

Memorial Minutes 2008

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY
MEETING *of* FRIENDS

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NEYM
2008**

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Robert (Bob) Warren Hillegass (1924-2007)

Robert (Bob) Warren Hillegass died at his home in Greenfield, NH, of cancer, on May 14, 2007. He was born on May 19, 1924, in suburban Philadelphia to Harry and Rose Hillegass. Bob served in the U.S. Coast Guard and Navy during World War II and enrolled in Swarthmore College at the close of the war. Following graduation from Swarthmore, Bob met Virginia (Ginny) Hopkins while both were working at an Easter Seals summer camp for children with special needs. Their friendship soon grew into love, and they were married in 1953. Upon receiving a Master's Degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania, Bob accepted a teaching position at George School, a Quaker School in Newtown, PA. Bob taught at George School for nine years during which time he felt the influence of his Quaker colleagues on his life. One faculty member he particularly remembered was William Hubben, the Quaker teacher and writer, born in Germany, who later became editor of the *Friends Journal*. While at George School, Bob and Ginny attended the Newtown FM.

In 1960, Bob decided to leave George School to accept a position as an editor at the Houghton Mifflin Company in Boston. He and Ginny and their growing family (eventually a family of four daughters) moved to Needham, MA, where they participated in the activities of the Wellesley Friends Meeting and, in time, both joined that meeting. Bob then, after ten years with Houghton Mifflin, left his position in publishing in 1970.

At this point, Bob began a life of intense, full-time, peace activism. This activism was clearly prompted by his response to the enormity of the threat to human existence posed by the nuclear arms race. Feeling supported by Friends, he discovered and joined a peace group called Ailanthus. This was a Boston-based group composed mostly of Roman Catholic lay people and clergy and committed to peace activism that included non-violent civil disobedience when such action was deemed appropriate by the group. The projects of Ailanthus led to arrest, trial, and, on occasion, incarceration for Bob and others. One such trial is described by Bob in a Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *Nonviolence on Trial*.

Many observers of this period consider the daring work of Ailanthus and similar groups to have been the sparks which ignited the widespread Nuclear Freeze Movement, a movement which contributed significantly to international policy decisions tamping

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down the arms race.

In 1989, Bob and Ginny moved to Greenfield, NH, the community of Ginny's childhood, and the Monadnock MM in Jaffrey, NH, became their spiritual home. Bob continued his participation in socially significant action. He worked energetically and effectively in the Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) in New Hampshire, an activity he had begun while living in Massachusetts. One former prison inmate remembered Bob as the person who helped to reshape his life. In his most recent years, he gave his time and energies to New England Friends in Unity with Nature (NEFUN). He served on the NEFUN Committee for NEYM and provided insights and leadership that helped shape the committee. One short paper he wrote for NEFUN he titled *Towards a Quaker Ecology of Concerns*. In this paper, he points out that all the Quaker testimonies are linked and all depend upon a sustainable natural world. As his paper concludes, there is no peace on earth without peace with earth.

At a personal level, Bob's interest in environmental concerns was expressed in his raising of roses. Bob's father had fostered this interest when Bob was a child. In a memorial service held at the Monadnock Meetinghouse, many friends spoke of the gracious way Bob had shared his joy in raising roses with them, and others spoke of the way he had enriched the environment of the meetinghouses where he worshiped with a frequent gift of roses. In fact, in his life he used all the gifts given to him to the fullest.

—MONADNOCK MONTHLY MEETING, NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Louis J. Marstaller (1920-2007)

Louis J. Marstaller died June 18, 2007. He was born in Brunswick, ME, on May 5, 1920, son of Ernest F. and Lelia S. Gatchell Marstaller. He graduated from Brunswick High School in 1937, from Wentworth Institute in Boston in 1939 in electrical construction, and from Earlham College in Richmond, IN, in 1942, with a BA in political science. Louis worked under the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in civilian public service as a conscientious objector from 1943-1946, in forestry and fighting forest fires in Oregon.

Louis married Clarabel Hadley in 1948. He worked in the family business from the time the Maine Idyll Motor Court opened in 1932 in Freeport, ME, and in the lumber business with his father. He was a member of the Durham Monthly Meeting and served the meeting on committees and as a presiding clerk from 1951-1953. He

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was on the American Friends Board of Missions of Five-Years Meeting (now Friends United Meeting), in the 1950s was a representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, D.C., and was a representative to the Friends World Committee for Consultation World Conference in Oxford, England, in 1952.

Louis served the town of Freeport, ME, on budget, school study, and building committees, as selectman, moderator of town meetings, and representative to the Maine State Legislature (1969-1973). He served on the boards of the Oak Grove School in Vassalboro, ME, the Maine Council of Churches, the Freeport Merchants Association, and on the board and a term as president of the Maine Innkeepers Association and the Freeport Historical Society.

Louis was appointed field secretary of the New England Yearly Meeting in 1957. His initial salary was \$3000 for a four-day week. The committee that recommended him stated that they wanted a young man from their own yearly meeting. Louis served the yearly meeting for 24 years. By the time he retired, in 1982, most New England Friends could not remember a field secretary other than Louis.

Louis traveled around New England visiting monthly meetings, especially the small ones, helping them maintain their vitality. Often he drove over 20,000 miles a year. Louis listened to disputes that sometimes threatened monthly meetings and did what he could to mediate them. He offered advice on topics ranging from building maintenance to Christian education. His advice was almost always warmly received, for New England Friends realized Louis was an authentic man in the Down East tradition. Rarely did he speak more than was required of him. His words were clear and direct, never overbearing and tedious. Moreover, they were frequently leavened by an amusing anecdote. Who could not enjoy Louis?

Louis was not one to insist that the leadership of the yearly meeting always be maintained by elders. He would reach out to new attenders of yearly meeting sessions, including those who came from different traditions or had a somewhat different outlook on life than he, quietly but insistently urging these newcomers to a life of service to NEYM. He realized that during his quarter century of work that the yearly meeting was changing, that fewer friends were pastoral and Christ-centered, as was he. Yet he went more than halfway in his outreach to them.

In addition, Louis visited as many quarterly meetings as he could, sat in on yearly meeting committee gatherings, and worked

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with young friends. We especially remember his monitoring of Edwin Hinshaw, hired in 1963 as Young Friends secretary. Louis also helped his wife, Clarabel, hired in 1959 as administrative secretary.

The yearly meeting's central office was at their home in Freeport, ME, and those passing through were always assured of a warm greeting and an excellent cup of coffee.

Louis was not always pleased with what he found. In his annual reports, however brief, he continuously urged us to promote the spiritual growth of all our members, to accept responsibility for the life of the yearly meeting, particularly to accept appointments to yearly meeting committees, to follow God's will before our own, and to reflect whether our lives and words are witnessing to the Truth we should be publishing. He noted that the aridity of some business meetings might tend to drive people away from Friends.

He could elder us when he thought it necessary. For example, he wrote in his annual report in 1967, "Some seem to consider the Society the last stronghold of the individual with little regard for our Christian heritage or the ideas and desires of the rest of the group... If we are to say anything, we can't be all things to all people." In 1970 he wrote, "If the field secretary has a theme song it might be the old spiritual, *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen*. In these days of everybody seeking his 'rights,' many seem to lose the feel and desire to fulfill corporate responsibility."

But Louis couldn't help being an optimist. He wrote in the first of his annual reports, in 1958, "The future is bright if we seek God's Will, use our talents for His purposes, forgive and forget past mistakes and misunderstandings, and work together, trusting each other."

A memorial service was held for Louis on June 23 at Durham MM. He is survived by his wife, Clarabel; four children: David, Nancy, Robert, and Thomas; as well as a sister, Lelia E. Taylor.

—DURHAM MONTHLY MEETING, FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING

Eve Carey (1920-2005)

Eve (Nathanson) Carey was born to Jeannette (Rosefield) Nathanson and (Joseph) George Nathanson in 1920 in Providence, RI. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1943. In 1946, Eve received a Masters of Arts degree in Ceramics from Alfred University, Alfred, NY. In 1948, she met and married John Arthur Carey II, grandson of Arthur Linn Carey of Ohio Yearly

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Meeting. For the next few years, her work was very well received.

Her pots had a special smooth, satiny finish with lovely colors both subtle and bright. Her work, like her Italian mentors, had religious, mythical, and allegorical themes. Some were whimsical representations of fables, myth, and legends. Other pieces had more basic designs of blueberry branches, dogwoods, or blue birds. Still other pieces relied on classic designs that are reminiscent of baroque or gothic patterns with acanthus leaves or gioch and with an almost oriental influence.

For Eve, her work was an outward manifestation of her inner reality. Her life was grounded in the principles of equality, love, joy, peace, and harmony. She was not content to simply speak the words of her Quaker faith that all people have that of God within and that this spirit will speak to all who listen. Her life was a testament to these beliefs whether as a teacher, a friend, a mother, or a potter.

In the early 1950s, she moved back to Southboro, MA. During this time, she also visited John's Quaker family in Leesburg, OH, and became a member of their Leesburg Monthly Meeting. For the next few years, she and her family would occasionally attend worship at Friends Meeting at Cambridge. While there, she met with several other Friends who lived in the Framingham area. Together they formed a worship group, found a building for a meetinghouse, and established Framingham Friends Meeting. Eve served as clerk of the meeting, clerk of Ministry & Counsel and also participated in various activities of the Yearly Meeting, including the 1973 Revision Committee for the 1985 *Faith and Practice*. Summers she and her family spent on Cape Cod attending Yarmouth Friends Meeting. She is remembered fondly by Friends on Cape Cod for the Quaker picnics she hosted with her husband in their lovely tree-studded yard, and for her sincere welcome to all newcomers.

In 1962, when she and her husband John saw the property on Route 6A in Dennis, MA, they instinctively knew it was to be their home. The earth planted with apple trees, the birds singing made it was obvious that this was to be their Eden. Surrounded by roses, bluebells and ivy, Eve Carey's studio at Eden Hand Arts Shop was once a chicken coop. While most everyone else had to duck as they enter, her 4' 11" frame perfectly fit the proportions of her space. Though she was small in stature, her influence on others was powerful and her humor, skill, and sensitivity attracted every age.

Her artistic work continued to reflect her spiritual witness. A teapot was not simply a teapot. A teapot was a means of expressing

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the harmony in life. Often it would share a larger message and have a scene that could be a parable or a moral truth. A common theme for Eve was the lion coexisting with the lamb.

Even her designs that did not explicitly tell a story have a centered quality of peace. Often, customers shared the joy and happiness they feel when they drink out of one of her mugs. They said it brings them a sense of inner peace. They have shared how her work has brightened their spirit when they felt burdened or sad.

Eve displayed a cheerful optimism even while enduring grave health problems in her last few years. Eve died at home on April 7, 2005. She was 84 years old. A memorial service was held in the manner of Friends on April 17, 2005, overflowing the East Sandwich meetinghouse with over 150 people. She is survived by her husband John, daughter Rachel, and three grandchildren: John IV (Aslan), Emily, and Alex. Her legacy lives on among her family and friends and she will be remembered as a warm and generous spirit. Living one moment at a time, she brought to life the beauty, the serenity and the joy that was and still is present at Eden.

—BARNSTABLE FRIENDS MEETING (WORSHIP GROUP), SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

Alice Cope Wills (1911-2007)

Alice Cope Wills was an extraordinary human being who touched many lives, much to the benefit of all of them. Alice served as the clerk of Westerly MM from 1978 to 1985 but she was the hub of the meeting for much longer than that. In 1992, Alice moved to the Quaker retirement community of Kendal at Longwood in Kennett Square, PA, where she resided amongst family and friends until the time of her death on Sunday, October 28th, 2007.

Alice was born on June 6, 1911 in Lansdowne, PA. She was one of three daughters of architect and painter C. Edgar Cope and landscape designer Ethel Rapp Cope. At age two, Alice's father accepted a position in Iowa and moved the family to the Midwest. Alice was fortunate to have grown up in a Quaker household that valued the arts. Her great uncle George Cope was a nationally known painter, and both of her sisters (Ethel Mary and Elva) pursued artistic paths. Suffice it to say, art was in her family genes.

At age 16, Alice headed back to the east coast to attend Westtown School in PA. It was during her senior year (1929) that she met her husband-to-be Joseph Borton Wills, who was a student at Haverford College. After high school, Alice attended Grinnell and

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Swarthmore Colleges. In 1932, she and Bort were married in a Quaker ceremony at Westtown Monthly Meeting. Their children were born in Audubon, NJ, where the Wills first made their home.

In 1945, the Wills moved to Westerly, RI, where Bort worked as a sales executive for a grain company owned by Harvey Perry. Alice and Bort were frugal and saved their money to purchase a lovely piece of property on the coast at Osbrook Point. Here they built an A-frame home, which looked southwest facing Stonington and Fisher's Island. Bort died in 1963. Alice worked at the Westerly Library for a period of time, but when her children were older, she welcomed the opportunity to work as an art teacher at Pine Point, an independent elementary/middle school in Stonington, CT. For 23 years, Alice shared her enthusiasm and love of art, teaching students how to weave, paint, draw, create animated films, batiks and clay creations, and just "make things." Alice's students were devoted to her and many remained her friends throughout her life. Like Alice, some became accomplished artists.

Alice's life was one that was intertwined with her faith, her family, and her passion for art and teaching. She often shared that it was the Inner Light that nurtured her through her journey as a Quaker, an artist and a teacher. This could be seen in her creations—pure and simple in form, but in a quiet way very powerful with images that stayed with you.

She was always a wonderful model for the rising generation of young Quakers in Westerly MM. It was clear that these young Friends were not drawn to Alice because of her weighty position as an elder or clerk of the meeting, but rather because she had a young mind and soul that did not equate with her chronological years. Friends young and old appreciated Alice's straightforwardness and her nonjudgmental guidance. Alice's ability to relate to all people and all God's creatures was quite a remarkable gift.

In 1977, Alice retired from teaching and began a small cottage industry. Alice was never one to sit around for long and she was excited to finally have the time to create her own art. This she did in the basement studio of her home. Retired, yes, but not able to hang up her teacher's hat, Alice continued teaching her craft to former students, colleagues and friends of all ages.

When she was not creating art, Alice kept herself and others busy with meeting activities — Friday night discussions at the meetinghouse, draft counseling, participating in vigils in front of the Westerly Post Office, assisting with community outreach, watching

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and discussing Bill Moyers' tapes, cleaning/painting the meetinghouse (inside and out), and the list goes on.

Alice will always be remembered for her unfailing love and warm-hearted help and support of others, her engaging laugh and smile, her humor and openness. As clerk of Westerly MM, Alice had a deep understanding of "right ordering" and was resourceful and watchful that Quaker practices be strictly kept. She was led by strong "concerns" for many issues of peace and justice. Her pursuit of solutions was mindfully conducted, and she welcomed the input of others. She would often cajole and inspire Friends to open their minds and hearts, so that they too might truly listen to the opinions of others differing from their own. She conducted business meetings "briskly and with common sense." We are so blessed to have had this soul among us. Her enthusiasm and creativity often carried the meeting not only through good times, but through the difficult ones as well.

—WESTERLY MONTHLY MEETING, RI, SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING

Margaret (Peggy) Beth Reber (1953-2007)

Peggy Reber was born in Illinois on December 27, 1953, to Elwood and Alta Mae Reber, who became convinced Friends while attending Berea College in Kentucky. Elwood Reber was a conscientious objector during World War II, and both parents were very committed to the peace testimony. Elwood and Alta Mae Reber were among the founding members of the Urbana-Champaign MM, and Peggy was a birthright member of that meeting. The family later moved to Amherst, MA, where they attended Mt. Toby MM, and then to Lafayette, IN, where they attended Lafayette MM. Peggy learned from her parents' example the importance of active service at all these meetings.

Peggy completed her undergraduate work at Indiana University and Texas Women's University (1975) in Elementary Education, and Masters degrees in Biology from Texas Woman's College (1978), and in Public Health from Harvard University (1981). She worked as a medical administrator for Tufts New England Medical Center and Children's Hospital in Boston from 1982-1998. During this extremely busy period, she raised her daughter Dierdra with great care and love, being both mother and friend to her as well as to her friends. Peggy later did massage therapy in her home, and taught it at several schools in Auburn and Lewiston, ME. She also took some courses in horticulture, and she and her partner Donn Davis kept

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amazing gardens in Mechanic Falls and in Wilton, ME.

Peggy was a member of Beacon Hill FM during her Boston years. She served as clerk of Ministry & Worship Committee, took part in presenting a workshop on Financial Alignment at Pendle Hill with her faithful friend Penny Yunuba, and lived in the Beacon Hill residence for a time. She is remembered fondly by her many friends there, for her gracefulness and joy, her close relationship with God, her ability to call out the spirit in others, and her determination and resolve in facing difficult issues. Peggy moved to Gloucester, MA, in 1995, where she met Donn Davis. She then moved to Newburyport in 1997, where she attended Amesbury MM. She and Donn subsequently moved to Mechanic Falls, ME, in 2000, where she attended Oxford Hills MM. In 2003, they moved to a lovely farm on a hillside in East Wilton, ME. She then transferred her membership from Beacon Hill FM to Farmington MM.

Peggy came into our meeting like a beacon of Light. She emanated a glowing spirituality that touched all of us deeply. When she spoke out of the silence, she was careful to be inclusive of everyone, and her warmth and joy helped develop a sense of community in our meeting. She was always grounded in the spirit, whether in worship, in profound discernment, in social gatherings, or in lighthearted fun. She loved life and everything it had to offer: people, songs and other music, flowers, growing and giving vegetables she had grown. She also brought the experience of a lifelong Quaker, and a commitment to enter fully into all aspects of our meeting's life. She took a leading role in envisioning a structure for our meeting life, drafting guidelines for officers and committees that would clarify responsibilities, be self-sustaining, and allow for growth.

When our meeting experienced a paralyzing conflict, Peggy was instrumental in arranging for an outside facilitator who helped us talk openly about our feelings and start the healing process. She also brought the issue of torture to our full attention, attending a Quakers United Against Torture conference at Guilford College, and leading us in the drafting of a minute against torture that went forward to Vassalboro QM and NEYM.

Farmington Friends were delighted when she asked to be married under the care of our meeting. This was a first for us, and she guided us gently and expertly through the process leading up to the wedding. She and Donn were married in the presence of many family members and friends on a beautiful August day in 2006, in her

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backyard under the family's ancient maple trees, surrounded by the glorious blooming shrubs and flowers she had planted and tended.

During her final year, as she followed a Spirit-led journey while living with the cancer that finally took her life, Peggy cared for us, her friends, and her family very tenderly. She gradually led us to realize the gravity of her condition, allowing us to lend a hand when necessary, but always checking to see how we were doing, too.

Peggy died very peacefully on September 14, 2007. She is survived by her husband Donn, sisters Ruth and Rebecca, daughter Dierdra and her husband Xavier, and her granddaughters Lucia and Stella. Peggy's last wish was that she be remembered with joy.

—FARMINGTON FRIENDS MEETING, VASSALBORO QUARTERLY MEETING

Peter Paul Jonitis (1913-2007)

To know Peter was to be engaged by a person who thought deeply about life and social good will, and who loved the world of people and nature, especially fishing. Peter Paul Jonitis was born in West Fitchburg, MA, on April 23, 1913, to Alice and John Jonitis, Lithuanian immigrants. He cherished his ancestry and wrote several articles about Lithuania during his academic career.

Peter married Elizabeth Wright in 1946 and the two celebrated 61 years of marriage. Peter and Elizabeth's immediate family consists of daughter Karen and her husband, Don Rhonda of Perrysburg, OH. Their son Peter Paul Jr., pre-deceased his father.

Peter graduated from Clark University in 1939 and completed his Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, 1951. He joined the Bates College faculty from 1953-1967, and then was chair and professor of sociology at Florida Southern College until 1974. During the late 1970s, Peter was co-host, with Elizabeth, at Davis House, Washington, D.C., and an international guesthouse under care of the AFSC. In 1981-82, he was the T. Wistar Brown Fellow at Haverford College, PA, researching the *Quaker contribution to early American penology, 1773-1830*. In 1984, Peter was commissioned by the Governor of the State of Maine as a member of the Board of Visitors to the Maine State Prison at Thomaston.

Peter, a recorded minister of NEYM, served the Religious Society of Friends as supply pastor of Oak Street FM and Durham MM in ME, representative to 1967 FWCC World Conference, member of NEYM Ministry & Counsel, member of NE AFSC Executive Committee, and AFSC Maine Indian Program Committee, and as an active participant in Falmouth QM and Durham MM. A high point in

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Peter's life of which he spoke often in Adult Sunday School class at Durham was the year 1959-1960 when he, with his family, taught at Friends Boys and Girls Schools in Ramallah, Jordan. Peter often spoke and prayed in meeting for racial justice, peace and international good will. At coffee hour, he was quick to ask if the fish were biting.

Peter was a true Quaker and a very good friend.

—DURHAM FRIENDS MEETING, FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING

Mayme Kishi Noda (1919-2006)

In April 2006, we lost a beloved member of our meeting, Mayme Kishi Noda, who died suddenly and unexpectedly from respiratory failure. Mayme moved to Hanover with her husband, Lafayette, in 1957. They began attending our meeting upon their arrival, about one year after we first formed. We consisted then of a handful of Friends, gathering each week in one of our homes or in a room borrowed from Dartmouth College.

Mayme formally joined the meeting only after many years of attending, but from the beginning of her time with us until the end, she was an active member of our community who brought to us music, laughter, an unwavering commitment to peace and justice, and a capacity for caring about each of us that helped encourage and sustain many of us individually and our meeting as a whole.

Mayme was born in 1919 in the Yamato Colony, an intentional farming community established by an idealistic Japanese businessman in San Francisco who bought undeveloped land in the San Joaquin Valley, near the town of Livingston, CA. The daughter of immigrants—a Nisei (second-generation Japanese American)—Mayme grew up secure within a tightly knit Japanese community, though anti-Japanese hatred and legislation in California were strong. She and her family were among the more than 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans who were imprisoned during the war. Just after her college graduation, Mayme and her family were “relocated” to Amache, a prison camp in Colorado. Following the war, she continued her study of music and prepared for a career in teaching. In 1947, she married Lafayette Noda, a scientist whose family was also part of the Yamato Colony community. In 1950, their daughter Kesaya Elizabeth Grace was born, and in 1952, their son David was born.

Mayme was introduced to Quakerism through Lafayette. As newlyweds, while Lafayette worked on a Ph.D. at Stanford, the

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couple attended the Palo Alto Meeting. They continued to find and join Quaker meetings with each move east—to Wisconsin, MD, and finally, to New Hampshire. Mayme said that she first found it difficult to sit in silence, and she was afraid that she could not live up to the testimonies. In fact, because of her own experiences with prejudice, she had an intense, personal commitment to issues of justice. She found it natural to look for the goodness of God in all people, and she came to treasure Quaker worship, sinking deep into the silence. She later encouraged others who were new to worship and having difficulty with it.

From the beginning of their marriage, Lafayette and Mayme built a life based upon Quaker commitments and principles. They were both activists and war resisters, supporting the Civil Rights Movement, resisting the Vietnam War, protesting the building of nuclear power plants and the bombing of Iraq. Mayme was arrested and imprisoned three times — once in Washington, D.C., during a protest against the Vietnam War; once locally, when she sat down with others in front of a bus full of Vietnam draftees; and once during a protest against the building of the Seabrook, NH, nuclear power plant. Given her own wartime experiences, she was particularly brave. Reminiscing about her arrest at Seabrook, Mayme later remembered that she burst into tears when the crowd of protesters was shut behind a gate by the police. She realized years afterward that she had probably been having a flashback to her imprisonment in Colorado.

A few years ago, Mayme gave a talk about the influence of Quakerism on her life. She said: “Quakerism has been a guide to our lives, teaching us to treasure all human life and to protect those rights non-violently. The meeting gives us the courage to act when we see racism, classism, and violence. It has made us strong and unafraid and able to act when the world goes awry. Without the Quakers, we would have been blind to many issues.”

We are grateful for all that Mayme found in Quakerism and in our meeting, but we are led, too, to remember all that she gave us. She was a steady, loving presence, and we counted on seeing her at worship every First Day. She kept track of us personally, probing to learn how we really were doing, encouraging, supporting, offering no-nonsense advice, and an unwavering acceptance for each of us as we are. She was strong in the expression of her opinions, but her matter-of-fact brusqueness held within it an immense generosity and tenderness. Over the course of about ten years, she knitted a

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beautiful sweater for every young child in our meeting. She played hymns and led the singing before each meeting for worship. She shared with us our sorrows and joys. We miss her deeply, and we thank God for her life among us.

—HANOVER FRIENDS MEETING, NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Douglas Adam Uранеck (1941-2007)

Douglas Adam Uранеck died from complications of Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) on October 4, 2007. A life-long seeker and provocative presence, Doug was a devoted Friend for many years, active in Portland FM, Acadia MM, and NEYM, as well as other Friends organizations.

Doug was born May 4, 1941 in Detroit, MI, to Rachel La Messurier and William Uранеck. He was the oldest son in a family of five sisters and one brother. His parents encouraged them from the earliest age to question and experiment.

When Doug was 21, his brother Carl, an artist, was shot by police. Helping Carl with his disability became a lifelong commitment. Even then Doug was an avid researcher and compassionate care provider; his family remembers Doug soon after the accident discovering a theory about repeating earlier stages of development to promote healing. Doug crawled all over the house encouraging and challenging Carl to do the same.

To those of us in his community it is easy to imagine this behavior. Doug always searched for healing and when he discovered something he believed would help, was quite willing to crawl ahead, challenging the rest of us to follow.

His intellectual curiosity led him to read widely. Outspoken in his commitment to sustainable living, he studied climate history, geopolitics, and America's dependence on oil. He tried the latest nutrition and diet theories. Good-humored and without stuffiness or conceit, he relished philosophical argument, which, however intense, he never made personal.

Doug graduated from Goddard College with a major in psychology. His roommate remembers even then [that] he was "on the way." He then completed theological studies at Tufts School of Religion, formerly known as the Crane Theology School, where he showed a passionate appreciation of the wisdom in all religions. From 1969-1970 he was a part-time Unitarian Universalist minister in Boston.

In 1970, Doug gave a kidney to one of his sisters and drove a

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school bus during recovery. Joan Pierce was also driving a bus as she completed her graduate degree in art history. Less than a year later, they were married. Not long after, they moved to Maine when Joan was hired by the Maine College of Art in Portland.

Intense peace work during the Vietnam conflict connected Doug to folks at Portland FM. By 1976, Doug and Joan were regular attenders. That year Friend Harold Burnham delivered their son, Chris.

A welder by trade, his creative spirit is evident in metalwork in and around Portland, including the Breakwater School gate, the Willard Beach “peace sign,” and the entranceway to Portland FM. As a metal fabricator for the U.S. Coast Guard, he built the first solar panel used at a Maine lighthouse. For his fishing vessel safety design, he received a commendation from Vice President Albert Gore. Always a hard worker, at age 60 he continued to put in 70-hour weeks constructing oil rigs.

Doug became a devoted Quaker with inclinations toward Buddhism. Though Doug for many years was an attender, because he wasn't sure there should be a process for membership, he was very active in the life of the meeting. He finally joined in December of 1980. Doug participated in meeting for business, where he brought to discussion a perspective that was always fresh though sometimes quirky. He taught adult religious education, and was on numerous committees, including Earth & Spirit, to which he brought a deep commitment and passion, Cemetery, Buildings & Grounds, and finally Ministry & Counsel. He put in years on the Robert Philbrook Support Committee. His vocal ministry in meeting for worship often moved us to deeper levels, unifying his study of the Bible and other resources with his compassion, insight, and humor. He will be remembered by many as a listener as well as a speaker. He was a treasured member of Bible study and spiritual growth groups.

Doug always explored widely and that was true in the wider Quaker world as well. He brought energy and wisdom to yearly meeting committees on Ministry & Counsel, and Peace & Social Concerns. Doug was part of the group that launched Friends in Unity with Nature (now Earthcare Ministry). His work with Friends United Meeting carried him to a Kenyan orphanage with two suitcases filled with clothes. He was deeply moved by his time on the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs and traveled to Alabama to help at a Native American school.

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He attended NEYM for more than 15 years, participating in many areas including the early morning worship for healing, Friends in Unity with Nature, and hard-fought tennis matches. Doug worked on making YM Sessions more accessible, a fact he would appreciate in 2006 when his ALS meant moving with a cane, or for greater distances, a wheelchair. Only one year later his declining health kept him home, but ever the communicator Doug sent a letter with a wonderful description of the spiritual richness of Yearly Meeting:

“I have known since the middle 1960s that life on earth is really life within heaven. Sometimes I get forgetful and distracted about this heavenly abode but every year at NEYM, I am reawakened, charmed, and blessed by the powerful Quaker lights and insights. Every year I come home full of life renewed and enabled to live more joyously. By this time next year if the disease progresses at its current rate I will probably be in the other heaven.”

Fearlessly crawling ahead, he offered this advice to NEYM:

“I hope in the not too distant future, NEYM will begin to invest in good soils and timber, leaving behind the folly of the stock market. Perhaps some day composting will rise to the level of sacramental duties. Being a novice Buddhist I plan to reincarnate fairly rapidly and join you in a new body in the not too distant future. Keep a look out for me as I suspect I will have the same hairdo that I have had in this existence.”

Doug’s contribution to the spiritual life of Portland FM increased rather than decreased during the final months of his life. The problems that had him hobbling to meeting in the fall of 2004 would at last be diagnosed as ALS in May 2006. With help from friends, Doug built his own vehicle lift for his wheelchair. In July 2007, he wrote, “This disease has captured my body and has left me 75 percent atrophied and in a considerable amount of pain. I spend at least 65 percent of my waking time in bed.”

For quite a while, our Pastoral Care Committee coordinated help for Joan and Chris as Doug’s physical needs increased. Then we wondered how to help as professional caregivers became involved. We received a wonderful gift when Doug and his family joined eHope. This Web site allowed the family to post needs, updates, news, and insights so members of the meeting, the Buddhist community, and his neighbors could see where to connect. It was incredible. There was scrumptious food, lawn mowing, learning to drive wheelchairs and wheelchair vans, gardening, singing, laughter, prayer and tears. We began to hold a small meeting for worship at

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the Uraneck home when Portland Friends moved to a 5 p.m. summer meeting and Doug was too tired late in the day.

These were blessed times.

On September 8, 2007, Doug's community gathered with him at his home. We wanted to celebrate Doug, and he and his family wanted to celebrate the community of care. Some thought this might be a time with Doug as listener, but his voice miraculously recovered and he led the way. Chiding us for being grateful for him the individual, he leaned in his wheelchair, his body so worn down, and said: "When you are sitting where I am, you can see that gratitude is the fundamental force in the universe. It is so much greater than a particular person or life."

We rented a hall at Woodford's Congregational Church for Doug's memorial service, as our meetinghouse wasn't big enough for the wide community of people who gathered in gratitude to celebrate his life. Doug is sorely missed by his wife Joan (Pierce) Uraneck of South Portland and his son, Christopher Uraneck of Yarmouth. Doug was a generous, creative, joyful soul with an extraordinary breadth of interests. We are profoundly grateful he was part of our community and showed us so much about how to live and die.

—PORTLAND FRIENDS MEETING, FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING