

# Memorial Minutes ～ 2016～

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NEW ENGLAND  
YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

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Each of these minutes has been read aloud at each Friend's monthly meeting and quarterly meeting and at a meeting of the Yearly Meeting Permanent Board. Each time a minute was read, those listening learned something new about the different ways in which Friends live out their Quaker faith. Those who knew the remembered Friend in different contexts have had the opportunity to share, and perhaps to add, some telling memory. It is a rich and living process.

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**James Ellingboe (1937–2013)**

**Cynthia Fisk (1925–2015)**

**John Foster (1926–2015)**

**David Hall (1937–2015)**

**Nancy Isaacs (1930–2015)**

**Peter Keenan (1941–2015)**

**Annette (Anne) Kriebel (1925–2015)**

**Ishmael Rosas (1995–2016)**

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**James (Jim) Ellingboe**  
**June 10, 1937 – November 5, 2013**

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*We dance round in a ring and suppose,  
But the Secret sits in the middle and knows.*  
– Robert Frost

Jim Ellingboe was born in Delaware and died in Massachusetts. In his professional life, Jim worked as a medical researcher. He studied at Harvard Medical School, where he earned a PhD in biochemistry. He spent a few years doing post-doctoral work in Europe, where he met Karin (his wife of 46 years). As his career progressed, he transitioned from doing hands-on medical research to managing others, eventually as the Director of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Research Center at McLean Hospital. As the last part of his professional career, he was a scientific editor for biomedical research journals. This allowed him to exercise both his technical competence and his skill at working with people. He was a compassionate “people person.” He remained supportive of many former students and colleagues throughout his life. He gave considerable emotional and practical support to a former colleague during her depression until her death of breast cancer.

His competence was reflected in his personal life as well. When younger, he was seen as rather shy, impish, and stubborn, with an annoying habit of often being right. As he matured he learned to listen more carefully to others, not pushing what he knew, but putting himself in a position to share knowledge when useful. He also understood the importance of just listening. A woman shared the experience of phoning the Ellingboes intending to reach Karin, but talking over a tough experience with Jim: “I was able to tell it to him as I would to a dear woman friend.”

He shared the Robert Frost couplet with which this minute begins with Karin early in their relationship, and they often discussed it. Spiritual life was important to him. He attended Friends meeting

while a student at Oberlin, and continued to attend everywhere he could because he found the silence so full. He joined Friends Meeting at Cambridge, in Massachusetts.

He put his abilities to work for Friends in many areas, from local meeting committees to New England Yearly Meeting's Permanent Board. He recently served us in Acton Monthly Meeting as treasurer. In the last year of his service in that position, he gave us the gift of a compilation of all the substantive finance-related minutes of Acton Meeting. He had read through several decades of our minutes to give us the information that we needed to write a comprehensive minute setting out our policies as we now wanted them. At our retreats he was open, thoughtful, and humble.

Memorial comments reflected our experience of an integration of Quaker ideals into his personal interactions. Inside and outside the Religious Society of Friends he was focused on what was best for the larger body. A professional colleague called him a "wise advisor." He brought "no personal agenda" to the Yearly Meeting Finance Committee. On the Littleton Conservation Commission he tended to be quiet but had "insightful comments" when he did speak. He engaged himself with everybody, bringing tender listening skills to relationships with young people as well as adults. A young woman commented that he made her feel warm and safe. Another who had a difficult time as a young child and later came to know Jim and Karin, said that "he showed me what a *good man* could be."

Jim was an active person who loved travel and camping, bird watching, skiing, folk dancing, and music. He enjoyed a challenge—wilderness canoeing with his family, and doing most of the additions and renovations on his home himself. Jim had broad interests including history, anthropology, and genealogy. He loved sharing the writings of Thoreau and the poems of John Greenleaf Whittier and Robert Frost.

— APPROVED BY ACTON MONTHLY MEETING, MARCH 29, 2015

ENDORSED BY SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APRIL 26, 2015

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**Cynthia Fisk**  
**March 5, 1925 – January 10, 2015**

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Cynthia Fisk was one of the pioneering leaders of Amesbury Worship Group in the early 1980s. When Amesbury became a preparative meeting under the care of North Shore Meeting in 1985, Cynthia became its first clerk. Fellow member John Monroe noted recently, "Cynthia was our Elder in every way during the '80s. She exuded a calm and clear presence. You can still see the simple elegance of her posture and the way she carried herself. Cynthia, more than any other individual, formed the spiritual nucleus of the group."

She served as clerk through the preparative meeting year and as clerk of Amesbury Monthly Meeting until 1989.

Cynthia moved to Gloucester in 1993 and immediately became a strong and valued member of North Shore Friends Meeting. Cynthia always prepared herself for meeting for worship and made a point of arriving early. Cynthia's centered presence enabled the rest of us to enter a quiet place where worship had already begun. Her messages of peace, mutual respect, and understanding and reconciliation were clearly delivered and received by those present in meeting.

In the 1990s Cynthia served on Permanent Board. At one time she served both as North Shore's clerk of Ministry and Counsel and on the New England Yearly Meeting Committee for Ministry and Counsel as well. Most memorably, Cynthia was a passionate member of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee. After her retirement, she devoted her life to working for peace and justice. She was a voracious reader who kept herself well informed on social and political issues.

Cynthia helped to educate both North Shore Friends and the community at large. She became a dedicated writer with a regular column in the *Gloucester Daily Times*. Cynthia wrote innumerable letters to the editor of the GDT and the *Boston Globe*, many of which were published. As a firm believer in the obligation of being an active citizen, she carried on regular correspondence with her elected officials on issues of importance. She was also a public witness for peace and justice. In the years prior to the

Iraq wars, she was a regular participant in weekly peace vigils in Beverly and in peace witnesses in other communities.

Cynthia was so much our social conscience. For most of the last year, she was not in meeting, but she was still a presence. We miss her.

— APPROVED BY NORTH SHORE FRIENDS MEETING, MARCH 8, 2015

ENDORSED BY SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APRIL 26, 2015

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**John Henry Foster**  
**July 1, 1926 – June 5, 2015**

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John H. Foster was born July 1, 1926, the son of Henry Cope Foster and Thyra Jane Meyers of Warwick, Rhode Island. He grew up on a thirty-cow, heritage dairy farm in a strongly Wilburite Quaker family. His grandparents wore plain dress, hats, and bonnets. The family used plain language. They had become Quakers in 1750. They attended Quarterly Meeting in the North Dartmouth, Massachusetts, meetinghouse which John was to later help move to Woolman Hill in Deerfield, Massachusetts.

John graduated in 1944 from Westtown Friends School in Pennsylvania, in keeping with the family tradition. Instead of being granted his application for conscientious objector status in World War II, John was given a farm deferment from military service. He earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1950, a master's degree from Purdue University in 1951, and a doctorate from Cornell in 1957.

In 1951, John was sent by the American Friends Service Committee to the British Quakers' Rural Development Center, a Gandhian-style village in central India. John worked in this village for two and a half years, leading to a lifelong involvement with Indian farming and agriculture.

In 1952, John met Georgana Falb, his wife-to-be, at a square dance at an American school in the Himalayas. Georgana was just finishing a three-year term with a Methodist service project in Calcutta. After a two-year courtship by letter, they married in 1954 under the care of Providence Friends Meeting in Rhode Island. John was the first man in seven generations of his family to marry out of Meeting and not be disowned.

From 1957 to 1990, John served on the faculty at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He taught in the Department of Agricultural Economics (later called Resource Economics) for thirty-three years, six of these as department chair. His colleagues say he listened carefully to every word they said, making it easier for differing personalities to collaborate.

John brought the practices of Quaker discernment and decision-making to his teaching, as to other areas of his life. He was nominated by his students for several Distinguished Teacher awards. He founded the Center for International Agriculture. In addition to his work in India, his teaching and research extended to rural development in the Third World and to land economics in the United States. He did pioneering work in the economic valuation of wetlands, enabling the passage of wetlands conservation law in Massachusetts. This became a model for national legislation.

In 1960, John and Georgana moved into an 1806 farmhouse in Leverett, Massachusetts. Both were active in town government. In 2013, the town named them Citizens of the Year, in thanks for their 48 years of service on town boards and committees. John was a member of the Planning Board, the Personnel Board and the Historical Commission. He served as Selectman, chair of the Police Advisory Commission, and as president and treasurer of the Historical Society. He chaired the committee which closed the landfill and built the transfer station. He helped to bridge differences between townspeople and Buddhist monks in the building of the New England Peace Pagoda.

John's pastimes showed his farming roots: gardening, building stone walls and walkways, making maple syrup, growing and grinding White Flint indian corn, shelling black walnuts, making apple cider and apple-sauce. John used to say that living in an old house was hobby enough.

For sixty years, John was an active member of Mount Toby Monthly Meeting. He served as meeting clerk when the Mount Toby meetinghouse was being built in 1964. He served as recording clerk and as treasurer. He was active on many committees: Overseers, Ministry and Worship, Meetinghouse, Finance, Burial, and Land Use. He was Trustee of the Greenfield Preparative Meeting.

In the wider Quaker world, John was clerk of the Board of Directors of Woolman Hill Quaker Conference Center, member of the Board of Governors for the Quaker United Nations Program, and member of the Permanent Board and the Finance Committee of New England Yearly Meeting.

On July 18, 2015, a Memorial Meeting was held at Mount Toby where John was known and loved by many. John was remembered as wise and informed, humble and kind, steadfast and faithful.

John is survived by his wife, Georgana Falb Foster; their son, Ethan Foster and daughter-in-law, Natalie Golden; their son, Joshua Foster; their two grandsons, Caleb and Jeremy; and by John's sister, Thera Hindmarsh.

— APPROVED BY MOUNT TOBY MONTHLY MEETING, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015  
CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING, OCTOBER 4, 2015



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**David Hall**  
**February 2, 1937 – November 10, 2015**

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David Hall was a man who kept himself informed about his community, his state, his country and his world. He weighed the information he learned, then shared it clearly and concisely, keeping all of us at Brunswick Friends Meeting informed. Quiet and unpretentious, David was a person who lived his values, as his many volunteer activities show. These include Common Cause, Bath-Brunswick Area Interfaith Council, Appalachian Mountain Club, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners, and the West Bath Fire Department. He was particularly dedicated to making a difference through Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy.

David served as Brunswick Friends Meeting's representative on Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy from 1992 to 2009, and was that organization's Legislative Advocate in the State Capitol. As the Clerk of FCMPP says, the committee benefitted from David's "quiet insights and wisdom."

Another Friend notes that David was "articulate and clear that he was witnessing as a Quaker." His witness influenced the whole mid-coast legislative area, providing the rational, respectful input that all government needs!

Before beginning his worship with Friends, first at Midcoast Monthly Meeting, then at Brunswick, David was active as a deacon, choir member and youth leader at First Parish Church, United Church of Christ.

Parkinson's Disease took more and more of David's motor control and independence, but to our Meeting, he remained the same David—calm, accepting and continuing in his commitment to be informed about our world. David was a model of civic responsibility and caring. He was a good man who is sorely missed.

— APPROVED BY BRUNSWICK FRIENDS MEETING, FEBRUARY 14, 2015  
ENDORSED BY FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING, APRIL 2, 2016  
ENDORSED BY FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON MAINE PUBLIC POLICY,  
APRIL 16, 2016

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**Nancy Bixler Isaacs**  
**(Anna Emerson Bixler Isaacs)**  
**January 20, 1930 – December 4, 2015**

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Nancy Bixler Isaacs was born Anna Emerson Bixler, the youngest in a family of four girls, on January 20, 1930. She never liked the name Anna, and in 1948 renamed herself Nancy, after Nancy Blackett in the *Swallows and Amazons* stories. Nancy Blackett was an adventurer, and Nancy Bixler grew up running through the woods playing at being the Blackett sisters and swimming. She persuaded her parents to send her to Northfield Mount Herman School when her family moved

from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Waterville, Maine. From there she went on the Swarthmore College, choosing it over Smith, where her female relatives attended, because her father said the smartest girls went to Swarthmore.

She continued her adventures by teaching English on the small island of Vinalhaven, Maine. After getting a masters at Yale she went to Istanbul, Turkey, teaching English at a school for girls for two years. She taught high school in Newton, Massachusetts, for three years. She married Sanford (Sandy) Isaacs in 1958 and by 1965 had four children under the age of 6. Being a mother of young children was satisfying and joy-giving and the family remained a high priority from then on, with frequent visits to and from her adult children as the family expanded.

When she went back to work, she switched careers to become a librarian, getting a degree at Simmons College, then working as a librarian at Lasell Junior College and later as Library Director at Lesley College. She and Sandy attended Wellesley Monthly Meeting where they formed deep friendships. Their hospitality was appreciated by a wide range of people. At her memorial service, a woman spoke about how Nancy and Sandy had invited her and her female partner to their house at a time when they

were new to Lasell College, and supported their acceptance into the college community. This was typical of Nancy's care for others.

Monadnock Quaker Meeting joyfully received Nancy and Sandy into its community in 1995 when they retired from the Boston area to live full time in Jaffrey on her family's property. During her time with Monadnock Meeting we appreciated Nancy's practical spirituality, her ability to cut to the core of an issue, her good humor, and her hard work in all aspects of being a member of the meeting, from house cleaning and childcare to being active on committees and clerking the meeting. She was always supportive but not rigid about Quaker process. She and Sandy opened their home for many formal and informal occasions, with the enthusiastic presence of a series of poodles. As clerk, she searched more widely afield for readings for the start of meeting for business. She supported people through their difficulties—a mother dying, a special needs child, losing a job, hearing loss—with practical assistance, a listening ear, and open-hearted hospitality. We enjoyed her energy, dry wit, and her yellow and black “Pippi Longstocking” socks. Truly you could see God within her heart. We knew she saw God in each of us.

Nancy's work extended beyond our local meeting. At various times she was treasurer of the meeting, of Northwest Quarterly Meeting and of New England Yearly Meeting. She was meticulous and thoughtful as a treasurer and, at the Yearly Meeting level, worked to retire numerous designated funds which no longer had validity. She also worked on the New England Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, having serious and encouraging conversations with people about their leadings regarding work for the Yearly Meeting.

She and Sandy helped maintain our meeting's commitment to the New Hampshire office of the American Friends Service Committee. At a time when trips to Concord seemed onerous she and Sandy faithfully attended. They also traveled to Northwest Quarterly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting Permanent Board meetings, Annual Sessions, and Friends General Conference Gathering. They usually traveled in their RV where they offered hospitality as generously as they did at home.

Nancy died unexpectedly and quickly on December 4, 2015, while exercising and living her life as she always did, with vigor and purpose.

— APPROVED BY MONADNOCK QUAKER MEETING, FEBRUARY 21, 2016

ENDORSED BY NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING, MARCH 6, 2016

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**Peter Keenan**  
**August 2, 1941 – June 13, 2015**

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Acton Friends Meeting remembers Peter Keenan for his practical help, his thoughtfulness in thinking through tasks, his caring nature and his dry sense of humor, qualities which reflected his commitment to help others.

Peter's sense of humor and practical nature are exemplified in the following title: "About Peter Keenan: Being a Recounting of Some Facts of His Life;

Written by the Subject for the Benefit of Anyone Called Upon to Write His Obituary, June 2014."

In that document, Peter went on to tell the story of his life, revealing how he became the staunch meeting member we knew. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, on August 2, 1941, and brought up in Catholic churches and schools. He described his disillusionment with a career in industry, and subsequent decision to volunteer as a teacher of physics for future secondary school teachers in Cochabamba, Bolivia. While training for the work, he was faced with the moral challenge of the military draft, which he appealed until he aged out of the draft. He described dating a "special young woman," Connie Lewis, who eventually joined him in Cochabamba where they were married on May 25, 1968.

Peter described his changing point of view as: "a final drift away from Catholicism and a shift from the political conservatism of his background to a more liberal and less nationalistic view of the world." He credited conscientious objector counselors with exposing him to Quakerism, which eventually led to his membership in Acton Friends Meeting in 1982.

Peter continued to work in helping professions. He earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1971, then taught in three high schools and a community college. Twenty-one years later, he pursued interests in environmental conservation, joining the Maynard Conservation Commission and handling wetland protection administration for the town. He worked for several towns, enjoying "on

the job” learning of ecology, law, construction and engineering. He ultimately retired in 2006 from the position of Municipal Conservation and Wetlands Administrator for the town of Wellesley.

Acton Meeting felt Peter’s helping ethic when he served as clerk, as treasurer, and on committees including Religious Education and Peace & Social Concerns. We remember his close partnership with Connie, and how they helped meeting members with practical tasks such as household moves. This was just one example of Peter and Connie living out Quaker principals. They also travelled by bicycle and train whenever possible, and avoided television. Peter liked to bicycle, and called his bike his “Sport Utility Vehicle.”

We remember many rides to meeting and to the Concord Peace Vigil. Peter was part of Concord Prison Outreach, volunteering to teach a course about job searches and joining holiday carol singing. We hear that he “belted out Hispanic Christmas songs as well as the Hispanic prisoners.” Peter became a volunteer draft counselor in 2002, serving on the GI hotline.

It wasn’t uncommon to hear Peter say, “Isn’t it funny that ...” by way of recognizing irony in life. We enjoyed his dry humor. Peter told of the phone company employees who came to replace the Keenan’s phone—the last party line in the area. The workers needed to borrow a screwdriver, then a hammer, as it developed they hadn’t brought any tools. Peter obligingly loaned the tools. Eventually they left with the phone still not working, but saying, “Call if you have any problems.”

We are touched but not surprised that Peter organized his treasurer’s duties shortly before his death, ready for those who would take them on. Peter Keenan approached life with the attitude that if something needed doing, he would do it. He would thoughtfully analyze the task, and then work through it. A member sums up Acton Meeting’s experience of him, saying, “Peter was a caring person: a very caring person.”

— APPROVED BY ACTON FRIENDS MEETING, FEBRUARY 7, 2016.

ENDORSED BY SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APRIL 24, 2016.

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**Annette (Anne) Kriebel**  
**January 2, 1925 – July 9, 2015**

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*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22*

Thanks and praise to God for the life of Anne Kriebel! Those of us who knew Anne received the gift of witnessing how God's presence can and does manifest itself among us. Anne's life was one of love for others. She was forthright, accessible, organized, funny, and so positive in her attitude it was infectious. She was a joyous, deeply spiritual woman who influenced countless people to live more mindful, more spiritual lives.

Annette Edgerly was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on January 2, 1925. She and her sister Pauline attended Catholic schools in Springfield. When Anne realized that the impending World War II would require her to work rather than attend college, she attended high school for an extra year to gain what additional learning she could. She moved to Boston, where she worked as a phlebotomist during the day and enjoyed friends and swing dancing in the evenings.

In 1948 she met Hans Bernhardt, a refugee from Nazi Germany and a student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Hans was so taken with the young Anne that he proposed on the first date. Anne discreetly waited a few weeks before accepting and they were married later that year. After Hans completed further studies in Cincinnati, they moved to Delanco, New Jersey, where Hans worked as a metallurgist. With the arrival of their daughter Kate, they began to consider a faith tradition which could speak to a former Catholic and a secular Jew. They found, and joined, Westfield (New Jersey) Friends Meeting. Their love of children led them to be foster parents for a number of children, eventually adopting Sheryl.

During this period, Anne and Hans were involved in anti-racism work, including participating in a neighborhood watch to prevent vandalism at the home of a black family. When they sold their house they sold it on

the open market, which allowed black families to view a house in a predominantly white neighborhood. For their integrity, they were rewarded with rocks thrown at the house and a swastika painted on the side wall.

When Hans died suddenly and unexpectedly in 1962, Anne was comforted and supported by Westfield Friends Meeting. Three years later, she married William Kriebel, a recent widower and fellow member of Westfield Friends. Anne, Kate, and Sheryl joined Bill and his three children, Jon, Nancy and Greg, on the Taylor family farm on the Delaware river. Family was always of great importance to Anne. At her memorial, one of Bill's children told an insightful story about Anne's insistence on building a swimming pool at the Taylor farm. While others in the family considered this an extravagance, the pool proved to be a great gathering place and helped the blended families bond.

Anne and Bill were active in Westfield Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and the Philadelphia office of American Friends Service Committee. In addition, Anne worked with May Roberts Taylor, the mother of Bill's first wife, to publish *Gently, Sister, Gently*, a book of May's reminiscences. Although the book was self-published, its popularity created a demand for a second printing which was funded by the Quaker community.

Anne and Bill moved to Boston in 1980, where Anne had been appointed Director of Beacon Hill Friends House. Anne worked with a wisdom, practicality, and good humor that characterized all her relationships. In addition to her gifts in friendship and mentoring, her gifts of administration were a great asset to the House, bringing a sense of stability when the House had been experiencing a lack of leadership. She handled a wide array of tasks adeptly: from replacing the boiler to dressing as the Easter bunny to entertain children; from counseling young adults as they navigated life to revitalizing committees. Over 30 years later, Beacon Hill Friends House residents from that period speak warmly of Anne's openness, accessibility, and ability to make each person feel cared for and understood.

From early in their time in Boston, both Bill and Anne became very involved with New England Yearly Meeting. Anne served on numerous committees, including Permanent Board, Clerk's Nominating Committee, Program Committee (Sessions), and the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Council of Churches. When Clerk's Nominating Committee was faced with a gap year between one presiding clerk and another, Anne agreed to step in for a one-year term. Where many would have been anxious about such a responsibility, Anne was relaxed and graceful. On another occasion she took over some of the responsibilities of the Field Secretary while Jonathan Vogel-Borne was on sabbatical. Anne clerked the Ad hoc Committee on the Financial Health of the Yearly Meeting, which undertook visits to every monthly meeting during 1993-1994.

Friends still admire this work for greatly bolstering not only the finances of the Yearly Meeting, but its relationships with meetings in the region.

While the list of work she took on suggests her dedication to the Yearly Meeting, it only hints at the qualities she brought to that work. Anne's reliability, good humor and keen wisdom earned a reputation in the Yearly Meeting. Friends were known to remark, "We need an Anne Kriebel on this committee!"

A beloved member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge for many years, she served on Nominating Committee, the Memorial Meetings Committee and the Grants Committee. Many Friends were heartbroken when, in 2009, she sought a smaller faith community and transferred membership to Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting. Here, those who had not known her before quickly found her to be all one could want in an elder: compassionate, direct, grounded, tender, forgiving and funny. While her committee service was limited to the Gifts and Leadings Committee and the Administration and Stewardship Committee, Anne had a wide influence in nurturing others, including serving on a support committee for the current director of Beacon Hill Friends House. Always committed to the Friends Meeting, she served on committees into the last year of her life.

As devoted as she was to Quakerism, she was no less devoted to her family, sharing her warmth and generous spirit in food, travel and play. Anne was a competitive Scrabble player and filled in the Sunday *New York Times* crossword puzzle in ink until her last months. Scrabble with Anne was serious, and yet somehow every game ended in tears of laughter, the kind that wrings you out, makes you weak, and cures everything. That humor—that laughter—was a gift as powerful as her kindness and moral centeredness. She could simply make you feel good, no matter if there was a problem being addressed or just in conversation.

Anne and Bill discovered a mutual love of travel, and Anne had a finely tuned sense of adventure and of humor. From her 50s on into her late 70s, whether with Bill, her sister, Pauline, daughter Kate, or granddaughter Sophia, she travelled widely through Europe, Turkey and Morocco. She and Kate made an attempt to snorkel at every Caribbean island in the 1980s, sometimes traveling more than once a year to get to those colorful fish.

From the moment of her grandchild Sophia's birth in 1991, Anne and Sophia shared an intensely loving relationship. Within a year, Anne and Bill moved within walking distance of Sophia, Kate, and Ralph, Kate's husband, and Anne became a friend, caretaker, and second mother to Sophia. Their bond was more than grandmother/granddaughter. They were happiest in each other's company and Anne was a formal and loving part of Sophia's care team from infancy onward. At many times, Anne was the most consistent and stable force in Sophia's life. During her final illness, Anne said many times that she was waiting to see Sophia's face



before letting go. Shortly before Anne's death, Sophia was able to return from Spain, giving these two a final opportunity to share their love.

Threaded through our memories of the things that Anne did, which are many and remarkable, is the memory of the quality of our relationships with her. Almost always calm and unflappable, she had a rare gift for making people feel they were important to her and was able to gently but powerfully set high expectations which one had no choice but to live up to. She was a masterful elder in her ability to call Friends to a deeper spirituality. She had an array of tools at her side: sometimes she was firm and direct, and other times more subtle, almost sneaky. Her practical and gentle guidance often encouraged Friends to grow further in their journeys than they ever expected. She was also a remarkable elder for Friends in leadership positions.

Near the end of her life, Anne was given the precious gift of recognizing something that was evident to those around her, but less obvious to Anne herself—that her whole life had been a ministry. Through both overt actions, like raising foster children, anti-racism work, and directing Beacon Hill Friends House, and the quiet sustaining work of mentoring and eldership, Anne's life was a ministry, helping in countless ways to build the kingdom of heaven on earth.

— APPROVED BY FRESH POND MONTHLY MEETING, MARCH 6, 2016

ENDORSED BY SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APRIL 24, 2016

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**Ishmael Rosas**  
**December 25, 1995 – February 29, 2016**

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Ishmael Rosas was a beloved and cherished member of Storrs Friends Meeting from his arrival with his mother, Laura, at the age of 5. Ishmael served the Meeting community faithfully during his high school years, first as a child-care worker in our First Day School, and later in his junior and senior years as religious education teacher for our youngest members.

Ishmael was an excellent role model for our children and his kind manner endeared him to the children under his care.

During his freshman and sophomore years, Ishmael was an active participant in a program called Peace Jam which was offered to teens at Storrs Friends Meeting and Hartford Monthly Meeting. Teens in this group discussed topics such as the roots of violence, poverty, reconciliation, and the role of nonviolence in conflict resolution. They also studied about the life and work of a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, attended a regional conference with the Laureate, and created a service learning project. Ishmael was an invaluable member of the team creating the service projects and, during his sophomore year, he took on an important leadership role for the project. He also represented our meeting at the conference with dignity, maturity and courtesy.

In addition to his local participation at Storrs Friends Meeting, Ishmael was active in the Young Friends of New England Yearly Meeting. He regularly attended youth retreats and, during his junior year, he was selected as a member of Ministry and Counsel. This is a particular honor which recognized Ishmael's deep spiritual presence and the trust that his peers and the staff had in his judgment and maturity.

As a youth, Ishmael pursued training in karate, achieving the rank of black belt at the age of 11. During high school Ishmael was very active in athletics, participating in soccer, track, swim and crew for his high school teams.

With a passion for screenwriting and film, Ishmael took part in all of the video production courses offered at his high school, receiving awards for his work and commitment. In one course, Civic Life Project, he assisted in creating and producing a documentary that focused on a civic issue. (His group focused on bipartisanship.) He also designed some of his own coursework and created the weekly video news segments for the school.

In addition, Ishmael was very active in Boy Scouts, working his way from Cub Scout to Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout project combined his love of film with his commitment to our meeting. He created and filmed a video of some of our older members talking about the history of the meeting. He created a lasting legacy for us, capturing not only the facts of our history but the personalities of those who helped shape it.

Although Ishmael had a quiet demeanor, his inner strength and spiritual presence were quite strong. His friends particularly remember his willingness to listen without judgment and his wonderful sense of humor. During his time as a student at Emerson College, while pursuing his interest in screenwriting, film and video, he also performed in several stand-up comedy venues.

Ishmael will be remembered for his kindness and caring, his deep humility and quiet wisdom. Beneath his loving and compassionate demeanor, Ishmael suffered from a depression that he chose to keep hidden, even from those closest to him. He left us on February 29, 2016, but his spirit lives on in the many lives he touched.

— APPROVED BY STORRS FRIENDS MEETING, APRIL 10, 2016  
ENDORSED BY CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING,  
MAY 1, 2016



**NEW ENGLAND  
YEARLY MEETING  
OF FRIENDS**

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