

Memorial Minutes

Summer Sessions 2024

Susan Bingham (1954-2022)

We remember Susan Bingham (1954-2022) for the broad smiles she flashed wherever she went. Like the license plate on her car *BJOYOUS* Susan radiated joy. As one Friend put it, Susan “genuinely and deeply respected all of us, and in her general way of being, with laughter never far away, she sought to make everything and everyone work well together”. In all ways Susan was giving and generous.

Born in San Diego, California to Harry and Joan (Tommie) Bingham, Susan grew up in Caldwell, New Jersey along with her siblings, Lynda and William. She graduated from Caldwell High School and earned a BA from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. After graduation Susan married Edwin Dobkowski. Settling in Clifton, New Jersey, Susan bore two sons, Erik and Douglas. The marriage ended in divorce.

Susan worked to support her family and she sought employment where she could be of service to others. She spent most of her career in the field of Payroll and Human services. For many years before her retirement she worked at Daughters of Miriam Nursing Home. Beyond giving attention to keeping records she listened to the concerns of employees and residents alike. With all she shared her love of life. During her illness at the end of her life she was a resident at Daughters of Miriam. At that time much love was shown back to her.

From an early age Susan found joyfulness in the simple gifts of living. She enjoyed music, especially singing. As an adult she was active in the New Jersey Sacred Harp community and with them she traveled to New England and often to the Philadelphia area. As a companion on many trips noted, Susan was a cheerful driver and an enthusiastic singer. When the group got to sing at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, Susan was especially proud. It also deserves mention that Susan had a fondness for Pink Floyd and loved to dance.

The out of doors fed Susan’s spirit as well. During many summers at Silver Bay for Summer Sessions she rose early to swim in Lake George. At Powell House

she encouraged friends to hike to Dorson's Rock and look out toward the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains. Back in New Jersey she made it a tradition to trek up to Terrace Pond in West Milford with family and friends. After her Memorial Service Susan's family made a special hike there to spread her ashes.

Over the years Susan had experience with the debilitating effects of alcohol and related problems. She saw what happened to others and recognized her own addictive patterns. Susan felt blessed that she was able to break free and transform herself. First finding relief attending ACOA (Adult Children of Alcoholics) as a young mother, Susan connected dots for herself. She began her sober journey on June 6 1986. At the time of her death she had 35 years in continuous recovery.

Susan took AA's 12 steps very seriously. She took stock of her past and made amends for harm she had caused. Seeking to be of service, Susan was a mainstay of retreats in Adult Children Of Alcoholics for the New Jersey area. At Silver Bay she led morning 12 step worship sharing and was active in evening 12 step meetings. In these groups Susan was a model of how to share all of her experience, strength and hope with honesty and without hesitation.

Most of all Susan made herself available to listen to others struggling with addiction. As one Friend remembered,

"One of my fondest memories is of my first summer in recovery at Silver Bay. Still new and unsure of so many things, it was Susan who gently took my hand, brought me to the 12 step meetings and sat for many hours listening to my questions. Her guidance, humility and humor still helps me every day. Even as her cancer progressed, she was faithful to the support of that meeting and we continued to share times of mutual love and companionship, rocking in the chairs on the Inn porch that sparkle like fireflies in my memory even now!"

Besides her dedication to 12 step work Susan volunteered with the Domestic Violence Response Team in Clifton. When the police received a call from someone experiencing violation, they contacted the Team. Susan was trained to go help with paperwork and, more importantly, listen with compassion. On her visits Susan was able to transform what had been difficult life experiences for her into useful knowledge for others. Going the extra mile Susan took classes in American Sign Language to fill a gap in the Response Team's resources.

Susan brought her sense of responsibility and attention to detail into her Quaker work. She was the treasurer for the Yearly Meeting for many years and also served on the Faith and Practice and Powell House committees. In giving financial reports she found ways to engender interest with humor. When posing queries or stating practices she had a fine sense of how to choose words.

Susan became a member of Montclair Friends in 1992 after being an attender since the late '80's. Warmly welcoming people to worship on First Days as a Greeter, Susan also held responsible positions in the Meeting as well. Fairly early on she served as Clerk of the Meeting and for many years she held the position of Treasurer. Toward the end of her life Susan was a member of Ministry and Counsel. As she struggled with illness she was faithful in attendance and had a way of speaking at the right moment to encourage harmony.

Whether among Friends or in wider community circles Susan found specific projects she could do. For several years she was instrumental in organizing an annual book sale to raise money for the Meeting. The bigger goal was to reach out to neighbors. Susan also gave donations to causes she believed in. Of note until her physical condition could no longer support it she donated blood regularly, receiving special recognition from the Red Cross when she became a 4 gallon donor.

Susan was a life long seeker after what was true and what was good. As a result Susan breathed goodness into herself and others with grace, humility and integrity. So perhaps it is not surprising that Susan experienced AA's promise of a "happy, joyous and free" life coming true for her. On January 1, 1994 at an ACOA dance Susan met Bob Widmer. Bob, like Susan, had had a difficult childhood and first marriage and was also working at recovery. As they began dating it soon became clear to them both that they could make a fruitful life together.

Establishing a blended household, then marrying in 2001, Susan and Bob forged a union of equals. There was tenderness, and as Bob said, while they did at times disagree, they never exchanged harsh words. Instead they listened and allowed each other to be full persons with distinct feelings and views. Together they cared for Susan's sons and Bob's daughters, Nora and Kara.

As the children grew Susan made many trips to Maine to visit Erik and took pride and satisfaction that Doug became engaged in teaching and leading groups of young people in learning in the out of doors. When Nora and Kara began establishing families, Susan felt blessed. During the many trips she made to Maryland with Bob, Susan was especially pleased to be “grandma” to Nora’s daughters, Ellison and Reese.

Just as Susan put effort into making her marriage with Bob vibrant, she was always thinking of concrete things she could do for her friends. She found gifts like a small plaque with the saying, “Never lose sight of your dreams” or a bendable flashlight that could be worn around the neck to make reading possible while a roommate slept nearby.

Dearly appreciated by many was the page of quotations Susan collected each year and circulated at Christmas with a holiday letter. A sampling illuminates the person Susan was:

"Friendship doubles joy and halves grief."

Francis Bacon

"People are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Abraham Lincoln

"If you love somebody, tell them!"

Rod McKuen

"What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?"

Jean Jacques Rousseau

"Be happy. It is a way of being wise."

Colette

Mindfully blending 12 step practices with discernment around how to embody Quaker testimonies, Susan spread light and love that lives on in many hearts.

John Hay Cooley, 1939-2022

John Hay Cooley, Senior, was born on February 27, 1939, in Asheville, NC and grew up with his older brother Craig and younger sister Peggy in nearby Black Mountain, where their mother Polly was organist in the family church and their father Sam was a general practice doctor. John remained close to, and strongly influenced by, his family and loved to tell stories of his childhood. John continued to make regular trips back to Black Mountain throughout his life.

John died at home in Dundee, NY on August 20, 2022, after three months of illness during which he was upheld by his wife Heather, his and her children and grandchildren and extended families, and many friends who deeply loved John. His memorial meeting was celebrated overlooking Seneca Lake in Watkins Glen, NY, in November of 2022, with a large gathering from across the many communities that John was part of, reflecting the breadth of his life experience.

Family, spiritual engagement, healing, service and social justice and a plethora of avocations are the threads that ran through John's life and sustained him.

Family: John met Victoria Baker at Charlottesville, VA Monthly Meeting. They were married in 1968 in Swarthmore, PA, under the joint care of Charlottesville and Swarthmore meetings. John and Vicki, along with their twins, Margaret and Jack, ultimately settled in Rochester, NY, where John's brother Craig and family were located. John and Vicki became active members of the Rochester Monthly Meeting. Their third child, Carolyn, was still an infant when they first attended New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions in 1974. Sam, their fourth child, was born at home and attended meeting for worship the next First Day. After Sam was born, instead of moving out of the 19th Ward in Rochester whose motto was "integrated by choice", to accommodate their larger family, John and Vicki purchased the home next door and built a two-story passageway connecting them.

John and Vicki instilled in their kids a love of music, the outdoors, family and storytelling.

As a family, they regularly attended New York Yearly Meeting at Silver Bay. Yearly Meeting remained a cherished family gathering place even after John and Vicki's four children were grown and making lives of their own.

Together, John, Vicki, and their children established a warm and welcoming home which expanded with time to include spouses/partners, and grandchildren. The Cooley household provided a sense of family for all who came to their home, where they generously shared their

love, humor, and joy. Their New Year's Eve parties were full of food and fun for all ages. Just as importantly, space was made for quiet conversation, reflection, and solace when needed. They maintained that spirit after moving to Dundee, NY. Following Vicki's death in 2006, there was a period of adjustment for John and their children as they sought to move forward with their lives.

At New York Yearly Meeting in 2007, John deepened his friendship with Heather Mackenzie Cook. Their friendship grew into a deep love, and John and Heather were married in July 2008 after the close of New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions under the joint care of Central Finger Lakes and Chatham Summit meetings. With their union, John's family grew with the addition of Heather's two sons, Kennan and Declan.

Spiritual Engagement: John's involvement in ministry began as a young man, when he served in national and international interfaith work. In 1961, while still in college, John took a trip around the world as part of a Presbyterian Christian Ministry project, making bricks for a school as a volunteer in a work camp in West Pakistan, then traveling alone by bus and train to Chandigarh, Amritsar, and New Delhi for a World Council of Churches Assembly. This trip began in France, then took John through the Middle East to Pakistan, India, the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, and Hawaii.

After John graduated from Davidson College in 1962, he studied for a year at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where his sister, Peggy, also studied. After a year, John decided that he was better suited for medicine than for the ministry and enrolled in a pre-med program at Columbia University. While studying there, he learned about the Friends Neighborhood Group project sponsored by AFSC in East Harlem. Two social workers, Dan and Hope Morrow, ran a settlement house there to meet the needs of families living in one square block on 111th Street. John joined them for a year. He took an apartment at 78 111th Street and commuted daily to the Columbia campus "by bus, bike, or walking." He kept a journal while he lived and worked in Spanish Harlem. His own words from his 1962 journal tell how the experience affected him:

"How is it possible that I can have been so happy during these first weeks on 111th Street? ...the people—the children, the older boys & girls, the Quakers—they have somehow surprised me and made it impossible for me to feel pity for those with problems. Friendship, empathy, sympathy, yes. But no pity, and no hate or distaste.

"Is it possible that these people and these bright fall days and this captivating, pulsing city are really responsible for this overwhelming Affirmative I have felt so

frequently in these weeks? Or is it some set of my inner mind or spirit which has shut its eyes to how things really are, has wanted to be affirming, has determined with hard-set teeth and clenched fists to know and respond only to, or chiefly to...the fluttering ginkgo tree leaves in the evening mist, ...to the glories of and prideful humility of this “sacrificial” venture in lower class living, ...? Whatever it is, I will not deny it. I will forever suspect it and laugh at it and be ready for its collapse—but never deny that it is real and at least a part of the experiencing world we know, hopefully as much a part as it now seems.”

John went on to complete a degree in medicine at the University of Virginia. However, his experience of that year in Spanish Harlem defined the rest of his life.

Healing: After completion of medical school, John spent three years in the National Health Service in an Alaskan village, before settling in Rochester, NY, where he pursued training in Family Medicine. He served the community for decades as a family physician and hospital administrator. At a time of controversy, he and Vicki were early supporters of professional midwives engaged in home births, with John serving as a “back-up” physician. He became the physician for the Rochester Folk Art Guild, where he also found a musical home. Former patients often described John as the best doctor they’d ever had because, “He listened to me.”

In the early 80s John organized a gang of friends to gut an old bakery on Thurston Road in the 19th ward of Rochester, then designed and built an award-winning interior structure. This became the setting for a neighborhood clinic that drew a diverse patient population, as well as interns and medical students from the University of Rochester medical school who hoped for such service in their future practices.

John continued his lifelong spirit of service after he and Vicki moved in 1994 to Dundee, in the Finger Lakes of New York. Besides his medical practice, he served as Yates County Coroner for eight years, was the Dundee Central School physician for 25 years, served on the boards of a variety of local organizations, and was the local public health officer, a community scientist helping monitor the health of Seneca Lake, and an election inspector for Yates County. Local Mennonites installed a hitching post at the Cooley home for their buggy horses. After his official retirement, John regularly returned to Rochester where he continued to provide medical care through an urgent care clinic, often encountering people whose birth he had attended.

Quaker Service. John served his local meeting (Rochester and then Central Finger Lakes) in quiet, steady ways. He was a founder of Quaker Men's Breakfast group that regularly provided support and social camaraderie to men in Rochester Meeting. He was clerk of Rochester Meeting as it struggled to come to terms with how to respond to child sexual abuse, and his confidence, loving heart, humor, and strength grounded the meeting. John served in many capacities with New York Yearly Meeting, such as Junior Yearly Meeting Coordinator, Powell House Committee, Lindley Murray Fund, supporter of Quaker Intentional Village Canaan, treasurer of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund and clerk of General Services Coordinating Committee. John and Vicki participated in the Auburn Prison Worship Group most Sundays for some years, leaving the kids playing at the prison-provided childcare. John continued his prison ministry through visitation with friends on the inside. Vicki and Heather both served as clerk of New York Yearly Meeting, something that a less confident husband might have found difficult; John grinned.

Avocations: John had many avocations that connected him to diverse communities. His passion for woodworking manifested in furniture-making, finish carpentry, garden structures including a gazebo and arbor in the Dundee garden and the gifting of many garden trellises, plastic bag dryers, and other delights. He enjoyed music and music-making, playing the piano at home and the recorder in many living rooms and porches. The family all played recorders for Rochester Meeting's Christmas Eve service and other events. John was a regular at the Bach Festival in Bethlehem, PA, and at local Finger Lakes concerts. In Rochester, John and Vicki regularly joined with friends to sing madrigals and Shape Note music on Sunday afternoons, followed by a potluck. John sang with a barbershop group for many years. He loved traveling, particularly by train, to visit family and friends. He loved gardening, which he kept expanding—especially after moving to Dundee. He loved all food. He loved sailing—especially in the Penguin which John and his father built when John was still in high school and in particular John liked taking people out sailing at Silver Bay. He loved books and reading, writing postcards, making maple syrup, and being a subtle jokester/prankster.

Overall, John's life was marked by a deep sense of servant leadership, of quiet and respectful service to others. It brought him deep joy. John's delight in the world was contagious, as was his unflagging humor. His conversation was wide ranging, a reflection of his deep interest in many aspects of life.

John's love of life and life of love built strong connections of respect and affection with so many.
That love continues beyond his death.

Linda Gibbs Weiser, 1934-2023

Friends remember Linda Weiser for her perennial smile. She had “a natural kindness,” one Friend recalls, “not feigned but real.” Her cheerful presence brightened Cornwall Monthly Meeting for 45 years. She served on Ministry and Council and on the Peace and Social Action Committee. Her willingness to put belief into action persisted throughout her life and touched the next generations. One Friend remembers, at a Quaker event, sitting on the Meeting House porch with Linda and her grandson, handing out peace information. Linda died on Friday, February 17, 2023 at the age of 88.

Born “MariLinda” on July 23, 1934, Linda was the daughter of Walter L.M. Gibbs and Elizabeth Georgi Gibbs. Her mother, a longtime member of Orchard Park Monthly Meeting near Buffalo, N.Y., was a vigorous, pioneering educator. Linda followed those footsteps. She attended Buffalo Public Schools and the New York State College for Teachers at Buffalo, where she received her Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education in 1956.

Linda married Richard J. Weiser in 1957. He was her beloved companion for 50 years. Before moving to Monroe in the Hudson Valley, they resided in East Aurora, NY, West Chicago, IL, Wheaton, IL, and Rochester, NY. After teaching, Linda worked as a real estate broker and a family advocate. When she and Richard learned someone close to them had a mental illness, Linda helped to organize and lead a support group, NAMI-AMICO—the National Alliance on Mental Illness—Alliance for Mental Illness in the County of Orange. The organization still exists, now named NAMI Orange County, NY.

Linda and Richard sat together in a front-row pew at Cornwall Monthly Meeting until his death in 2006. Linda said she was especially touched, in later years, by the affection she saw in a younger couple across the room, which reminded her of her own devotion to her husband. Despite the difficulty of leaving the home she and Richard had built together, Friends recall that Linda was efficient and practical as she enlisted their help to put on a garage sale and say goodbye to that phase of her life.

Linda’s son, Walter Richard, died of natural causes seven months after his mother, on August 18, 2023, at the age of 65. Linda is survived by her daughter, Greta Weiser Hennessey of Port Jervis, NY; four grandchildren: Michael Guy Hennessey, Sarah Hennessey Freudenberg and her husband Ralph, James Dean Hennessey and his wife Tiffany, and Lila Ernestine Weiser; and two great-grandchildren: Andrew James and Elizabeth Ann-Mari Freudenberg.

Her daughter Greta recalls Linda's indomitable good cheer, waking children in the morning by sitting at the family piano and singing "Rise and Shine" and then singing them to sleep with a lullaby she had made up herself. Her grandchildren recall her taking them to ride go-carts, ski, sail, play miniature golf, and swim, always keeping them away from the deep end.

Granddaughter Lila remembers, "She was what a grandmother is supposed to be. She was loving."

Heloise Rathbone, 1942-2023

Heloise Rathbone was born in Chicago May 19, 1942. Her mother was Caroline Fisher, and her father was Rodion Rathbone. The actor Basil Rathbone was her grandfather. She has two siblings: Dounia Rathbone who later changed her name to Grace Clearson; and a brother, Rodion Rathbone. Her first husband was David Smith. Her second husband was David Sears who transitioned to Andrea Sears. They have one daughter Dounia Sears and a stepson Jonah Sears. Heloise was devoted to her family and cared for her father in his later years. She remained close to her first husband (Dounia called him Uncle David), and to Andrea Sears after they were divorced.

She was a math teacher who wrote three math notebooks and one textbook, Kind's Eye Math, which she published herself. For many years she taught at Grace Church School. She did a lot of pro bono tutoring for kids in her neighborhood who were struggling and could not afford tutors, mostly math but sometimes English as well. She worked with autistic children.

She always wore flowers in her hair, and she made her flower combs herself. She loved playing the piano, and she played almost every day of her life. She also loved swimming, camping, bike riding, and visiting her hometown Fish Creek, Wisconsin. She loved going to productions at the theatre her mother started, The Peninsular Players in Fish Creek.

For our meeting she played for the hymn-singing Quakers on First Sunday mornings and winter festival celebrations. She also led Friends on hikes in Westchester, she knew how to arrange for a conductor to stop the train to let Friends off and then to pick them up for the trip back home. She served as the meeting's treasurer, and on audit and budget, collections, peace and social action, and property committees. Heloise shared her deep concern for the environment and economic justice- she encouraged Friends to speak more openly about money. She nurtured Friends with ailments and provided support for many others in the meeting.

She wanted to make her home a commune and for a long time shared her house with like-minded folk who shared the expenses as well as the tasks of cooking and cleaning. Many of her housemates joined us in worship at Brooklyn Meeting. Her daughter Dounia says that she was a committed activist and was a part of many causes from political, to environmental, to

human rights, and also local issues for her community. She planned many trips for Quakers and others to Washington DC and the Quaker participation in the Gay Pride Parade.

Heloise Rathbone died in hospice care at her daughter's home in Sonora, CA, Jan 28, 2023.

June 29, 2023

Linda Clarke, 1943-2023

Linda Clarke was born May 25, 1943. Her parents were Maria and Robert F. Reed. She moved to Brooklyn in the early 60's to attend Brooklyn College. She graduated from Columbia law School on May 13, 1981. She married William Clarke II. She has two children; Alison Siena Jones and Robert William Clarke III, and two grandchildren; Jordan Jones and Abigail Jones. She practiced law until the late 90's then she started teaching in New York City public schools. At first she taught social studies, then college counseling. Harlem Renaissance was her last school. She was a spiritual seeker long before she came to our meeting house. She joined our meeting October 13, 2010. She served on ministry & counsel, the property committee, the ad hoc committee for racial justice, pastoral care, and for the New York Quarter on ministry & counsel there. The meeting endorsed her leading to visit Swarthmore to study racism in the Brooklyn Quaker community in the 19th century.

Linda was a spiritual Friend to at least two people in Meeting; one of them tells of their shared love of Julian of Norwich. Their favorite passage was this: "All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well, for there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go." At her memorial service, her grandson told us that she was known to the family as Peppy. When he was a little child, he loved olives. At Christmas, Peppy gave him 24 cans of olives. Others spoke of her skills as a mentor, her good cooking, her sense of humor, and her hospitality. She helped many in our meeting to prepare their end-of-life documents: health proxy, end of life directive, power of attorney, and wills.

Michael Lawrence Black, 1940-2023

Michael Lawrence Black was born January 7, 1940, in Alton, Illinois, to Helen Edna Kane Black and Newton Wade Black. He grew up there and in Springfield, a suburb of Philadelphia, PA, as part of a working-class family, with his father active in the glass bottle blowers union. Michael, the oldest of three brothers, earned his keep first as a paper boy and then as a Saturday worker at the Marple Store Antique Shop, where he met the owner's daughter, Nancy Allebach BreMiller. She became the love of his life and eventually his wife in 1964, after he graduated from Middlebury College with a BA in English Literature.

He and Nancy attended Columbia University where they both earned doctorate degrees in English Literature. They have two children, Jessica Fleischer-Black and Wade Newton Black, whom they raised in Washington Heights and Prospect Lefferts Garden. They have four grandchildren, Rose Helen Fleischer-Black, Catherine May Fleischer-Black, Owen Wade Black, and Ethan Wong Black.

Michael's career as a professor of English in the City University of New York spanned forty years, and afforded the family opportunities to travel for research, including stints in Paris in 1987 and 1996. His scholarly work centered on Washington Irving, America's first professional writer. Michael edited a scholarly edition of Irving's satirical "A History of New York."

His intellectual interests were diverse, making him a lively co-host with Nancy at their annual inter-generational Christmas parties for many years. Brooklyn Quaker history was one of the interests that he wrote and lectured about, including at the Brooklyn Historical Society. A bit of a bon vivant with a bon mot always on the tip of his tongue, Michael loved French wine and cheese, and he packaged cheese as a member of the Park Slope Food Co-op. His well-attended 80th birthday party was evidence of the many friends he had earned with his winning personality.

For many years, Michael worshiped and sang in the choir at the Dutch Reformed Church in his neighborhood. In 1996 he joined Brooklyn Meeting where Nancy and their two children were members. He served on many committees: Brooklyn Monthly Meeting's Finance & Collections, History, Nominating, and State of the Meeting Report; and New York Quarterly Meeting's Audit & Budget Committee. He also served as the Meeting's clerk from 1999 through 2002. On many

first-of-the-month First Days, he participated in the hymn singing group. Admired by all for his commitments, Michael was a weighty Friend one could learn from and share spiritual concerns with.

Michael faced the last years of his life with equanimity and stoical good cheer in spite of the many health challenges he faced. He continued to be an avid reader, sports enthusiast, and cheese and wine connoisseur. When he no longer was ambulatory enough to attend Meeting for Worship, Michael was present every First Day remotely and at Tuesday night worship.

He was cared for by his beloved wife of 58 years, Nancy, other family members, and two caretakers, Joslyn Lamorell and Lucilla Jn Baptiste, who together enabled him to remain safely at home until he died on March 10, 2023, at Mt. Sinai Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan with those who loved him at his bedside. Michael Black will be dearly missed by all who know him.

Rose Lynn, 1966-2023

Rose Lynn, a long-term member of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting, died in her home community in South Carolina on March 31, 2023 of kidney and liver failure at age 56 after a brief time in hospice.

Rose was the second of four children of Kate Lawson, the only daughter and a longtime member of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting. Fred Lawson was her stepfather for 45 years, beginning in her childhood. Friends in New Brunswick as well as New York Yearly Meeting mourn her untimely death and remember her fondly. Rose had been active on New York Yearly Meeting's Junior Yearly Meeting staff and liaison between New York Yearly Meeting and Silver Bay Association for several years.

Rose was born in 1966 and became a member of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting at age 14 in 1981. Approaching ninth grade, she applied to Oakwood School, a Quaker secondary school in Poughkeepsie NY, and was accepted, but Oakwood was unable to provide necessary financial assistance to attend, so the monthly meeting held a fund raiser which managed to raise sufficient funds for her to attend. Her years at Oakwood were among the happiest of her short life.

Rose leaves behind her mother and stepfather, her three brothers Robert Rieche, Russell Lawson, and Erick Lawson, her children Katie Lynn, and Dennis Lynn, three grandchildren Abigail, Sophia, and Killian, three step grandchildren, Leon, Hailey and Dawson Billich, her extended family and many friends.

Rose's cremains have been buried in the family's three rose gardens.

Approved at business meeting February 18, 2024

Robin Gowin, Clerk

Donald Yessay Kissil, 1933-2023

Don Kissil was a beloved and active member of Chatham Summit Monthly Meeting for over six decades, during which time he served the meeting in many roles, including Clerk of the meeting and Trustee, draft counselor during the Vietnam War, clerk of Oversight, distributor of conference funds, and occasional First Day School teacher. He established the protocols for meetinghouse rentals and for years served as liaison to organizations that rented the meetinghouse. Many Friends recall with pleasure being welcomed to the meeting by Don and his beloved wife Claire, whose home was frequently the location of Friendly gatherings.

Born in The Bronx, Don was raised as an observant Jew and considered himself a Jewish Quaker. Many of his messages over the years linked Jewish and Quaker themes about life's spiritual journey, and Friends remember him directing a play in the Meeting Room about Germans hiding Jews during World War II. Don was attracted to Quakerism as a faith that is accepting of both his Jewish background and Claire's evangelical upbringing. His commitment to Quakers was solidified by the care the meeting showed to his family during the trying times surrounding the birth of their son, who was born with Cystic Fibrosis. Both of Don and Claire's children – Mia and Matthew – were raised in the meeting.

A man of many interests, Don combined his life as a Quaker with his career as a pharmacist, civic volunteer in the Morristown area, world traveler, short-story writer, and well-known Bluegrass aficionado. With pharmacy degrees from Columbia University and the University of Kansas, Don worked as a research pharmacologist before founding Clarydon, a medical consulting firm. He served on various Morris County boards and was a well-known figure in the Morristown area, both for his service and his lively story-telling and outgoing personality. In addition to their global travel, the Kissils often camped at Bluegrass and Cajun festivals where they danced into the night. Don was known in the Bluegrass world as editor of Pickin' Magazine and as a promoter of Bluegrass music shows in the Morristown area.

Perhaps because of his Russian immigrant roots, Don had a lively interest in other cultures and felt immense respect for and kinship with immigrants. He reached out with ease to people of other cultures and made friends around the world, often on the basis of a chance meeting. Over the years, he and Claire hosted many international visitors, including students from Central and South America, China, and Japan.

Don took great joy in life and in being a Quaker, whether playing with the meeting's children, welcoming a new attender, or driving the golf cart at Summer Sessions wearing his helicopter beanie. Don is remembered with great fondness as a man of many interests, many stories, and many friends.

Viola Hale Hathaway, 1930-2023

Viola Hale Hathaway was born on August 28, 1930, and died on June 3, 2023, in Clare, Michigan. She was 93 years old. Until moving to Michigan in 2021, she had been a long-time resident of the Hudson Valley, having spent 26 years in New Paltz, before moving to Poughkeepsie in 2003. Her husband of 42 years, Richard Hathaway, died in 2020.

Viola was born in Passaic, New Jersey, to Raphael and Mildred De Witt Sabia. Her brother, Ray, was born three years later. They grew up in East Rutherford, N.J., one of the industrial suburbs of New York City where they went to public schools and attended the Presbyterian Church. An important part of Viola's education was working in her father's diner, learning people skills that she would use all her life. She graduated as valedictorian of her high school class.

Viola went on to Syracuse University, graduating in 1951 with a double major in political science and journalism. Her first job was as assistant editor at Friendship Press, a book-publishing unit of the National Council of Churches in New York City. Living in New York, she joined one of the city's most active churches, Judson Memorial, a Baptist congregation in Greenwich Village. In 1952, she married Ed Hale. They had three daughters: Allison, Cynthia, and Rebecca who survive. (In later life, Viola's had five grandchildren as well.) The family moved to Montclair, N.J. and Viola continued her freelance editorial work. By then, she had become an Episcopalian.

In 1968, the family relocated to Fairfield, Connecticut. Viola earned a master's degree in elementary education, but because of a surplus of teachers at the time, she was unable to find work. It was the time of the Vietnam War, and the family was actively involved in opposing it. By 1974 Viola was ready to return to full time work. She found a public relations job as coordinator of information services at American Friends Service Committee regional office in New York City. Viola and Ed divorced around this time.

Working with great people at AFSC and New York Yearly Meeting during the years 1974-1976, Viola fell in love with Quakerism and joined Wilton, Connecticut Friends Meeting. Through their Quaker connections, she and Dick Hathaway met in 1976 and married in 1978 under the care of Wilton Meeting. Viola moved to New Paltz where Dick taught at the University. She continued to commute to her NYC job until 1980. Viola joined Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting in 1980 and Dick transferred his membership from New Paltz to Poughkeepsie.

After three semesters of computer science courses Viola found a job with IBM as a technical writer and, later, as a planner of technical writing projects. She worked in both Kingston and Poughkeepsie, retiring in 1998. She and Dick sold their house in New Paltz and moved to Poughkeepsie in 2005.

There's hardly a committee that Viola has not served on in her years of membership in Poughkeepsie Meeting. From 1985-1988, she was clerk of Ministry and Counsel Coordinating Committee for NYYM and was later clerk of Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Counsel. She served as clerk of Poughkeepsie Meeting from 1989 to 1993 and was clerk of the nomination committee and a member of ministry and counsel as well as hospitality. Viola was active on the religious education committee, Friendly News, and served as a prison volunteer to Green Haven Correctional Facility. She organized Crop Walk for the meeting for many years, acted as Registrar for two NYYM Spring Sessions at Oakwood Friends School, and was the financial secretary of the Yearly Meeting's Moser Fund and its book table at NYYM summer sessions. Viola enjoyed her work with Dick on Quarterly and Yearly meeting duties. She learned much about the world and herself from her Quaker experience. Viola felt that by taking on the meeting's work, she deepened her spiritual life.

Quaker belief in the centrality of the Holy Spirit and Viola's own Christ-centered faith led her to ground herself daily in spiritual practices of prayer, study of the bible, and other spiritual sources as well as journaling for self-reflection. As if her Quaker responsibilities were not enough, Viola's energy found even more outlets. She was a dedicated Hospice volunteer. She studied jewelry-making with a silversmith and enjoyed working as an election inspector at the voting polls. She loved music, including the times that she and Dick enjoyed live operas at the Met. Locally, Viola sang second alto in Cappella Festiva Choir concerts into her 80's. She loved to read, especially history, fiction, and biographies. Viola loved life and people and the annual tradition of camping with her three daughters (until she was 75).

Viola frequently gave inspired messages during Meeting for Worship, messages that live on. She will be fondly remembered for her dedicated work, friendliness, spirit, exuberance, and vitality. Viola had an ongoing depth of faith which sustained a loving, inward relationship with Jesus of Nazareth throughout her full life.

Thamby Ninan, 1933-2023

Born October 8, 1933 to the late A. O. and Mariamma Ninan in Muttar, Kerala, India of the Adangapuram Kalapurayil family, the eldest of 4 siblings.

He graduated from St. Aloysius High School in Edathua, Kerala; from Loyola College, Chennai, India with a B. A. Degree in Botany; then from Aligarh University College, Aligarh, India with a Master's Degree in Plant Pathology. He joined the Indian Agricultural Research Institute to improve watermelons and musk melons.

He came to the U. S. to continue his studies - to the University of Oklahoma, then Highlands University in New Mexico, where he was invited to speak at the American Institute of Biological Sciences on his genus Bougainvillea research. At the University of Florida in Gainesville, he developed mold- resistant varieties of oats.

He completed his PhD at Michigan State University in Genetics, and married undergraduate student Janice Brooker (Collins Friends Meeting Church Pastor Janice Ninan). He collected every Rubus genus plant from every county in Michigan. Sometimes he took his wife, baby son Suneil "Nick" and a 2-person pop up tent to investigate wild, remote areas.

As a postdoctoral fellow at the USDA, he developed resistant varieties of wheat to the Cereal Leaf Beetle and through genetic research, prevented the beetle from reproducing.

He began teaching at Huntington University in Indiana. He now had a daughter, Starleen Celeste. He went to John Hopkins University to study chimpanzee chromosomes compared to humans and attended a workshop at DNA Nobel Laureate James Watson's Lab on Long Island.

He then moved to Western New York with his family as a research scientist at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. He bought an old house with a stream in back, raised his own children and foster children in need of a home, and goats, chickens, ducks, and dogs.

With Rev. Soo Ho Han and Grace Han, he and Janice started Blossom Gardens Friends School, K-12 in 1976. Subscribing to the philosophy that the whole world is a learning place and we learn by doing, students investigated, hiked, visited cultural science institutions events and exhibits.

Dr. Ninan joined Erie Community College SUNY in Orchard Park, New York where he taught for 44 years. His classes in the flora of WNY developed an herbarium of plants from the Zoar Valley floodplain. He recently donated the entire collection to the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Dr. Ninan obtained an NIH grant for identifying carcinogens in the environment. Undergraduate students were provided a unique opportunity to participate in research. He was awarded Professor Emeritus status in 2019. He has numerous publications in national and international scientific journals.

Dr. Ninan was born and raised in the Jacobite Church in Kerala, India. In the U. S. he has been a long-time active member of Collins Friends Meeting.

He enjoyed photography, walking a mile every day, identifying plants, hiking, cooking and was an avid tennis fan. Survivors include his sisters Shantha Jacob and Leela Thomas, wife Janice, son Suneil "Nick" (Regina) Ninan, daughter Starleen (Louis) Schaffer, grandchildren Nathan, Tabitha, Joshua, Athena, Keonte, Selena and great grandchild Kingsley Kay.

Friends may call at the Schindler Funeral Home, 44 Center St. Gowanda from 4:00 - 7:00 pm Friday, August 4, 2023. Funeral service will be held Saturday, August 5, 2023 at 11:00 am from the Collins Friends Meeting Church 2345 Main St., Collins, NY 14034 (please assemble at the church). Interment to follow in the Collins Center Cemetery. Memorials, if desired, to the church.

<https://www.facebook.com/schindlerfuneralhome/>

Paul J. Simkin, 1936-2023

It is probably best to begin by quoting the obituary that was written by his children, Brenda Rose Simkin and Sam Simkin:

“Paul J. Simkin, 86, of Poplar Ridge, NY, passed away on August 27, 2023, at Quaker Worship. He was born on September 28, 1936, in Sherwood, a son of the late Chet and Clara (Jacobs) Simkin. Paul earned a B.S. from Clarkson. As an alternative to military service, he drilled water wells in Mexico for two years with the American Friends Service Committee. In 1963, Paul completed his Master's in Mechanical Engineering at Cornell, where he met Jane, and began work at Ingersoll-Rand. In 1969, he married Jane and became certified as a piano technician which was his career for 50 years.

“Being self-employed gave Paul time for his family, his community, and the Poplar Ridge Quaker meeting where he was raised and served as treasurer for 40 years. Paul traveled with the meeting to their sister community in San Pedro, El Salvador, and to Mexico and Guatemala independently. Paul's dedication to Southern Cayuga Instant Aid (founded by his father, Chet) and the Poplar Ridge Fire Company led him to be an EMT, an officer, and a board member. He was an assessor for the Town of Ledyard and developed the first zoning regulations for the town planning board. Paul's involvement at Camp Caspar Gregory began at a young age, as a camper, a counselor, a diver, an officer, an engineer, and a board member. Some of his projects were designing the shower house, and in 1996 designing and building the water system which he operated every summer until 2021. Paul loved math, calculators, surfing the web, the lake, tall ships, and ice cream. He and Jane lived true to their faith and values, embraced simplicity and service, and were examples of what hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, resourcefulness, commitment, stewardship, integrity, and love look like.

“Paul is survived by his children: Brenda Rose Simkin, of Ardmore, PA, and Samuel Milton Simkin, of Boulder, CO; grandchildren: Ellie and Charlotte Mumma and Lydia Benton Simkin; and siblings Donald and Linda Simkin. He was predeceased by his wife, Jane, and his sibling, Roger.”

Very soon after Paul's passing, within a week, Sam wrote more about his dad. He said, “Writing is one of the ways that I process things, which I think is why I wrote this so soon.” Following are four passages from what Sam wrote:

"I am attaching a picture of me with my Dad sitting near the shore of Cayuga Lake at our beloved extended Simkin family cottage, and it is so symbolically appropriate. Dad was not always one for extensive verbal displays of affection, but just as in the picture where I am cradled in his protective embrace I could always in my formative growing-up years count on a warm and comforting snuggle on the couch with him to know that I was deeply and unconditionally loved. When I was older and we were sitting on the couch we would sometimes sit together quietly in silence, and sometimes he would talk with great passion about complicated mathematical equations. Sometimes it was over my head but I appreciated him sharing what he loved thinking about, and his love of STEM spilled over to me...

"To give you a sense of how deeply rooted Simkins are in Poplar Ridge, the house on Dixon Road where Dad and Mom lived for 50 years is only about 1.5 miles north of the house site of my great-great grandfather namesake Samuel Simkin. In the house on Dixon Road Dad and Mom raised Brenda and me, and for some key years cared for Eileen and next-door neighbor Eugene Van Dyne. For 20 years after Gene's mom died, Dad and Gene would stand in the kitchen eating their breakfast of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cold cereal with milk, and orange juice, with Dad patiently conversing with Gene...

"Dad was the epitome of authentically acting locally while thinking globally. I feel his international experiences in Mexico and El Salvador allowed him to understand how his actions in his small community were connected to small communities elsewhere...

"He had a hard time hearing and accepting appreciation from others about what he had done to help them. I wish that if he were here he could somehow absorb all the appreciation that has flowed in for him already these first two days after he left us."

A great deal of that appreciation continued to flow at the memorial service that took place on October 21, 2023, at the Poplar Ridge Meeting House. All the benches were filled with people who had come from the local community and from farther off to remember and honor Paul. One memory/reflection followed another for well over an hour. There were colorful and affectionate anecdotes that suggested Paul's individual style: How he would choose dented cans from the

grocery shelf, saying that somebody needs to buy them. How when asked by a preacher whether he was saved, he answered, "Saved from what?" Some themes emerged: his readiness to help, without fanfare; his multi-faceted community service; his original, individual thinking; his technical skills, expertise, and creativity; his frugality; his great appetite at pot-luck suppers; his self-effacing sense of humor; his down-home internationalism; the complexity and integrity of his style of simplicity; his gentleness and strength. Sorry, Paul, if that seems like too much praise, but those were the things that were said.

It was noted that in all the years of being a birthright, life-long Quaker, he had never spoken out of the silence during meeting for worship. No one could recall that he ever had, but many affirmed that his presence and influence were strongly felt. Poplar Ridge is a semi-programmed meeting, and one Friend remembered that Paul led worship, bringing a prepared message, at least once. He chose for a scripture reference Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Paul and his wife Jane both died within one year, leaving a hole in Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting that is hard to overstate. The dramatic fact that Paul died during a meeting for worship was something remarkable and moving, but much more remarkable was the long and steady fact of Paul's undramatic, useful, authentically humble, deeply generous, unique self and life.

Charlotte Ehrman, 1936-2023

A longtime and beloved member of Morningside Monthly Meeting, Charlotte Ehrman died on September 10, 2023, in New York City.

Charlotte was one of the earliest active members of Morningside Monthly Meeting. In the early years of computers, she served as treasurer, and many remember her as the first treasurer to present information to the Meeting in the form of a spreadsheet. Charlotte was an essential voice of clarity, a presence of strength and graciousness. Many friends remember her hospitality when she clerked Ministry and Counsel in her home.

Charlotte was born on December 14, 1936, in Austria. Her family fled Austria just before the persecution of the Jews on Kristallnacht in November 1938 when Charlotte was not yet two. They first went to England where they stayed at a Quaker sanctuary. Charlotte often told of how a pianist at the sanctuary kindly played music by a composer from the homeland they had fled. It was a simple, loving gesture that made a lasting impact on Charlotte's life and spiritual journey. After their stay in England, the family emigrated to New York City. Charlotte attended public school in New York, and continued school in the city through Hunter College from which she graduated with a MSW degree in Social Work. She married Philip Richardson and had two children, Keith and Jeremy.

As a social worker she worked closely with families. Of great satisfaction to her was her work with adoptions, especially those with children who were in foster care. Because Charlotte spoke Spanish, she did a lot of work with Spanish speakers here in NYC, including migrants. Charlotte was creative in placements, being one of the first placement advisors who placed children in homes of gay couples. She often told the story of a young boy who was a cross dresser and had been returned by several straight couples. She found a gay couple who had no problem with a cross dressing son and convinced her bosses to approve that adoption. Her first consideration was not the parent's lifestyle but the child's need for a family that would not reject him.

Music was one of Charlotte's great pleasures, especially shape note singing. For over 20 years, Charlotte attended shape note conferences and singings across the nation, attending the national convention yearly until her health prevented it. She regularly attended FGC Gatherings

and at lunchtime (usually outdoors), she could be found singing with other shape note singers. Members of Brooklyn shape note singers remember her fondly as one of the small and determined group that made singing in Brooklyn happen.

Anyone who spent time with Charlotte was aware of her granddaughters, Molly and Bellamy, Jeremy's children. Charlotte was a doting grandmother who was proud of both of her granddaughters, and always had recent pictures of them. After retirement, one of Charlotte's great joys was to travel and spend time with them. Charlotte is survived by her sons Keith and Jeremy Richardson, Jeremy's wife Marissa and their two daughters Molly and Bellamy Richardson.

Ty Griese, 1949-2023

Tyler "Ty" Underwood Griese was born August 7th, 1949, the only child of David Nicholas Griese and Jean Tilden Carlisle, in Cleveland, OH, on the ancestral lands of the Erie, Kaskaskia, and Mississauga. He died September 27, 2023 after a long illness, in Danbury, CT, on the ancestral and present lands of the Pequonnock, Paugussett, Schaghticoke, and Wappinger peoples. He was laid to rest alongside his father, at Exeter Cemetery, NH.

In 1966, Ty moved with his father, David and David's wife, Helen Wagner Griese, to Wilton, CT where he was introduced to Wilton Quaker Meeting. Ty said "It was love at first silence. I fell in love with the stillness." Ty became a member in 1979. Over the years he dedicated significant time to the Quakers and volunteered on various committees. He was quick to make others feel comfortable, welcomed, and safe with his easy smile, and relaxed manner. Ty had a profound heart for all beings. He is remembered as a kind and loving person and a devoted Quaker, often announcing the latest additions to the Wilton Quaker Meeting library after Worship.

Ty graduated from Duke University with a BA in Psychology, where he started practicing and later teaching yoga. At age 19, Ty began his residence at the Outdoor YMCA in Westport, CT, where he began living off-the-grid, surrounded by nature, in a two-room cabin without running water or central heat. In return for boarding, Ty taught yoga and tai chi. Ty considered these years his "golden period," which lasted almost 30 years: he lived and/or worked at the Westport Y until the age of 47. "Being in nature was an ongoing spiritual revelation for me," Ty said. "I feel supremely blessed to have experienced that." He later received his Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Adapted Physical Education in 1975 from Springfield College, and later an A.S. degree in Exercise Science in 2010 from Norwalk Community College, where he served as Assistant Director of Wellness for 12 years, and taught various classes on health and wellness.

In his early forties, Ty met Mary Ann Percy, a Quaker and fellow member of the Friends Committee on Unity with Nature in North America (now Quaker Earthcare Witness), with whom he had two children, Rebekah Sophia [Percy] in 1993, and Juniper [Emily Clare] Griese in 1996. Ty later met Martha Gurvich at Wilton Quaker Meeting, with whom he was married from 2000 to 2023, and was stepfather to Martha's children, Schuyler and Joshua Loth.

Ty led a life of Seeking, finding truth in contradiction, opposites, complements; in the body and the soul; in the YinYang as symbolic of this harmony. He felt a voracious need to experience and

understand the transcendental, which hunger led him to visit myriad religious traditions, contexts, and sects, while remaining steadfast in his Quaker faith.

In illness, Ty found refuge in his suffering. "I have known the presence of God all my life," Ty said. "My illness is not God's abandonment. It is my opportunity to experience God by means of lack of God. And I do. I experience pain and boredom and fear. But I feel called to examine the paradox, to know a thing by examining its opposite. I want to lift myself from infatuation with the sweet, comfortable parts of life. The painful parts are equally full, present, fundamental, and meaningful."

Ty is survived by his chosen brother of fifty years, David Parise; chosen son of forty years, Richard Sillman; half-sisters Barbie McKay Smith and Annie McKay Bennett; and adult children Rebekah and Juniper. He will be remembered and loved by the wide web his love reached.

Ty hoped his life would encourage others to continue Seeking.

Bowen Lewis Alpern, 1952-2023

Bowen Lewis Alpern, long time member and former Clerk of Scarsdale Friends Meeting, died Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at the age of 70 at his home at Foulkeways in Gynedd, Pa. after a year-long journey with a malignant brain tumor.

Bowen was born November 17, 1952, in Forest Grove, Ore., to Mathew and Rebecca (Elsner) Alpern. In 1955 the family moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., where he grew up and where he graduated from the university of Michigan in 1974 with an honors degree in mathematics and computer science, going on to study at the newly-founded computer science department at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He left after two years saying, "Neither they nor I knew what we were doing."

Bowen returned to Ann Arbor, got involved in local Democratic politics, and worked at the Burroughs Corporation from 1976 to 1979. While there, his interest in computer science revived and he applied to Cornell, with its more established CS department. He wrote his doctoral dissertation under the supervision of Fred B. Schneider and in 1986 he was awarded his PhD in Computer Science, with a minor in History of the French Revolution.

Bowen's dissertation offered a new approach to proving that a program would behave according to its specification. This proof legitimized what had been a widely held belief about the building blocks for specifying program behaviors and was laid out in a 4-page 1985 paper "Defining Liveness" that still gets over 500 citations a year SOME thirty-eight years later.

At Ithaca, Bowen's interest in politics continued, and in 1982 he became a founding member of the Democratic Socialists of America. He also met and married Robin Mallison, with whom he had four children, under the care of Ithaca Friends Meeting in 1985. The couple separated amicably in 2009 and later divorced.

In 1986 Bowen joined IBM's Research Division, remaining there twenty-five years. At IBM, he was the lead author or co-author of more than 35 papers in the field of computer science: <https://dblp.org/pid/87/5001.html>. Bowen also held 24 patents in conjunction with IBM: <https://patents.justia.com/inventor/bowen-l-alpern>.

Once settled in Westchester County for his work at IBM, Bowen joined the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) through Robin, a lifelong Quaker. There was turbulence when both Bowen and Robin declared they were non-theists, a term shocking to many traditional Christians among Friends. But Quakers are a diverse group with a strong Universalist strain and the couple found a spiritual home in Scarsdale (N.Y.) Friends Meeting (SFM). He served on numerous Meeting committees and served as Clerk of Scarsdale Friends Meeting for three years. Bowen was convinced a better world is possible. His exhortations to the community, both in and outside of Quaker meeting, to realize heaven on earth, were passionate and powerful. As part of this concern and commitment to strengthening Quakerism, the community, and the Meeting, he gave a large grant to SFM for scholarship and education. He hoped people would use it for Powell House, Pendle Hill, School of the Spirit, and other Quaker centers. He served on NYYM Ministry and Worship Committee and on the statewide Anti-Racism Task Group. He also served on the Central Committee of Friends General Conference. At FGC, he and Robin offered workshops on non-theism. Bowen also spent many weekends at workshops and retreats at Powell House and loved being a butler there. Friends may remember his threat when the task wasn't being filled quickly enough, " Friends don't make me be patient with you."

Bowen was a man of precise speech and thought, with each thought expressed with exactitude, each word carefully chosen. He had a rich and deep spiritual life. He was a seeker, self-identified as atheist, Marxist, Jewish, and had an open spirit; that of God within him was definitely alive and well and active in the world.

Bowen rejoiced in his children, and they in him. He was devoted to them. His children call him "a wonderful father." He provided mathematics tutoring for them as part of their home schooling, as well as engaging them in conversations about politics and history.

Bowen was a man of unique style. He became fascinated with tie-dye and experimented on his t-shirts and socks. One day while dressing in a hurry for work, He accidentally put on socks that were two different colors. He looked down at his feet and something clicked, something that had always felt out of place felt right at last. His socks would never match again.

In February 2010, Bowen and Carol Holmes became a committed couple. Their marriage was recognized by Scarsdale Friends Meeting on August 5, 2017. They were Quakers together, but Quakers who seemed very different. Carol was connected with the Christ-centered branch and

Bowen was an established non-theist. What they shared was a devotion to the faith and an interest in reading the history and writings of 17th-century Friends. They also read the Bible and George Fox's Journal cover to cover and moved on to a complete reading of the Tanakh, the three volumes of Hebrew Scriptures—Torah, Writings, Prophets. Rabbi Dana Bogatz of the First Hebrew Congregation, Peekskill, NY, where Bowen continued his father's tradition of completing minyans when needed, led a siyyum for them, a Jewish ceremony recognizing the completion of a spiritual task.

In 2011, Bowen retired from IBM but almost immediately joined Lehman College of the City University of New York as an adjunct in the computer science department. He taught at Lehman from 2011 until 2022, except for a 19-month sojourn at Google in 2013–2014.

In 2018, the Association for Computing Machinery awarded Bowen and Fred B. Schneider the Dijkstra Prize in Distributed Computing for their 1985 paper "Defining Liveness." the prize recognizes papers "whose significance and impact on the theory and/or practice of distributed computing has been evident for at least a decade." The association flew Bowen to London to receive the prize and its honorarium with Fred Schneider.

Bowen and Carol moved to Foulkeways in October 2021. Bowen quickly threw himself into the life of Gwynedd Friends Meeting. He was invited to speak on his faith journey. And every Saturday, even into the last weeks of his illness, he took part in the vigil at the meetinghouse along U.S. Route 202 holding a large poster board sign he had spent two days hand lettering. It read "Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly."

When the tumor in his brain was found and Bowen knew his condition was terminal, he felt no fear, anguish, or worry for himself. He remained curious and interested about what was happening to him. When he entered hospice he said to Carol, "Well I like being alive, but I have no reason not to think that I won't like being dead even more."

A friend observed that Bowen embraced his death in the same open-hearted way he lived his life. Committed to working for the Kingdom of God to the end, Bowen insisted on a green burial so he could be a part of the world's natural processes, unimpeded by chemicals or coffins. Gwynedd Friends burial ground welcomed him. He was wrapped in a tallis sent by Rabbi

Bogatz. As instructed, Carol cut off one corner and laid it on his heart, indicating his duty to do mitzvoth was done. His socks did not match.

The immediate family, left now to embrace his absence, are his wife, Carol Holmes Alpern; his children, Lincoln Alpern of Wallingford, Pa.; Julian Alpern of Lafayette, In.; Guinevere Alpern of Peekskill, N.Y.; Emrigael Alpern of New Paltz, N.Y.; and their mother Robin Mallison Alpern of Peekskill, N.Y.; and his siblings, Ann Alpern (John Laird) of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Barbara Alpern (Jim Taylor) of Windsor, Vt.; and Aaron H. Alpern (Rebecca Covey) of Miami, Fla.

Janet Carter, 1933-2023

Janet Carter transferred her membership from Morningside Meeting in Manhattan to Bulls Head-Oswego when she moved out of New York City to become a founding member of a co-housing community in Saugerties. In her home on Cantines Island and in our Meeting, she poured her energy into helping to create a community which reflected the Friends values she held: equality in decision-making, generosity, caring across boundaries of every kind. At Bulls Head we remember her warm hospitality at her home in that community and the way she wanted to know about each of us and welcomed us into her life. A few years ago, when she became unable to manage, she moved to Kendal on Hudson. We have missed her ever since then, and we were able to welcome her presence on zoom because our Friend Victor was often able to be at Kendal with her during worship. She brought to her life with us a solid, thoughtful, can-do approach to every challenge.

Janet was born in Tennessee on April 18, 1933 to a Professor of Sociology (her father) and a pioneering anthropologist (her mother). Both parents were passionate about their work, which involved getting to know and record the lives and stories of people living in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia. They took Janet with them when they conducted their field work, and she absorbed this exposure to people very different from her friends and relations. When late in her life she became an accomplished story teller she based many of her stories on that early experience with her parents in Appalachia. One of her last community activities was to lead, for 6 years, a monthly story telling hour in Saugerties. Although her memory was declining at this time, Friends marveled at how she was always firmly centered in every detail of the stories she wove.

Her parents were atheists, but admired and respected the values and witness they found among Friends in Philadelphia. So they enrolled Janet at Westtown School, and in later years she maintained that it

changed her life. She had an affinity for Friends' form of expectant worship and saw how it propelled their deeply held social concerns.

As a young adult Janet moved into Manhattan and embarked on a career in theatre. Although her career was thriving, she realized that she hadn't heard anything about the real world and real people for a very long time. So she enrolled at Columbia University to pursue a degree in Political Science, sidetracked by falling in love with, and eventually marrying (twice) Frank Hannigan. They had two children, Keith and Susan. She became politically involved, first with Mothers Against the Vietnam War, then with victims of war, of discrimination, the marginalized and disenfranchised; she tackled social ills wherever she saw them.

In 1973, after a bout with thyroid cancer, Janet sought out Friends again, attending Quakertown Meeting and then Summit Monthly Meeting in New Jersey. Ten years later she became a member of Morningside Meeting. She immersed herself immediately in the life of the Meeting, where she found a community equally committed to social witness. Her husband Frank often travelled abroad in his work as a golf commentator. Janet joined him, and as her daughter Susan phrased it "while my Dad was doing his golf thing, my Mom was finding the local Friends Meeting and volunteering at the women's shelter."

When she and Frank ended their marriage in 1987 Janet began travelling in earnest on her own, making connections with Friends, starting work that she returned to time after time. She did peace work in Russia. She went to Cuba, to Denmark, sought out Friends in Northern Ireland and for several years returned there to work for peace across the religious barriers. In Denmark she connected with intentional intergenerational communities, in which she found many of her concerns addressed: social equality, communal living across the generations. When she returned to the states, this interest led her to co-found the Saugerties intentional community at Cantines Island.

Because Janet felt that she had been lucky in the circumstances of her life: in mentors, deep and lasting relationships, money and opportunity, she committed to creating, where she could, those openings for others. She reached out to everyone in a spirit of equality, mentoring young people who worked for her, nurturing and respecting the children of her community, and managing to help those in need of any sort. She intervened when people needed her calm presence in resolving sticky conflicts. When she and her husband Frank reunited, she welcomed him into her many friendships, and helped him feel the same sense of community that she experienced. He became seriously ill soon after, and she called on her wider community, marshaling support for herself and for him in order to give him the best end of life possible.

At Bulls Head she served on most committees, continuing her generous spirit of creating relationships, leading workshops, and encouraging the gifts of others. When an incarcerated member of a prison worship group applied for membership at Bulls Head Meeting , Janet was indefatigable in making sure that we were committed to providing a comprehensive community for him that would provide spiritual and practical systems of support, both while the Friend is still incarcerated and also in the event of his release. We like to think that we carry on in her spirit

Janet was a Friend in every aspect of her life. She lived her values. She embraced everyone with the same generosity of spirit and was always a fierce advocate for those who found themselves on the underside of society. Much of her work was conducted quietly, under the radar, as it were. She radiated welcome, generosity and an eagerness for the riches that she saw everywhere in life. She left this life on October 14, 2023, soon after the death of her beloved sister Penny. We miss her.

Lyn Pyle, 1940's-2023

Jim Morgan brought Lyn Pyle to Brooklyn Meeting. They met in 1996 at 15th Street Meeting. They became partners and worshiped together several years in Brooklyn Meeting before she asked to become a member. That was in 2008. At her clearness committee for joining the meeting she voiced a request. She explained that her ministry was her work in the Bronx and she hoped she could be accepted into membership without having to serve on committees for the meeting. The meeting agreed. For years many of us wondered how she happened to live in the distant Bronx and how she could become a member without serving on committees. This minute will attempt to address that enigma, as well as celebrate her life.

Lyn Pyle was born in Indiana in the 1940s and was raised through her teens in Eugene, Oregon. She studied history and English at the University of Oregon and graduated with a teaching credential. She studied Comparative Literature at the University of California at Berkeley. There she joined the free speech movement and participated in the first sit in at Sprout Hall. Lyn made the decision to be arrested and was sent briefly to jail in support of the cause. She was radicalized then and there.

Her first job after Berkeley was teaching English at George School, a Quaker school in Pennsylvania. While teaching there she began taking dance classes with Alwin Nikolais.. She moved to the city and danced with the company. At that point she met Jerry Cofta, who became her domestic and work partner. They started a theatre group called Mass Transit. Lyn wrote, co-wrote, directed, and performed in plays for Mass Transit for 30 years. Early on members of Mass Transit decided to choose a neighborhood where they would all live and work locally to improve lives while continuing their theatre work. That is when Lyn moved to the North Bronx on the Mosholu Parkway.

When Lyn moved to the Bronx she joined the Knox Gates Neighborhood Association. Working with that group she created the COVE (Community Organized with a Vision of Excellence) to serve the needs of neighborhood children. The COVE evolved and offered after school and summer teen programs, leadership training, sports programming, trips, and positive relationships with peers and mentoring adults. It remains operative.

Lyn wrote a play “Ain’t Easy” based in part on the true story of a neighborhood young man who killed a classmate and was sent to a maximum-security prison in upstate New York. This incident motivated Lyn to partner with Aisha Norris to find a nonviolent way to resolve conflicts within the youth community. Aisha arranged the play into a hip hop musical by writing and performing all the rap lyrics.

Together with Aisha over 19 years, Lyn developed a program that could bring conflict resolution to city schools. They piloted their curriculum in five schools, training hundreds of students in Peer Mediation programs and hundreds of staff in Restorative Practices. Lyn did not retire from the International Community High School until 2023. Aisha continues their work today. Lyn’s social activism, which she considered her ministry, was supported in part by numerous grants from the meeting’s socially responsible fund administered through the peace and social action committee.

The last 3 years of Lyn’s life were particularly challenging. She had a blood disease that required chemotherapy via transfusion once monthly. She never complained, she continued working, she trusted the Spirit to support her doing her ministry until she could no longer do so. Her energy remained infectious. At the end facing a cervical spine surgery that could take 11 hours she told her health care proxies that even if she was paralyzed from the neck down, she would prefer to continue living so she could enjoy her life and continue working. She did not want to die. She contracted COVID and died before the surgery could occur.

Lyn Pyle died October 13, 2023

Lyn Pyle’s memorial was October 21, 2023

Jim Morgan, 1934-2023

Jim Morgan joined our meeting on May 5, 1991. He was an iconoclastic elder in our meeting, there was no one like him. Though soft spoken, he often shouted messages. One First Day he even silently danced a message. He urged us to be bold and to seize joy. For his 80th birthday he choreographed a dance for himself to share his joy with his family and friends. For his 85th he produced a play to illustrate principles the United Nations had developed to promote a practical peace.

Jim studied architecture at Carnegie Mellon University, but after completing his sophomore year he transferred to Kenyon College to study Ancient and Medieval History. He completed his BA in that field in 1957. He resumed his study of architecture, only this time at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He finished his master's program there in 1960. He earned his living as an architect in Gambier, Ohio, the seat of Kenyon College, and by teaching at Ohio State University and Ohio University Architecture Schools for eight years. In 1969 Jim moved to New York to teach at Pratt Institute. He taught interior architecture in the School of Design, interior construction methods and materials, as well as thesis preparation.

In 1981 he began teaching at NYU. His first course was Decision Making and Urban Design. He was teaching this course when he died. His co-teacher Kevin Tang said his name was synonymous with that course in the department. He was also teaching Senior Honors Thesis. During those years he co-founded ARC Peace, an international organization of architects concerned with socially responsible design and contemporary peace issues. He was also a co-founding member of ADPSR, Architects, Designers, Planners, for Social Responsibility, another group concerned with appropriate housing for city residents.

In 1988 when people with AIDS were dying, Jim persuaded the NYQM to commit itself to housing homeless people with AIDS. A committee was formed which eventually had to be incorporated (Friends Quarters Housing Development Fund Corporation) to accomplish the matter. They were able to buy a building 4 blocks south of Gramercy Park on Lexington Avenue. Working with the city bureaucracy and neighborhood groups they were able to open a residence for 50 formerly homeless people with AIDS. Friends House in Rosehill is still operative today.

Jim's journey with the Kisangura Schools began when he attended the Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial conference in 2000 and met Emmanuel Kagoro, then Head of the Kisangura Primary School. The following February he visited the Kisangura Schools in Mugumu, Tanzania, returned to New York and laid the groundwork for the NY Quarter's Africa Education Committee. Over the years he visited the school five times, initiating projects to construct teachers' residences and water cisterns. Simultaneously, he coordinated annual support for up to 120 students, both at the primary and secondary levels, providing them with essential supplies such as books, uniforms, shoes, school bags, and more. As the schools flourished, the need to support promising students on their path to higher education became increasingly evident. The committee is now supporting thirty-one students who have successfully qualified for higher education opportunities.

Jim was politically quite active. For many years he joined a weekly peace vigil in front of the courthouse on the Plaza at Borough Hall. New York State eventually did outlaw executions. He marched to protest the war in Iraq, to abolish nuclear arms. Jim had a deep commitment to the environment. He attended the UN conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992. He urged Quakers to take action to respond to climate change. He reminded us of this concern during his 85th birthday event titled "Another World is Possible." He traveled amongst Friends bearing the weight of this concern and was actively involved in Friends World Committee for Consultation programs. He took part in civil disobedience and was arrested in protests against the proposed homeport of nuclear equipped submarines in Staten Island during the 1980's. Jim believed that Friends had a vital message and he urged us to not "hide our Light under a bushel." He shared with us a vision that someday there will be a Brooklyn Yearly Meeting.

Jim started attending Brooklyn Meeting in the 1980's with Patricia Chernoff and he became a member in May 1991. Jim served on many committees: for Brooklyn Meeting, peace & social action twelve years, ministry & counsel seven years, clerk four years (he took the minutes himself); for the New York Quarterly Meeting, housing committee six years, Great Lakes Africa Education twenty-two years, joint nominating two years, audit & budget three years, and ministry & counsel. For Yearly Meeting, world ministries terms unknown. Jim also wrote a two-volume biography, "Gullible's Travels," and interviewed two dozen Brooklyn Friends, both are in our library.

In 1996 he met Lyn Pyle at 15th Street Meeting. Jim brought her to Brooklyn Meeting, and they attended regularly. In 2008 she joined the meeting. Their partnership lasted 27 years. Jim

attended his 70th high school reunion in May 2022. After returning to New York, he developed pneumonia and subsequently an infection on his leg. He moved in with Lyn Pyle, and he said she restored him to health. When she was preparing for her surgery, he did what he could to support her. Unfortunately, she developed COVID and passed on October 13, 2023. Jim died of complications from COVID and heartache soon after Lyn's memorial at our meeting house on October 21, 2023.

Jim Morgan was born May 5, 1934

Jim Morgan died November 2, 2023

Jim Morgan memorial was November 11, 2023

