

# Memorial Minutes 2000

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY  
MEETING *of* FRIENDS

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2000

# NEYM 2000 Memorial Minutes

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### ***Margaret S. Baker***

We give thanks to the Lord for the life of Margaret S. Baker, member of Weare Monthly Meeting.

Margaret had the gift of hospitality. In a quiet and friendly way, she naturally welcomed everyone who came to meeting, causing some later to join Friends. She also enjoyed children in the meeting, and gave encouragement to young mothers of each meeting in which she was a member. She often served on religious education, hospitality, or nominating committees.

She did not hold many leadership positions in the monthly, quarterly, or yearly meeting, but she was a source of strength behind her husband Donald Baker, and daughters Marian Baker and Betsy Wenny, who have been active leaders.

Born a Congregationalist, she enjoyed all kinds of music, and was known for her piano playing. She also was one of the founders of the annual candlelight carol sing before Christmas at our 200-year-old meetinghouse in Henniker, NH.

As a young woman, she served as a teacher in Istanbul, Turkey, assisting her long-term missionary aunt at the American School for Girls. She later continued her teaching as a leader of Girl Scouts, emphasizing the practical living skills, camping, and enjoyment of the out-of-doors.

Along with her husband, she helped revive or re-start meetings for worship in three historic meetinghouses: Schuylkill, PA (Philadelphia YM), Henniker, NH (New England YM) and Quaker City in Unity, NH (New England YM). She took her four, red-headed children to these small meetings, and frequently invited visitors to her home for dinner afterwards.

Margaret served on the Mosher Book and Tract Committee and as representative of Friends to the New Hampshire Council of Churches. She was an active participant in New England United Society of Friends Women.

Margaret took joy in the simple things—wildflowers, chickadees outside her window, friends, neighbors, and relatives.

She died suddenly after having made this world a friendlier, more joyful place in her humble, quiet ways over

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nine decades.

—WEARE MONTHLY MEETING, DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Richard Spohn Brokaw***

Richard Spohn Brokaw died October 31, 1999 in an airplane crash while on route to Cairo, Egypt.

Dick was born on March 26, 1923 in East Orange, New Jersey. He graduated from the Putney School in 1940 and from Swarthmore College in 1944, receiving honors in his chemistry major. He then entered the U.S. Army as a noncombatant conscientious objector, serving as a medical lab technician in France and Germany.

After the war, and after completing his Ph.D. in physical chemistry at Princeton University, Dick worked for NASA for some twenty years at the Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. At his retirement in 1973, he was director of the Division of Physics and Chemistry with the responsibility for up to 60 scientists and engineers. In 1972, he was awarded the NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement for his outstanding contributions to combustion research. He was a member of the scientific honor society, Sigma Xi, and in 1998 was honored for 50 years of membership in the American Chemical Society.

Dick was married to Swarthmore classmate, Frances Lydia Alford (known to her family and friends as Channy) in 1947. For most of their married life, they lived in Lakewood, Ohio, where they raised their four children. Both were active participants and volunteers in the life of their community throughout those years. The family enjoyed summer camping trips together all over the U.S. Winter often found them on the ski slopes of New York or Vermont. Their home was always a welcoming place and so it continued to be when they moved to Strafford, Vermont in 1983.

In this place he loved so much, Dick steeped himself in those interests of a lifetime. He loved nature and the outdoors: skiing as a member of the Vermont 70+ Club, hiking, and working on their land in Vermont. Music had always been an important part of his life. He played the cello and piano as a

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young man and collected a great variety of recordings over the years.

After Channy's death in 1996, Dick's longtime friendship with Virginia Chaplin of Georgetown, Maine, grew into love. They were married on October 23, 1998 and were together at the time of their deaths.

Dick was a long time member of the Religious Society of Friends. As a member of Hanover Meeting, he willingly served the meeting in many capacities. He was also an early board member of Kendal at Hanover and served on the Finance Committee of New England Yearly Meeting. His concise and thoughtful contributions to any discussion came only after he had spent time listening and evaluating in a careful manner. The meeting will miss the benefit of his knowledge and advice. With individuals, he was a warm and attentive listener.

Often his honest, forthright responses were laced with his unique humor, accompanied by a pleased grin and twinkling eyes. He is survived by two sons and two daughters: James A. Brokaw II and Richard S. Brokaw, Jr. and Frances C. Brokaw and Susan E. Brokaw. He had three grandchildren, 4 stepchildren, and 5 step-grandchildren as well as a sister, Adelaide Brokaw Tolberg.

This was a kind and generous man who lived his life to the fullest and did his best to see that others might do likewise. He gave unspoken loyalty to those he loved and to the things in this world he honored. The Religious Society of Friends was fortunate to be one of those beneficiaries.

—HANOVER FRIENDS MEETING, FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Barbara Louise (Ullrich) Brooks***

Barbara Louise Ullrich Brooks was born in New Haven, Connecticut, on October 7, 1914. Her formative years were spent in Clinton, Connecticut. She attended first through twelfth grades at Morgan School in Clinton. After graduating in 1931, she attended Normal School in West Haven, Connecticut.

Upon her graduation from Normal School in 1935, she returned to Clinton where she taught second grade at the grammar school for two years. During that time, she became a

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member of the Methodist Church where she met Russell David Brooks. They married in 1937 in Worcester, Massachusetts. Searching for a home church together, they found the Friends Meeting, a very warm and welcoming group, where both became members and worked on committees and with the youth group.

Both Barbara and Russell had strong leanings toward the Friends peace testimony. They searched for a way to work toward peace through a Friends organization. Gonic Meeting in New Hampshire was without a pastor at that time and it gave Russell a call to serve. While serving as pastor and wife, they grew in the ways of Friends. There Barbara and Russell adopted their two children, Miriam and Joel.

In 1948, the family moved to Woonsocket, Rhode Island, when Russell served as pastor and Barbara worked with the women's group and with the Sunday School. She played the piano for small choral groups and during the simple service.

When in 1955 they moved to Woolman Hill, in Deerfield, Massachusetts, where Russell served as director of the conference center, they became members of the Middle Connecticut Valley Meeting (which later became the Mt. Toby Meeting). It was during this time that the family decided Barbara should return to teaching. In 1959, Barbara attended Keene State Teachers College. Upon graduation, she taught at the Sunderland Elementary school, where she taught for 19 years until her retirement in 1977. They left Woolman Hill in 1968, when Russell's health made it impossible for him to continue his work. They acquired a home in Whately, Massachusetts. It was here that Russell died on December 25, 1971.

In 1986, Barbara moved to the newly developed Friends Community in North Easton, Massachusetts. In this close-knit community, she found warm friendship. She continued her service to Friends and community through her activity in the local meeting as clerk and recording clerk, and in New England Yearly Meeting where she served on the Committee on Prejudice and Poverty, the Equalization Fund, Ministry and Counsel, and briefly as representative to the Massachusetts

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Council of Churches. It was in North Easton that she particularly enjoyed attending both the Brockton Symphony concerts and the regular Boston Symphony open rehearsals. All of her life Barbara enjoyed music, nature, and reading.

When the Friends Meeting in North Easton was laid down in 1993, Barbara moved to Amherst, Massachusetts. She transferred her membership back to Mt. Toby Meeting, where she renewed friendships and once again became a valued member. She served on the library and hospitality committees, and she enjoyed being a member of her Friendly Eights group. She renewed playing the piano for social gatherings and community sings at Mt. Toby.

Barbara died on December 28, 1999. A memorial service was held for her at Mt. Toby Meeting on January 15, 2000. Barbara is survived by her daughter, Miriam Thornton of Arizona, and her son, Joel Brooks, of New York.

—MT. TOBY MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Lester J. Clarke***

Lester J. Clarke, 87, died in an automobile accident on Thursday, August 19, 1999 in South Lee, Massachusetts.

Son of John Kanaly and Ora Mae Bronson, Lester J. Clarke was born on June 12, 1912, in Sioux City, Iowa. Raised by his stepfather, George W. Clarke, he was always known as Clarke and later had his name legally changed to Clarke. He went to school in Sioux City. Later, during the depression, he served in Civilian Conservation Camps in Florida and Idaho. He married Margaret Davis in Arcade, NY, on August 8, 1942. He served in Civilian Public Service during World War II in camps in Maryland, Florida, and Tennessee. After the war, he moved with his wife to Gould Farm, Monterey, MA, where he was on the staff until moving to South Lee, MA, in 1948. He and his wife built their home of rammed earth, the only such house they ever saw. He retired from the Mead Corporation in 1974 after 21 years of service.

Lester Clarke was an artist, working in all media: oil acrylic, watercolor, gouache, woodcut, etching, and pastel. He

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had exhibited at various places in the county: Lee Library, Welles Gallery of the Lenox Library, Berkshire Artisans, and Pittsfield Art League.

Most recently he had joined the Berkshire Writers Group and had just published a book of his experiences in Civilian Public Service, *Certified Pure and Segregated*.

Lester and Margaret Clarke were cofounders of the South Berkshire Monthly Meeting of Friends, which he served as clerk and member of various committees. Lester also served on the Board of Woolman Hill, a Quaker Conference Center in Deerfield, MA. He served on the Correspondence Committee, Permanent Board, and Nominating Committee of New England Yearly Meeting.

It was characteristic of Lester that he looked for the humor in any situation and that his spiritual life depended on the understanding that no one can choose where to be born, under what circumstance of parentage, wealth, or lack of it. Therefore, one uses the gifts one has to live an ethical and moral life. Each person who knew Lester would have a different story to tell. That is good, as he was a people person. He was immediate with everyone and had the happy faculty of making the one he was talking to feel special.

An important aspect of Lester's life was his active expression of the Spirit. In his religious and civic life, he stood up to be counted on the picket line, in letters to the editor, and to his representatives.

In his ministry to his Meeting, he paid especial attention to the needs of the children. He was a longtime member of the First Day School Committee and he served the children as supporter, art teacher, friend, and clown. As one member observed at our memorial meeting, "When we get to heaven we will be met by Lester, wearing a big red nose and laughing his special laugh so that we won't take even heaven too seriously."

Lester Clarke served for 30 years on the Lee Democratic Town Committee, for 21 years on the Lee Board of Health and the Tri-Town Boards of Health. He was a member of the Lee Council on Aging and Lee Land Trust.

He is survived by Margaret, his wife of 57 years, a half-

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sister, Dorothy Irwin of Texas, a half-brother, George Clarke of Wyoming, and several half-nephews and nieces.

—SOUTH BERKSHIRE MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY  
QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Sidney Cobb***

Sidney Cobb was born in Cambridge, MA in 1917, the son of Stanley Cobb, M.D., and Elizabeth (Almy) Cobb. He was educated at Harvard College and Harvard Medical School. He did his internship and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Later he received a MPH at Harvard School of Public Health. He taught at the University of Pittsburgh, University of Michigan, and Brown University, where he was Professor Emeritus of Community Health and Psychiatry.

His career focused on how an individual's social environment and mental health affect the risk of chronic disease. Among other areas, he studied the interaction of stress and arthritis, job loss and mental health, and leukemia rates near nuclear power plants. Sidney published over 120 articles and authored or coauthored five books. He wrote his last article "The Steps to Peacemaking: Forgiveness Is Not Enough" with Catherine Gordon. It was published in the April 1998 *Friends Journal*.

In retirement, he became interested in the high incidence of leukemia in communities near nuclear power plants. His work in this area prompted the National Cancer Institute to conduct a study on cancer deaths near nuclear power plants.

While a member of the Framingham Friends Meeting, he was active in teaching First Day School and led marriage enrichment groups. In 1991, he and his wife Jesse Jones-Cobb moved to Medford Leas, where they became active in the affairs of the community. He was an active member of the Mount Holly Friends Meeting where he served as an overseer and Clerk of Ministry and Worship. Sydney died April 7, 1998. A memorial service was held in late May 1998 in Medford, N.J.

—FRAMINGHAM FRIENDS MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

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### ***Mark D. Gould***

The unforgettable verse of John Donne was recalled recently at the memorial service for Friend Mark Gould (1946-1999). A strong and gentle man, this unique person truly lived a life of generous involvement. He was active in all aspects of the Religious Society of Friends, including serving as monthly meeting clerk, quarterly meeting clerk, yearly meeting recording clerk, and on the Board of Overseers of Moses Brown School. He also served for ten years on New England Yearly Meeting Permanent Board and terms on the New England Yearly Meeting Christian Education, Friends General Conference, Mosher Book and Tract, Nominating, and Program committees.

His life also had room for his research on the water quality of Rhode Island's streams and Narragansett Bay, service on several boards of environmental organizations, and his students at Roger Williams University where he also served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Director of the Center for Economic and Environmental Development. He was indeed involved in humankind, and when the bell tolled, we were diminished by our great loss.

It is hard to imagine Westerly Meeting without Mark Gould. We will miss the twinkle in his eyes which always accompanied his announcement that he was going to have to take his annual mid-winter trip to Jamaica—"somebody had to do it"—with his Roger Williams University biology students and that he would once again be collecting donations of new school supplies and sneakers to take with him for the island school he'd adopted. This was vintage Mark: the gift of humor that could bring us "down where we ought to be," the gifted teacher who gave so much in and out of the classroom, the active and unwavering lover of all living things.

In the late 1970s, Mark and Lisa with their young daughters Hannah and Meggan came to Westerly Meeting and were part of a trend; other young families followed. Mark served as the Meeting contact, and when he met with inquirers, he listened to their questions with undivided attention and gave them information and resources to help them learn more.

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His support and guidance were always intertwined with humor. He was always caring, and willing to help, in a cheerful and kind way. He worked ceaselessly and in good spirit for the betterment of the Meeting. Rufus Jones said, "To be a teacher who knows how to enlarge the depth and scope of a person's life is the best gift there is." Mark was that kind of teacher and Friend. Through his life's example he showed us all how to be better people.

It is not surprising, in a way, that his heart gave out so soon; he worked it very hard. Mark earned love and respect from outside the Quaker community for the same Friendly traits we valued from within. Mike McGiveney, president of the Rhode Island Shellfishermen's Association, put it this way: "One of his many gifts was that when you talked with him, you felt like you were dealing with a common man. But he was brilliant." Lee Arnold, director of the Rhode Island State Department of Labor and Training put it another way: "A wonderful man. Very quiet. Very capable. Very well spoken." Mark was a true Friend who was very capable of waiting on the silence, but he was indeed very well-spoken, and we felt blessed when he shared with us."

Westerly Meeting will miss Mark dearly, but his presence will always be felt in the people who knew him and in the meetinghouse walls that surround us. He was a gift to us all. A Friend said, "You could call him one of Earth's heroes, because that's what he is." Dear Mark, you enriched so many of our lives and we will always love you.

—WESTERLY MONTHLY MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD  
QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Barbara Haddad***

Barbara White Haddad died on November 25, 1998, in Providence, Rhode Island, at age seventy-six. She was the daughter of the late Edward A. White and Ruth D. (Blanchard) White, and the granddaughter of Willis H. White and Emily Sisson White. She leaves two sons, E. Alexander Haddad and Christopher J. Haddad; two daughters, Jane S. Haddad and Laila A. Haddad; a sister, Priscilla S. W. Ohler; and three

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grandchildren.

Barbara was a graduate of Colby College and earned a second degree in library science from Columbia University.

In 1946, Barbara traveled to Ramallah, Palestine, to teach at the Friends Girls School. While there, she met the late Samir A. Haddad, who was a teacher at the Friends Boys School in Ramallah. They married in Beirut, Lebanon. Barbara was a devoted wife and mother, and maintained a home known for its hospitality to family and friends alike.

Barbara was dedicated, active, practical, plain spoken, and direct. She gave her time and talents freely, and was a generous and dependable friend. She was peppery, and knew it. She could easily get a bit indignant, and would need to express it for a time, but when she'd got it out, she was sensible and reasonable and helpful. Her theology was Christian, and while she may have wished to see Providence Meeting more uniformly so, her faith led her to love and work with everyone in the meeting's broad theological range. She loved hymns, and to play the piano for singing. Many Friends remember, with admiration and a smile her tenacious and spirited playing, and her direct, honest statements to committee meetings and Meeting for Business. A life-long member of Providence Monthly Meeting, Barbara was an active participant in many activities, often leading by commitment and spirit. She produced the meeting's newsletter for many years, doing all the work herself. She was a mainstay of the Sewing Committee that repaired used clothing for AFSC distribution, and served on the Library and Religious Education committees. She served as clerk of Ministry and Counsel at a time of transition, when younger leaders were joining the core group of Providence Meeting. Her care and patience in holding the committee together, and guiding and supporting newcomers, are remembered fondly.

Barbara served for many years on the Board of New England Friends Home in Hingham, Massachusetts, as well as for five years on the Permanent Board and three years on the Student Loan Committee of New England Yearly Meeting, and, as President of the United Society of Friends Women of New

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England. She served as recording clerk of Yearly Meeting while there was only one recording clerk and no computers. Friends remember her camped in an “office” in a Wheaton College dorm corridor, typewriter and notes on a card table, getting minutes ready for the next business session.

One member of Providence’s Ministry and Counsel caught her essence: If you were in a tight place with Barbara Haddad at your side, you never, ever had to look around to see if she was still there.

—PROVIDENCE MONTHLY MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD  
QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Ruth Hiller Martocci***

*The highest art is the art of living an ordinary life in an extraordinary manner. — Tibetan saying.*

Ruth Martocci was a beloved member of New Bedford Friends Meeting. Her great-grandparents, Seth and Betsey Hiller, were convinced Friends of Mansfield Meeting. As an employed carpenter, Seth built the house on Prospect Rd. in Mattapoissett where Ruth lived most of her life. One day Seth and Betsey were riding past the house, when Seth asked his new bride, “Where would thee like to live, Betsey?” and she replied, “I’d like to live in that house.” Ruth’s family history was important to her. Her parents were Joseph and Florence Hiller, both of New Bedford Meeting. Ruth told the story how she attended worship in the New Bedford Meeting house for the first time as a two-year old. She sat on the men’s side next to her father and she remembers holding her pocket book carefully. She knew how quiet she had to be and she loved her daddy so much. At some point during the worship, she dropped her pocket book, and was stunned. The silent waiting continued until the close of worship, and no one ever mentioned it. Ruth said it was then that she became a Quaker.

It is her peaceful manner and strength of conviction which Friends remembered at her Memorial Service. Ruth was known for caring for people on a deep spiritual level, taking food to those in need, sharing books of comfort to those who felt the loss of death or divorce, reading to the blind, hugging

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people who were new to Quarterly or Yearly Meeting who “looked like they needed it”. This list could continue for pages, and it still would not touch the depth of her compassion.

To be near her was to be close to the Spirit of God on earth. To her, the Sabbath was holy, as each day was holy, and each visit was an opportunity to share in the life of the Spirit—although it would never feel that way, since it was not “put on”—the love and the hospitality were sincere and humble. People from diverse backgrounds have said, “She was very good to me.” She was truly a Friends minister.

Her face was radiant, as one would expect the face of a spirit person to be. She traveled and worked in many parts of the world, and for long periods of time. Yet she was always coming home—coming home to find that of the Spirit in each of us. Everyone was important to her, and could teach her... and so she taught us simply and lovingly, with no effort. That is the amazing gift received by each of us who knew her.

She lived a life of service. She served in numerous positions overseas including the Philippines; Venezuela, where she helped create a Friends worship group; and Puerto Rico, where she spent 23 years, serving as Secretary to the Governor. She met and married Frank Martocci during that time, and their daughter Florence was born there.

When they returned to Mattapoisett in 1959, Ruth served New Bedford Monthly Meeting on numerous committees, and in countless other ways. Ruth’s steady Quaker guidance kept Mattapoisett Preparative faithful to Friends’ beliefs when it became a Monthly Meeting. She also provided loving stewardship to New Bedford Meeting now on its own. Her lively interest was influential in the establishment of the Marion Worship Group. She brought significant love and energy to rekindling the life of Sandwich Quarter in the ’70s.

Ruth, whose interest in Friends history was intense, discovered and preserved for Friends archives the missing Minutes (1700s) of a splinter group, Rochester Preparative Meeting. This group had set up and maintained a separate Yearly Meeting for many years after the disowning of its pastor. She was an active Yearly Meeting Friend, serving on

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Ministry and Counsel, the Moses Brown School Committee, and Permanent Board. She was vitally interested in other yearly meetings, to whom she wrote and visited. She was active in FUM and FGC. She was truly God's willing servant.

Ruth was a seeker who found the Spirit in diverse forms of religious expression: the solemn mourning of Good Friday; the pure joy of Sabado de Gloria (Glorious Saturday), 6 am Mass in a neighborhood church where singing birds flew about the rafters; visiting historical Biblical sites in and around Jerusalem, amidst a strong military presence, soon after the Six Day War. Her religion was Quaker; her spirituality was in the world.

She worshipped with New Bedford as often as possible, while Friends brought her when her eyesight was failing. She remained an elder for us on Ministry and Counsel even when she couldn't attend, guiding us through some difficult situations by phone consultation. Our tiny Meeting struggles, as all small meetings do, and Ruth never lost the faith that we could become stronger, and more loving, and better follow *Faith & Practice*. We cherish her for this, and hope to be more like her.

In the program written for her Memorial Service, Aldous Huxley's quote from *The Quiet Eye* reflected well the Ruth we knew:

"We apprehend God in the alternate voids and fullness of a cathedral; in the space that separates the salient features of a picture; in the living geometry of a flower, a seashell, an animal; in the pauses and intervals between the notes of music, in their difference of tones and sonority; *and finally, on the plane of conduct, in the love and gentleness, the confidence and humility, which give beauty to the relationships between human beings* [italics ours]."

—NEW BEDFORD MONTHLY MEETING, SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***R. Candida Palmer***

Candida Palmer (nee Heine) died unexpectedly in Worcester, Massachusetts on Sunday, February 13, 2000 after a short illness. She was a sojourning member of the

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Worcester-Pleasant Street Friends Meeting.

Candida was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1926. When her parents, political dissidents, left Nazi Germany in 1939, their four children were sent to the Quaker School in Eerde, Holland. Her parents settled in New Zealand and sent for the children to join them. Their father had to go back to Germany to settle business affairs and wasn't able to return for seven years because of the war.

In December 1939, the four children sailed from London. It was a dangerous, frightening, but exciting adventure. The ship which had left prior to theirs was sunk by mines with loss of all life aboard. Peter, age 15, looked after the money, and Candida at age 13 became surrogate mother to the other two children, ages 9 and 3. Candida had to cope with rough weather, sea-sickness, one child that had a habit of disappearing and a frightened little sister. After about four weeks, they arrived in New Zealand, where Candida was relieved of her overwhelming responsibilities.

Candida went to live with a family in Wanganui because her mother was unable to support the family. While there, she attended the Friends School, and then Wanganui Girls College. She then went on to a pharmacy apprenticeship. According to her sister, Viola, she was attentive and loving and a great support for her mother who went through very hard times.

Candida served on the school committee for the New Zealand Friends School, and was the New Zealand Friends liaison with the Friends Service Council, London. She also was one of two representatives from New Zealand to the Friends World Committee, the Young Friends Conference, and the Pacific Area Friends Conference held in conjunction with the Friends World Committee. Following the conference, she attended Woodbrooke, the Quaker Study Center in Birmingham, England.

While attending the Friends World Conference in London, she met Vail Palmer, a Friend from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. They were married in 1952 and settled in the United States. They had two children, Logan and Crystal.

Candida was a devoted mother and homemaker as well as

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active in the local meetings where her husband served as pastor. The family moved several times while the children were young. They lived in Philadelphia, Gonic, New Hampshire, Washington, D.C., and Chicago, among other places. She was active in prison ministry and conscientious objector counseling. In 1963, her gifts in ministry were acknowledged when she was minuted as a Recorded Minister by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting where she retained her membership. She earned her Master's degree in Quaker Studies from Earlham School of Religion in 1984. From 1983-85 she was Director of Publications at Earlham School of Religion.

In 1985, Candida came to Worcester, Massachusetts, and served four years as Administrative Secretary/Office Manager of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends. From there, she moved to the Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Project (HOAP), Community Healthlink, Worcester, MA, where she was coordinator of volunteers, students, and interns. After she retired, she volunteered her services one day a week in the Yearly Meeting office.

Worcester-Pleasant Street Friends Meeting suffers the loss of a dedicated sojourning member. She served on the Ministry and Counsel Committee and the Buildings and Grounds Committee. She was presiding clerk and assistant presiding clerk. For several years, she conducted Bible study sessions and she served as our representative on the Worcester Ecumenical Council. She also served on the NEYM Finance Committee and Permanent Board, and gave workshops on Prayer at the Yearly Meeting sessions as well as at Friends General Conference.

Candida expressed her creative abilities in both writing and painting. From 1965-78 she wrote four children's books specializing on minority groups, urban life, and strong female characters, and *Caves of No Return*, a science fiction for teens with low reading skills. From 1975-79, she was Managing and Production Editor for "Ranger Rick Nature Magazine" of the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D.C. Her publications also include *Intersections*, a book of prayers and meditations and *Pray Without Ceasing*, a prayer manual for

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Friends. Some of her paintings have been displayed at New England Yearly Meeting Sessions and at the Worcester Art Museum. Recently she combined her artistic and writing skills by creating cloth books for her granddaughter, whom she adored.

In her quiet way, Candida was a major influence in the Worcester-Pleasant Street Friends Meeting. She set an example of how Friends meetings should be conducted. She was always in her place at worship on First Day with her head bowed, as an example to other Friends to do the same as they entered the meeting room. Her messages in meeting were spiritual gems, and oftentimes contained quaint, subtle humor. She was our pleasant “watch-dog”, quietly admonishing us when we strayed from the “Quaker Way.”

Candida’s health was failing, but she never lost her independence. She attended meeting regularly and faithfully carried out her committee obligations. Meeting for worship never seemed complete without Candida in her usual place.

She will be missed greatly by local Friends and friends in homeless agencies, as well as in the larger community of Friends throughout New England.

—WORCESTER MONTHLY MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD  
QUARTERLY MEETING

### *Wesley Constantine Panunzio*

Wesley Constantine Panunzio was born January 12, 1913 in Cohasset, Massachusetts. He used his middle initial to make it clear that he was not his twin brother Wesley Vincent Panunzio. As a Harvard graduate, class of '35, Wesley returned there for his Masters in Modern Languages, and then Doctorate in Linguistics in 1957. One of Wesley’s former students arranged to make it possible for him to return each year to participate in Harvard’s graduation procession.

Wesley became a member of Westport Monthly Meeting in the mid 1960s. He had moved to Westport as he joined the Language Department at Southeastern Massachusetts University in Dartmouth. Wesley loved words and language. Each communication was precious and he was known by

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Friends for his concern for precise pronunciation, accurate grammar, and careful usage of words. He blessed many of us with frequent editions of his, "Human Principles", a guide for living that he believed if embraced would bring about World Peace.

Wesley served on Yearly Meeting's Permanent Board, Finance, Prejudice and Poverty, and Minority Concerns Committees. He was active in both Monthly and Yearly Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committees. One of his favorite fundraisers was the Heifer Project. Westport envisions that somewhere in the world there is a water buffalo nicknamed Wesley. He joined the Anti-Nuclear War marches in New York. He was a member of Witness for Peace and loved to share the experiences of his travels to Nicaragua in 1983 and in 1985. In 1988, he went to the Soviet Union and joined the Peace Cruise down the Dnieper River in the Ukraine. Even as his health declined, he continued to correspond with people he met on these trips.

Wesley was a frequent attender at the Friends General Conference Gatherings. He faithfully attended Yearly Meeting and is well remembered for his coffee house performances. He moved to the New England Home in Hingham as he needed more attention and finally to Alden Court in Fairhaven where he died at the age of 85 on November 14, 1998.

To most of us, Wesley was an older, gentle man, always dressed in a tie and jacket, holding three by five cards as he wrote your name, address and telephone number. He would quote a psalm or one of his own poems in Meeting, sometimes having to stop to catch the quaver in his voice as he was overcome with emotion. He wanted to hear your story and in return, he wanted you to hear his. He needed to be with people and counted on them to help him. Often at Westport at the rise of Meeting, as we say our names, we are poised to hear him once again declare loudly, melodiously, and uniquely, "Wesley C. Panoonzio."

—WESTPORT MONTHLY MEETING, SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

## NEYM 2000 Memorial Minutes

### ***Sylvia Stokes Perry***

Sylvia Stokes Perry was born September 5, 1922 in Moorestown, New Jersey, and died peacefully January 3, 2000 in Faulkner Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts after a valiant struggle against advanced cancer. She was the oldest daughter of Agnes Nicholson and Francis Collins Stokes.

A beloved daughter, she attended Moorestown Friends School and Vassar College, where she participated in college activities and the choir. At her request, a favorite Vassar hymn was sung at her Memorial Service at Wellesley Meeting. After graduation in 1944 she married Finley Perry of Boston and moved to Dover, Massachusetts, where they raised their four children. Sylvia was a product of the times and of a strong family tradition of service.

Sylvia did indeed contribute her energy and time in many circles. These included Dover affordable housing, Dover Garden Club, Vassar alumnae and fund raising activities, and the Society of Friends. To quote a long-time F/friend, "Sylvia grew up surrounded by those who had confidence in the Quaker way of life and this gave her the same confidence in it." We all experienced her lifelong involvement in Wellesley Monthly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting.

To quote a Stokes family member: "In 1952 several young Quaker families living in the Wellesley area demonstrated an interest in reviving the Friends Meeting that had been a part of the community during World War II that had been laid down in 1948. At the center of this group were Sylvia and Finley Perry. Together with Joseph and Ruth Stokes, they formed a First Day School that met in a tiny space above the Meeting Room lent by the Friends of Dana Hall School. Six or seven children, ages ranging from two to seven or eight, were taught all at once—a challenge to a neophyte teacher's skills. Sylvia's enthusiasm, unfailing good humor, and belief in the possible gave strength to the endeavor."

Sylvia was a recognized leader in Wellesley Meeting, where she served as Clerk and on nearly all the committees. She participated in every aspect of building the new Meeting room as well as most Meeting functions. Sylvia and Finley

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hosted our annual Meeting picnic for years. She is particularly remembered for her warm welcome of new members and encouraging regular attenders to join Wellesley Meeting.

In the late sixties and early seventies, minority groups approached many churches including the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting demanding recognition of their needs and asking for reparation. For some reason New England Yearly Meeting was not asked but Sylvia was one of those New England Friends who felt New England Yearly Meeting should respond to this current need. As a result, "Minute 60" was approved.

Sylvia was willing to serve as Clerk of the new Minute 60 Committee, which undertook to raise \$100,000 over five years to be spent for seed money for projects assisting minorities. The goal was met in five years and was proposed by Sylvia to become a standing committee called the Committee of Victims of Prejudice and Poverty. The Committee maintains its original function today, assisting many minority projects. Sylvia's staunch commitment to this committee was an invaluable role model to many newer Friends.

Her roles within New England Yearly Meeting are almost too numerous to list but here are a few. She clerked the Religious Education Committee 1965-1967, was Clerk of the Minute Sixty Committee 1970-75. In her capacity as Clerk of New England Yearly Meeting 1979-83, she represented New England Friends on the Interfaith Conference of Christians and Jews, becoming acquainted with many of the religious leaders of the Boston area. She later represented New England Yearly Meeting on the Board of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, and also on their Social Action Committee. Never reluctant to take on responsibility, she clerked the Student Loan Committee and participated in the Yearly Meeting survey on the State of our Society.

Sylvia always seemed able to speak her mind and was open to what came back to her. Her unguarded remarks thus provided an opening for others. It is not always easy for us to speak truthfully, for fear of being silly or hurting someone. Sylvia's life taught us a lesson in loving truthfulness. She preferred action to verbal piety but her inner religious

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convictions led her active sense of social responsibility. Those convictions shone brightly in her face, evident to all who saw her in her last days.

Sylvia's death leaves an emptiness where we were accustomed to seeing her, a noticeable loss felt by the newest and oldest members in the community of Wellesley Monthly Meeting. We were honored that some 400 Friends and acquaintances attended her Memorial Service at Wellesley Meeting, January 7, 2000.

—WELLESLEY MONTHLY MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

### *Thomas Perry*

Thomas Perry, born August 31, 1914, attended Westerly Monthly Meeting as a child, following in the footsteps of generations of Friends. He continued his involvement there after moving to Providence in 1946 with his wife, Katherine, and their young family. He joined the Providence Monthly Meeting in 1981. Tom had the knack of staying in touch with early connections while throwing himself into new associations. All his life he stayed actively engaged with family, friends, and professional associates. He shared his appreciation of wildlife through nature walks, and his wonderful nature slides which illuminated lectures, in his last home at Laurelmead. He had a superb skill of quiet, unobtrusive support. His experiences were gifts to others.

Service to others, doing what is in one's capacity—these were characteristics that Tom exhibited, along with his smile and chuckle. After completing his internship at Rhode Island Hospital, he served with that hospital's unit (the 48<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital) in Burma and India from 1943-1945. Throughout military service, he remained a Friend, applying his skills to comfort those injured by acts of war.

In 1945, he returned to Providence for a residency in surgery at RI Hospital. He was on the staff of Women and Infants and Miriam Hospitals, and was chief of surgery at the RI Group Health Association from 1974 to 1980. His contributions to the field of medicine also included president of the Rhode Island Medical Society, the New England Cancer Society,

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and the New England Surgical Society.

After he retired from practicing surgery in 1980, he was involved in mental health services, acting as president of the RI Council of Community Mental Health Centers. He served on the Board of Butler Hospital. Tom was clearly an “organizer.” In public health, mental health, and community health, he worked to develop medical organizations which he believed could provide for those most in need.

His long involvement in New England Yearly Meeting activities began in 1950 as a member of the committee for Moses Brown and Lincoln Schools, which he clerked (1956-57). His three daughters attended Lincoln School where he served as clerk of the Board of Overseers (1965-68). He loved and worked actively for these schools for forty years on many committees. In 1993, he was the NEYM representative to the Moses Brown Nominating Committee.

NEYM activities also brought him to the Permanent Board (1977-86), where he served as clerk from 1980 to 1983. He worked for many years on the Finance and Nominating Committees. Tom was more than a “bricks and mortar” man. He was actively involved in creating the NEYM Friends in Unity With Nature Committee, consistent with his love of nature. Not surprisingly, he served avidly for many years on the Board of the Audubon Society of RI. He was an excellent bird photographer.

The essence of his belief was that one’s inner resources should be shown. He delighted in sharing his favorite things: beach walks; their home with its garden and blueberry bushes, which fed a burgeoning bird population; designing and organizing a squad to build an observation platform at Laurelmead; or tidbits gleaned from his ongoing research into Rhode Island Quaker history.

His contributions to Providence Monthly Meeting are legend, serving as clerk of the building committee during the construction period for the “new” meetinghouse, participating in the Seekers reading groups, taking a leading role on many committees, and helping the meeting in a thousand large and small ways. He raked leaves in the fall, set up tables at

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Christmas, shoveled snow in winter, and, with Katherine, organized the spring picnic at their home in Scituate. He focused our discussions and helped us resolve every important issue for fifty years. Tom was calm, active, and ever present in the daily life of the Meeting.

He led with a light hand, often eager to support the initiatives of others. During the development of the Worship Group at the Adult Correctional Institution (RI), he encouraged others to take the lead. He was quick to become involved once the program started. Tom tirelessly participated in the ACI Worship Group from 1993 to 1999. He rarely missed a meeting and often came just because he wanted to be there, even as he faced his debilitating illness. He continued to seek the truth for himself, and helped others to find the light within, regardless of status or condition.

His messages in meeting were from the same source, gleanings and observations from his experience, readings, or activities. When there was an explanation that the Meeting needed, Tom's words clarified. He seemed to identify himself with the first person plural: We, as a member of the worship group at the ACI; We, as he talked to children at the First Day School about his memories growing up as a Friend; or We as he welcomed a new member into meeting. Well, Tom, We still hear you.

—PROVIDENCE MONTHLY MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD  
QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Robert Wehmeyer***

Waterboro Friends Meeting remembers with fondness one of its founding members, Robert Wehmeyer. He was actively involved in establishing Waterboro as a Monthly Meeting in 1982. He was the first treasurer of Waterboro Friends Meeting, serving for a total of 12 years. Bob often challenged our comfortable complacency at Meeting for Business by raising a concern he had on his heart. Bob looked forward to Falmouth Quarterly Meetings. He served on several clearness committees when new worship groups were ready to explore possibilities of membership. Who better to welcome

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new Friends, and, at the same time, share his knowledge of the meaning and the responsibilities of being a monthly meeting of Falmouth Quarter and of New England Yearly Meeting. Bob also was actively involved with Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy from its inception in 1992. Robert Wehmeyer died on December 22, 1999 at the age of 80 of Alzheimer's disease at the Pavilion of the Goodall Hospital in Sanford, Maine.

Raised to believe in the sanctity of life, Robert became a conscientious objector to the war, serving in Civilian Public Service camps in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. This was an important decision in Bob's life, which he proudly shared with young people and old alike at our Meeting. Just prior to entering CPS, Bob married Beatrice Smith, a young nurse who later joined him in Vermont, where they both worked for a time at a psychiatric hospital, the Brattleboro Retreat.

After his discharge from CPS in 1946, Bob and Bee and their two children settled in Goffstown, New Hampshire, where their third child was born. Bob worked as youth secretary and camp director at the Manchester YMCA. Here they attended Weare Monthly Meeting and became members of the Society of Friends in 1951. Robert's next job with Lincoln Life Insurance took him to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Denver, Colorado, and eventually back to New England in 1969. The family settled in Kezar Falls, Maine, where Bob continued with Lincoln Life until 1972 and then worked as a real estate broker until his retirement in 1981. Wherever Bob's professional life took him, Bob shared of himself and his gifts with others. In the 1960s, he served as clerk of Mountain View Friends Meeting in Denver and since he moved to Maine in 1969, he had been actively involved with New England Yearly Meeting of Friends. He served on the Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds, the Finance Committee, Friends Camp Committee, Ministry and Counsel, Permanent Board, and others.

He and Beatrice were pleased to represent the Yearly Meeting and FWCC at the World Conference of Friends in

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Kenya in 1991.

Some of Bob's joys were reading and listening to classical music and show tunes. He would often surprise and delight family and friends by reciting from memory long poems or belting out a favorite show tune. This sharing of his joy and of himself continued long after his illness began to rob him of other memories. His "Buon giorno" brought smiles to others as he greeted all he came in contact with enthusiastically. To know Bob was to be blessed by his open friendliness, that twinkle in his eye, and the joy one found in his company.

—WATERBORO MONTHLY MEETING, FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING