from 1953-60, then relocated to Boston where he joined Sullivan & Worcester as its first tax attorney.

During his 40 years with Sullivan & Worcester, he achieved national prominence for his work in ethics and estate tax planning. He received many professional awards for his work and writings. He lectured on tax law and legal ethics at Boston University Law School for more than 20 years, and also lectured on these subjects at the Harvard Law School and Williams College School of Banking.

He married Martha Appel in 1949 in New York City and they had two daughters and one son: Anne C. Guerra of San Antonio, TX, and Katherine C. Stromland of Medfield, MA. He suffered the death of his son Adam by accidental drowning in 1994. He delighted in the company of his grandsons, Henry

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and David, taking Henry to meeting for worship each Sunday.

Fred began worshipping with Wellesley Friends Meeting in 1963, and became a member a few years later. He was involved in the relocation of Wellesley Friends Meeting from Ten Acre School to Benvenue Street during the Sixties. He served as the meeting's Clerk, and for many years as member or Clerk of the Finance Committee. He was a generous benefactor of the meeting and played an important role in the building of the new meetinghouse in 1991. He also attended Friends Meeting in Falmouth, where his family has a summer home. He served on the Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds of New England Yearly Meeting.

Fred contributed generously of his time, expertise, and money to numerous charities. He was a director of the Ford Hall Forum. He served for many years as a trustee of McLean Hospital. He was one of the founders of the Fidelity Non-Profit Management Foundation and served as its secretary.

Fred was active in Wellesley town affairs. He was a Town Meeting member for many years and served with distinction on the town's finance committee. He was a member of the Wellesley Club and led the effort to open its membership to women. A fellow member of the Wellesley Town Meeting and Wellesley Monthly Meeting said that when Fred spoke in town meetings, in his deep, carefully enunciated, slightly accented voice, there was complete silence as everyone wanted to hear what he would say. By his example, he set high standards for others involved in local public service.

Fred wrote poetry and plays and showed his wit, charm, and skill in performances at Quaker retreats and gatherings and in skits at professional meetings. He researched the life of Rufus Jones and was the executive producer of the video documentary, "Rufus Jones: A Luminous Life." He also wrote the accompanying book, *A Rufus Jones Companion*.

Fred died on November 12, 2001, after a short illness.

Fred Corneel was a seeker of truth and sanctity until the end of his life. His messages in meeting for worship spoke of his engagement in that quest, and of his doubts that he had found ultimate truth or perfect grace. A German Jewish

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refugee who fought for the United States in World War II, he later became devoted to the Quaker cause of peace. He was a wise counselor, especially in financial and ethical matters. He was a scholar, both in his approach to his work as a tax lawyer and in his avocation as a biographer of the life of Rufus Jones. He was a good husband, father, and grandfather. By choosing good mentors and being one himself, he grew in wisdom and strength of character throughout his life.

—WELLESLEY FRIENDS MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Ruth Edgerton Hoge

With grateful hearts, we celebrate the life of our beloved friend, Ruth Edgerton Hoge, who died peacefully at home on December 31, 2001. She maintained her lively interest in the world until her death at the age of 104.

Ruth was born in Columbiana, OH, in 1897, the third of nine children of J. Howard and Lavina Edgerton. In this large family, she developed her sense of responsibility and caring for others. Her deeply nurturing spirit was evident throughout her life. Wellesley Meeting members saw her deep concern for her family in her gentle, loving care for her sister, Laura Logan, who also lived in Massachusetts.

Ruth and her siblings grew up in a small Quaker farming community, attending classes in a one-room schoolhouse. She went to high school at Olney Friends School in Barnesville, OH, and spent a year at Westtown School in PA.

Ruth knew from childhood that she wanted to be a teacher. She began teaching at a rural Friends school in Indiana before attending Oberlin College for two years. She taught in Iowa in a one-room school and then at Scattergood Friends School. She traveled to Europe in 1926, working at several progressive schools that belonged to the New Education Fellowship. She was excited with this more humanistic, experiential approach that resonated with her Quaker values.

After returning to the United States, she taught for seven years at the Hessian Hills School in Croton-on-Hudson, NY. The philosophy of this school was to tailor the program to each

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student rather than having a fixed curriculum. Ruth found this kind of teaching very creative and stimulating, and she recalled these years as an easy time to teach. While in New York, she became friendly with Harold Hoge, then a graduate student in physics at Yale. He had been her student at Scattergood, and they had stayed in touch. In 1934, they decided to marry. Several days before the wedding, Ruth and her sister were in an automobile accident. Ruth's jaw was wired and she had to have food through a straw but she could say the words and the wedding took place.

After Harold's graduation, the couple moved to Washington, DC, where Ruth taught at the progressive Green Acres School. She served as director from 1939 to 1950. While in Washington, their daughter Rebecca was born. Becky was an only child, but she was not lonely for the Hoges often had relatives and friends living with them. During this time, they were active in the Florida Avenue Friends Meeting community. Moving to Massachusetts in 1957, she and Harold joined Friends Meeting at Cambridge and, the following year, transferred to Wellesley Friends Meeting, which had recently been formed.

Harold and Ruth shared many interests. They especially loved square dancing and danced their way across the country, seeking out events wherever they happened to be visiting. Ruth moved across the floor with the simple, lively grace with which she lived her whole life. In 1995, after sixty years of marriage, Ruth lost her dancing partner and dearest friend.

Her great love at meeting was the First Day School, where she taught, wrote curricula, and advised parents and teachers. For more than 40 years, Ruth's name was synonymous with religious education, and she taught several generations of Young Friends. Only a week before she died, after listening to Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, she spent several hours working on new ideas for a lesson on the Psalms.

One of Ruth's greatest gifts was the way that she shared herself with the children of the meeting. She knew each child by name and interest, and followed their activities into adulthood. One of the highlights of every year, for Ruth and for

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the Meeting, was her introduction of new babies at the Christmas celebration.

She cherished community ties throughout her life, and cared vitally about each person she met. Ruth had an uncanny ability to remember names and stories. This caring and nurturing spirit was mentioned again and again at her memorial meeting.

A steward of the earth as well as people, Ruth lavishly shared her knowledge of flowers, and spent many hours restoring the gardens at the New England Friends Home and at Wellesley Meeting. She was a woman for all seasons and, well into her eighties, she snowshoed in winter and hiked and camped in the summer. During her entire life, she loved the outdoors she had first discovered as a young child roaming the hills and woods around her parents' farm.

Ruth was concerned about peace and social justice. She voted in the first presidential election open to women voters, and in every subsequent one. She was active in the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Fair Housing movement, the Good Friday Peace Witness on the Boston Common during the Vietnam War, the League of Women Voters, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She was involved with the Committee of Responsibility which arranged for Vietnamese children to come to Boston hospitals for rehabilitation, and the Hoges personally sponsored several refugees. Later she worked on New England Yearly Meeting's Committee on Aging and on the board of the New England Friends Home.

Her daughter Becky said that she felt that her mother had done everything that she had wanted to do in her lifetime. Her life had been nurtured by many different kinds of spirituality and she sought always to combine faith and works. By actively teaching and being taught, Ruth taught many of us what was sound practice. She lived with simplicity, moderation, integrity, and joyous grace. She filled her days with family and friends, nature, teaching, and the experience of the divine Presence.

—WELLESLEY FRIENDS MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

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Helen Snyder

We are grateful for the life of Helen Snyder, our trustworthy and honest companion for more than thirty years. She died at the age of ninety, on the sixth day of June 2001, the day after her husband Don's ninetieth birthday and two weeks after their sixtieth wedding anniversary.

Helen Stowell grew up in Revere, MA, met Don Snyder in New York City in early 1941, and married him in May of that same year. Don's work with the U.S. Manpower Commission, and later the U.S. Army and the International Labor Organization (ILO), took them to live in Berlin, Rome, Geneva, Kuala Lumpur, and Fiji. They became the parents of three sons: Lance, Keith, and Courtney.

They began attending Friends Meeting in Geneva in the early 1950s. They learned of Beacon Hill Friends House shortly after its founding in the late Fifties, and began staying there for their biennial home leave, becoming close friends with Ernest and Esther Weed, the directors of the House. Upon retirement in 1975, they stayed at Friends House until they bought their home, a block away. Helen maintained her interest in the House, serving on many committees and aiding the directors of the House for almost twenty years. She and Don were also part of the founding of the worship group that became Beacon Hill Friends Meeting in 1980. Helen was the first clerk of the worship group. This became their home meeting. Their commitments did not flag: while in their eighties they took a bus to the Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions, held in Maine that year.

In 1998, Helen and Don moved to a retirement community in Lenox, MA. There they helped to found a worship group in the village under the care of South Berkshire Friends Meeting.

Helen of the mink coat and stylish shoes, no lady in gray was she. And a walker! a dancer! Helen valued physical activity. Lively, complex, full of contradictions and with the energy to reconcile them, she was at home in many worlds, including a Quaker world of service and her elegant world of material blessings.

Generosity was central to who she was. Helen was

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generous with worldly goods, time, and service. Her long-time interest in the arts and in people led her to be one of the first to achieve a certificate in gerontology and then to a volunteer commitment of sixteen years at Massachusetts General Hospital in the In-Patient Psychiatric Unit.

Helen had the gift of making authentic connections. She seemed to find all things and all people to be genuinely interesting. She loved “gabbing” (her word!), but for her, the listening was as important as the talking. She focused intently as she listened, making her partner in the conversation the center of her world while they talked. This ability to connect was not confined to any one age group. Nor was it confined to sweetness and light. She was a master of the art of spontaneous eldering, which we came to value. Many of us, younger members as well as older, count ourselves as her friends even now.

Above all Helen brought us the gift of her seeking. She seemed never to tire of finding out about things; in fact, the quest, both intellectual and spiritual, energized and sustained her. Helen’s wide-ranging curiosity led her to search for knowledge and understanding in many directions. Art, education, psychology, health and medicine, the twistings and turnings of current political and cultural events all engaged her lively mind. She did not see herself as a spiritual person but as a seeker. She accompanied many of us over the years as we searched our hearts and sought discernment. With her wisdom and wry humor, she was a treasured companion. An intensely proper and private person, those moments when Helen revealed her own thoughts and struggles will remain precious memories for her confidants.

She was strong willed for herself and for those closest to her. The lady had standards. Courageous. Indomitable. No single word quite captures the robust spirit of this woman who shortly before her death could say quietly to a close friend, “It’s always something!” Helen loved the wonder and complexity of life. She lived her own life fully and she had the courage and composure to look squarely at its darker side.

With great inner strength, Helen faced the prospect of

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growing old, of change and loss, of death. She could project an almost stoic calm. Considering her final illness with its indignities and its pain, Helen said to one of her sons, "You know, the truth is, this isn't much fun." Yet she celebrated Don's ninetieth in style, hair done up for the occasion. Vintage Helen!

Perhaps Helen best revealed her strength and courage to her husband Don. As he apologized to her one day for all the ways that he might have limited her choices in life by moving their family all over the world, Helen said with assurance, "Well, it was my life too."

Helen's thoughtfulness touched us all. Her liveliness enlivened us. Her faithfulness in details, large and small, taught us all.

She and Don had their seats in the meeting room. Helen continues to have her place in our hearts.

—BEACON HILL FRIENDS MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Hobart Mitchell

Hobart Mitchell, 93, died on March 3, 2002, at Fairview Nursing Home in Groton, CT. Hobart was born on November 6, 1908, in New York City, the son of William Hobart Mitchell, a physician, and Grace Bugbee Mitchell, a musician. In 1938, he married Claramary Greeley who predeceased him. He married Jean North in 1966.

Hobart had three primary careers. He was a baritone who planned his own solo presentations and edited three recordings of Music for Meditation for Columbia Records. His most popular convocation programs were "Poetry in Song" and "Sermons in Song."

He taught English in several colleges, most recently at Mitchell College, New London, CT where he was Chair of the Department until his retirement in 1972.

Through those years and into retirement, he was a freelance writer. In 1983, Friends United Press published *We Would Not Kill*, a memoir of his experiences as a conscientious objector during World War II. He was a frequent contributor of articles and poems to journals and wrote a series promoting

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working craftspersons in our local newspapers.

Hobart founded the New London Friends Meeting in 1964. In retirement, he was active on the New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) Finance Committee and represented NEYM at Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). He attended annual meetings of FWCC and was active at triennial meetings in Hamilton, Ontario and Oaxtepec, Mexico. He also helped organize and lead the Maritime/New England Friends Gathering. Hobart was known for his work in spiritual healing and led workshops on healing and on meditation for Friends General Conference, NEYM, and the Maritime/New England Friends Gathering.

Keith Helmuth of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting, writing for *The Canadian Friend* said, "In leadership, Hobart was always low key, offering suggestions and guidance, but then insisting that the group consider and decide how best to proceed. He understood the importance of open time when Friends gather and the informal times of conversation and rest he encouraged were much appreciated. Hobart was a person in which personal demeanor and Quaker ethos were harmoniously conjoined, a person with whom sitting for a quiet talk generated a sense of being both centred and cared for. We will truly miss him, but the distinct sense of spirit in which he lived keeps memory and gratitude alive."

Hobart is survived by his loving wife, Jean Mitchell, his filial neighbors, David McKain and Margaret Gibson, and New London Meeting, which has had the blessing of years of his loving attention and stalwart spiritual support.

—NEW LONDON FRIENDS MEETING, CONNECTICUT QUARTERLY MEETING

Jeanette Anderson Poole Smith

Jeanette Anderson Poole Smith, 90, on August 6, 2000, died peacefully at her daughter's home in Canton, CT. Born in Philadelphia, PA on October 11, 1909, she was the daughter of May Yaeger Poole and Walter Harrison Poole. She attended Havertown High School in Pennsylvania and then went to work during the Depression to put her sisters through college.

Jeanette was drawn to Quakerism as a young adult and,

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while attending one of David Richie's first work camps in Philadelphia, she met Caleb Smith. Caleb and Jeannette were married in 1937 in the Lansdown, PA Meeting. Shortly thereafter, they moved to the Boston area where their first two children, Allen and Harrison, were born. From Boston, they moved to Swarthmore, PA in 1946, so that Caleb could teach economics at Swarthmore College, and here Jessie was born. Then, in 1948, they moved to Wilmington, OH where Caleb became Vice-President at Wilmington College and here their last child Jay was born. In 1950, the family moved to Rhode Island so Caleb could teach at Brown University and where Jeannette and Caleb became mainstays of Providence Meeting.

Although Jeannette devoted herself to raising her children and always primarily identified herself as a mother and wife, she was also deeply involved in peace, social justice and Friends' work. She assumed numerous leadership roles in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the League of Women Voters. She actively supported many political candidates, the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Committee on National Legislation as well as Common Cause and other social advocacy groups.

During her time in Rhode Island, she served as Clerk of Providence Meeting. In 1963, she, Caleb, and their two youngest children moved to Kenya where Caleb was Principal of Kaimosi Teacher Training College and Jeannette taught clerical skills. After living and working in Kenya for two years, they returned to their home in RI and lived there until 1970 when they moved to New Bedford, MA so Caleb could become head of the Economics Department at Southeastern Massachusetts University. While in New Bedford, Jeannette involved herself fully in New Bedford Meeting and served as Treasurer and as Clerk of the Meeting.

Jeannette Smith was also active in New England Yearly Meeting. She served on the Friends General Conference Committee and as Friends United Meetings (FUM) representative, as well as serving on the FUM Meeting Ministries Commission. Among the committees she served on were Peace & Social Concerns, Prejudice & Poverty Committee,

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and New England Friends Home. She also served variously on Executive Council, Ministry & Counsel, and Permanent Board.

Jeannette and Caleb's marriage lasted 43 years until his death in 1980. In 1984, she moved to the Hartford, CT area to be closer to family and became an active member of Hartford Meeting. Jeannette frequently delivered spoken messages in meeting for worship in her wonderfully distinctive voice and easily quoted both scripture and poetry in her messages. An avid amateur artist, Jeannette loved painting while at the family's summer cottage in New Hampshire. She continued painting and sharing her paintings with others throughout her life. An avid Scrabble player, she also loved beautiful music and poetry. She was a deeply spiritual woman who always sought and found comfort and joy among family, friends, and Friends. Her presence is deeply missed at Hartford Meeting. Jeannette is survived by her daughter, Jessie Stratton, her three sons and their wives, Allen and Iris Smith, Harrison and Anne Smith, and Jay and Sara Smith, ten grandchildren, three great grandchildren, two sisters, Grace Lamb and Anita Fuller, and numerous nieces and nephews.

—PROVIDENCE MONTHLY MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING

Lois Faber Harris

Lois Harris was born on March 18, 1904, in upstate New York. After graduating from Cornell University with a degree in social science, she did graduate work at Stetson University in Florida, Columbia University in New York City, and the University of Chile in Santiago. She was General Secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in St. Petersburg, Florida, and in 1935 went to Argentina where she held the same post for three and a half years. On her return, she continued with the YWCA until 1942 when she married Paul Harris.

Together, under the auspices of the Group Development Sector, the Harrises organized and led group discussions at colleges, churches and numerous other civic organizations on topics that ranged from immediate local concerns to global

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issues and religious values. In later years, Paul Harris served as a Unitarian minister. He died in 1963.

Lois Harris joined Cambridge Friends Meeting in 1970 and became an active member with a vivid interest in music, poetry, and issues to do with aging and women's rights. She was active in New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) concerns, serving on the Committee on Retirement and Friends Community, and as a trustee of the Friends Community and Development Corporation. She was an early member of the Grey Panthers.

In 1981, Lois Harris moved to Concord, MA, and continued her pursuits well into her later years. She was a contributor to the book *Ourselves Growing Older*, (1987). She joined Acton Friends Meeting and became a much loved and valued member. She died on October 11, 2001.

Lois's energy and spunk were an example to all. She cast a broad net causing us to rethink what we were doing and why. Her messages in meeting brought a more balanced sense of life.
—ACTON FRIENDS MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Ralph Edward Cook

Ralph Edward Cook was born 7/1/29 and died 5/9/2001 at the age of 71. The son of Lindley and Corona Rayle Cook, he grew up in Portland, ME, where his father was the minister of the Forest Avenue Friends Meeting. He graduated from Earlham College with a Bachelor's degree in history.

During the Korean War, Ralph served time in prison for adhering to his belief that, as a Quaker, he should not cooperate with the military draft. In 1955, he married Jane E. Estes. They taught at Scattergood School in Iowa and he earned a degree in medical technology at the University of Iowa.

They later lived in Massachusetts and in Camden, ME, where he practiced as a medical technologist, raised sheep, built a lobster boat, and refinished furniture. They were instrumental in starting a Quaker meeting in the Camden area which later became part of Midcoast Meeting.

A skilled carpenter and cabinet-maker, Ralph Cook

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restored and refinished the interiors of three of his own homes and several others. He and his wife moved to Pembroke, ME, in the 1980s and he was involved with the oral history project which documented the early lumbering industry of the Machias region.

Ralph Cook was a member of Cobscook Friends Meeting, which he helped to found. He was one of the principal designers and builders of the present meetinghouse, serving the meeting in many capacities. He served as clerk of the meeting and was the recording clerk at the time of his death. He was also active in New England Yearly Meeting having served on the Peace Committee, the Archives and Historical Records Committee, Ministry & Counsel, and the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee. He also served three terms on Permanent Board. His skills, perception, and leadership impressed and energized those working with him.

He is fondly remembered for his deep understanding of Quaker history and his soft-spoken reflections on day-to-day concerns for peace and humanitarian service. His ability to listen and hear that of God in the words of others assisted us coming to the sense of the meeting in our meetings for worship to conduct business.

Ralph was patient with others, always faithful knowing right ways would open. Never losing his interest in history and in peace work, he kept abreast of current events daily. He enjoyed word games and reading, even after kidney disease limited his more active pursuits.

He is survived by his wife, Jane, and two stepchildren, James Estes of Portland, ME, and Lea Sutton of Standish, ME, as well as two step-granddaughters.

—COBSCOOK FRIENDS MEETING, VASSALBORO QUARTERLY MEETING

Theodore W. Donovan

New Haven Monthly Meeting was saddened by the death of our long-term and dear member, Theodore W. Donovan, 86, on July 23, 2001. After several years of his near-miraculous recoveries from a series of heart-related illnesses, we had grown accustomed to Ted's will to live, stamina and good

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humor in the face of physical adversity. All those who knew Ted join the Meeting in knowing that he was finally “raised up on eagles’ wings,” (his favorite scripture passage, Is. 40:31) and at peace.

Ted was born in Boston, MA, on February 24, 1915, but moved to New York City at age six where he grew up. His conscience led him to seek alternative service during World War II, which led to a series of jobs in the Civilian Public Service (CPS) camps in Pennsylvania, Middletown, and New York. It was in New York, while working at Presbyterian Hospital, where he met his future wife, Annette. Following the war, Ted pursued a career in printing, first in New York City, then in Woodstock and Burlington, VT, and finally settled in the New Haven area. Ted and Annette were married under the care of Friends in Pennsylvania, long before either was affiliated with a meeting. When they settled in the New Haven area to raise their nine children, they were among the first attenders of our fledgling monthly meeting.

The Donovan family has provided decades of commitment and leadership to New Haven Friends, and Ted served on a wide variety of New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) committees, on the board of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and was active in the wider Friends fellowship for many years. Ted was deeply committed to peace activities, including offering counseling for conscientious objectors and work with the New Haven and Hamden Freeze campaigns. The same concern led Ted and Annette to travel to Nicaragua through the Sister City—Leon program and to ongoing volunteer work with this New Haven program. Anyone who passed through New Haven Meeting knows the Donovans, and had their life touched in some manner by Ted. His humor and affection were freely given and he accepted human weaknesses and imperfections, knowing that they mattered not in God’s sight, if one was truly seeking and turning to the Light.

The meeting for worship held in the memory of Theodore Donovan on July 28, 2001, filled the meetinghouse to overflowing. In addition to the many Friends from New Haven

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and other monthly meetings, people gathered who had shared a weekly prayer group over many years with Ted and Annette. Others knew Ted at the retirement community, Elim Park, where they had recently moved and where Ted found great satisfaction and comfort in his last year. Ted would have enjoyed the poetry, music, and tender words, which found expression during the service. Out of the gathered meeting, ministry gave voice to the gratitude we all felt to have known Ted, to have shared his life and been touched by his quiet, constant expression of love.

—NEW HAVEN MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Thomas Waring

Tom Waring was a warm and loving teacher and friend deeply grounded in the life of the spirit. At his memorial service at Kendall at Hanover in November 2001, many spoke of the importance of his presence in their lives as a teacher, a parent, and a compassionate man.

Thomas Waring was a life-long Friend. He was born November 24, 1921, in Germantown, PA. Tom attended Wesleyan College in CT where he met his first wife, Theodora (Dody) Elkinton Waring. They married in 1946. During World War II Tom served as a conscientious objector. After the war, Tom and Dody worked with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Finland rebuilding log homes.

Tom graduated from Wesleyan College in 1948. He became a teacher, teaching in the Graland Country Day School in Denver, CO, then at Buckingham Friends School in Pennsylvania, and then at Shady Hill School in Cambridge, MA. In 1962, Tom became the first headmaster of the Cambridge Friends School. Tom provided sensitive leadership through the difficult first years of the new school. He is remembered for his celebration of the value of each student and staff member and of his commitment to Friends practice and values while at Cambridge Friends.

Tom started the New England Craftsmanship Center in Watertown, MA, teaching classes in woodworking in the 1970s.

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He was the first clerk of the Board of Trustees of the Farm and Wilderness Foundation, serving for 2fi years in 1972-74.

Tom's commitment to Friends values is reflected in the first minute of the new board which stated "...May God guide us in helping to give the Farm and Wilderness Foundation the kind of life that makes it an island of peace and support for all people." Tom was Clerk of Wellesley Meeting from 1975-1977.

Tom and Dody had five children, Christopher, Katherine, Nathaniel, Abigail, and Lydia. Tom deeply loved his children, sharing his love of the outdoors and his love of carpentry with them as they grew up. In 1979, Tom divorced Dody Waring. There was considerable pain caused by the ending of his first marriage.

Tom began a second chapter of his life with his marriage to Shirley Baldwin Norton. Tom and Shirley moved to Hanover, NH and joined Hanover Monthly Meeting. During his years there, Tom and Shirley worked on houses at their camp, "The Ledges," on Ledge Pond in Georges Mills. He wrote his book, *Something for Peace*, which described his experiences as a conscientious objector. He also continued with his woodworking and volunteered at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Tom was extremely important in the lives of his four stepchildren, Heidi, John, David, and Steven. Tom and Shirley were committed members of Hanover Meeting. They lived together in Hanover until Shirley's death in 1995. Many of us found in Tom a warm and loving mentor and counselor. He was a quiet but deep and influential part of our community.

Tom died on Tenth Month 3, 2001 at Kendall at Hanover, following several years of worsening health.

Tom once said the two most important jobs in the world were teaching and parenting. Tom was gifted at both. He was a dedicated teacher of children and young men and women throughout his life and a father and grandfather who deeply loved his children and stepchildren all his life. He is survived by his 5 children, 3 stepchildren, 15 grandchildren, and 7 step-grandchildren. We thank God for the life of Thomas Waring.

—HANOVER MONTHLY MEETING, NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

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Ira M. Wine

On August 31, 2001, Portland Friends Meeting lost a dearly valued stalwart community member from the death of Ira Matthew Wine at the age of 81. Ira was born the youngest of six children and grew up in Forestville, VA of Pennsylvania Dutch parents, Jacob David Wine and Kitty Sipe Huffman Wine. He often worked with his older brothers, helping with the heavier farm chores. In his father, Ira saw an example of a man devoted to his family and his religious faith and who loved their rural life. After leaving home Ira kept in close communication with his family, frequently returning with his own family for reunions with his father, siblings and their families—visits which his wife recalls as joyous occasions.

Growing up in this strong supportive family of the Church of the Brethren, early in his youth Ira had his attention focused on the basic tenets of the Christian gospel and those of the Brethren. At Bridgewater College in Virginia, he joined a group of pre-clergy students, expecting to go into the ministry himself. However, in 1942 after college he obtained a job teaching during which he discovered that he was not suited to either of these professions. After World War II, he took a vocational aptitude test which showed him to be well suited to math and accounting.

During the World War, Ira was drafted into Civilian Public Service (CPS) at a conscientious objector (CO) to military service. Like many other COs at that time he served the country often heroically by participating in polio experiments and volunteering as a human subject to be infected for research about viral hepatitis, which had become epidemic among military troops. He was given an assignment with Yale University Medical School where he volunteered for several years at the Fairfield Connecticut Mental Hospital. This unit of COs was run by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and was thus Ira's introduction to Quakerism. During this period, he met a Yale student, Mary-Agnes Pratt, "Mag", who was a member of Central Connecticut Valley Monthly Meeting of Friends. Together they attended New Haven Monthly Meeting and were married there in 1946.

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After his discharge from CPS, he and Mary-Agnes moved to Philadelphia. Ira volunteered to be a seafaring “cowboy” for a brief time with the Heifer Project International, ferrying cattle to Greece to restock farms devastated by the military occupation. His first employment in Philadelphia was with United Parcel Service Co., which funded his post-graduate studies in accounting. He became certified as a cost accountant, advancing over six years from clerk to assistant office manager, before the family decided in 1952 to make a risky move to Maine with their oldest three daughters, Mary, Nancy and Rebecca, and only \$1,000. They settled in Portland where their last child, Abigail, was born. Ira’s job search resulted in his being offered two jobs in a single day, one with a photographic firm and the other with Hannaford Brothers grocers. He solved this dilemma through his perception that people would always need food more than photographs, and accepted Hannaford’s offer.

The couple joined the Forest Avenue Monthly Meeting, which later merged with Falmouth Monthly Meeting on Oak Street to become Portland Friends Meeting. Forest Avenue Meeting at that time had no Bible school for children. The Wines enrolled their children in the nearby Woodfords Congregational Church. They themselves began to attend an adult group of couples from various denominations that met bi-weekly and committed themselves to an intense study of the Bible and Christian ethics as these applied to their own lives. Ira’s student studies in the Old and New Testaments were a great resource for the group. His wife states that these sessions over the last 40 years were a gold mine of spiritual enhancement for them both.

In 1981, Ira retired from Hannaford Brothers as a pension specialist, having eventually become comptroller for the company, and after retirement worked as a paralegal for the firm of Verrill and Dana in Portland. His many activities included membership in the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, the 60 Plus Club of Portland, the Maine Audubon Society, and the Appalachian Mountain Club (serving as treasurer), among others.

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We remember Ira as one of the most dependable and versatile members of our Meeting, who did little talking about his faith but lived it with simplicity and integrity. He was our recognized authority on the Bible and a faithful asset for the Religious Education Committee with his frequent class presentations. He kept a careful watch over the meetinghouse property. His devotion to our community and his Christian faith moved him to quiet service that often went unnoticed. He taught dyslexic men with the Literacy Volunteers Program and prepared many free income tax returns for the blind, disabled, elderly and foreign-born residents, making house calls if necessary.

Besides his many activities in Portland Friends Meeting, he was active in the Falmouth Quarterly Meeting (Clerk 1961-63) and served New England Yearly Meeting faithfully on Ministry & Counsel, Peace & Social Concerns Committee, Permanent Board, and as auditor for Friends China Camp.

Ira's personal standards about commitment to spiritual and religious practice were so high that, as his responsibilities for family and employment increased, he found himself unable to perform up to those standards for such a wide arena.

He asked to be released from membership, a decision which the Monthly Meeting affectionately declined to approve. It was several years and only after repeated requests from Ira before meeting out of deference to his scruples felt willing to remove him officially from its membership roll. He continued activity in the meeting community, however, helping with financial matters, serving as a trustee and teaching adult classes. Customarily he walked the two miles to open the meetinghouse in First Days, look out for needed repairs, and act as an official host for the early morning worship group. Finally, the encroaching disability from an eventually lethal pulmonary fibrosis prohibited both the much loved summer trips with Mag to the Appalachian wilderness and his attendance at worship. So great was the number of Quakers and other friends who wanted to attend the Memorial Worship planned for the Portland Friends Meetinghouse on September 2, 2001, that the meeting had to be held instead at the

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Woodford Congregational Parish House to accommodate the large gathering.

—PORTLAND FRIENDS MEETING, FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING