

# Memorial Minutes 2010

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY  
MEETING *of* FRIENDS

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NEYM  
2010

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## *John Sutton Barlow, (1925-2008)*

John Sutton Barlow was born June 10, 1925 in North Carolina, where he was raised as a Presbyterian. Upon graduation with degrees in mathematics and physics from the University of North Carolina in 1944, he served in the US Navy until 1946. John then returned to UNC for an M.S. in physics. In 1948, he resigned from the Naval Reserves because he had become a conscientious objector to war. He decided to seek a medical degree, which he received from Harvard Medical School in 1953. He then began his career of over fifty years at Massachusetts General Hospital, working mainly in the analysis of electroencephalograms and designing electronic models of brain function.

During a year at Johns Hopkins before medical school, John would occasionally attend Homewood Friends Meeting in Baltimore and work in the clothing room. At meetings of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, he met Sibylle, and they were married at Stony Run Meeting in 1950.

John began attending Cambridge Meeting in 1951 and became a member in 1955. He attended meeting in Acton when the Barlows moved there in 1957. When it became a monthly meeting, he transferred his membership to Acton, where he was active into the 1980s, serving at times as clerk and on committees. In New England Yearly Meeting, he served on Ministry and Counsel and Permanent Board and helped in the Yearly Meeting office.

John's discovery of his bisexuality led to a process of acknowledgment, growth, and acceptance within Acton Meeting, and was a major contributor to the Meeting's 1982 minute on relationships which laid the foundation for its later minute on gay marriage.

Besides his professional work, John's active interests included train travel, world affairs (particularly the UN), music, bicycling and unicycling, and reading biographies of scientists. He had a special love for the music of J. S. Bach (whose initials he proudly shared), which he played on the pipe organ he built at home, in a series of open rehearsals at Yearly Meeting Sessions at Wheaton College in 1975, and on his trips abroad. Acton Meeting fondly remembers the yearly carol sings at the Barlow home with John's accompaniment on his organ. His punning is also widely and fondly remembered.

In his last years, John's connection with Acton Meeting was through Sibylle, who took care of him at home. In 2006, he

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celebrated Bach's birthday with a party to release the CD of his 1975 Wheaton College organ performances. He died February 15, 2008.

—ACTON MONTHLY MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

### *Arthur Howland Brinton, (1906-2009)*

Arthur Brinton was born on December 9, 1906 at Glenrose, Pennsylvania, a farming community about 35 miles west of Philadelphia. His parents were Quakers Eleanor (Fisher) Brinton, who had emigrated from Ireland via Argentina, and David Brinton, descended from generations of Quaker landowners and farmers in that area. Arthur was the third of four children. He spent his young years at Glenrose where his father was an agricultural entrepreneur, miller, and postman, with other jobs and duties normal to a rural setting. Arthur was home-schooled through the elementary curriculum and then attended Westtown School, a Quaker boarding school near Philadelphia.

Arthur remembered having no further educational plans after leaving Westtown, but a family friend suggested to him that he might attend college to become a teacher. And so between the ages of 19 and 24 he attended Haverford College, graduating with a B.A. in English literature.

Upon graduation in 1932, he secured a position teaching English at George School, a Quaker boarding school in Bucks County north of Philadelphia. He taught at George School until retiring in 1971. He took time away from George School to obtain his M.A. at Yale in the 1930s and during World War II for Alternative Service in Ohio.

At the school, he was in charge of the Orton (freshman) dormitory and the boys who lived there nicknamed him "The Baron." During his bachelor years at George School, Arthur had a reputation as a spiffy dresser and drove a sporty Ford convertible. Arthur coached the junior varsity soccer team for decades. In 1939, he met Kate Keith Durfee, a newly hired mathematics teacher from upstate New York, and a year later, they were married. Living on the George School campus for his entire career, he and Kate raised five children, including a foster daughter.

In 1943 and 1944, Arthur and Kate lived in Cincinnati Ohio, for his Alternative Service. They were managers of a halfway house for Japanese-American families who had been released from internment camps. Since the Japanese-Americans had been uprooted from their old homes, one of Arthur and Kate's jobs was to help them find

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housing and to survive until they were ready to move on.

In the summer of 1949, Arthur accompanied the first George School Summer Work Camp group to (West) Germany, part of a Quaker inspired effort to heal the wounds of war. The American students lived and worked in a small reconstruction project together with students from the Jacobi Gymnasium school in Düsseldorf. George School also participated in the post-war student exchange program in which young Americans had a chance to change places with students from Germany or France for one year.

In 1940, Arthur and Kate bought Wenlock Edge, a farm property outside of Ludlow, Vermont, where they spent every summer enjoying life without the benefits of running water, electricity or telephone, and cooking on a wood stove. After retirement in 1971, they had the house renovated to include plumbing, electricity, telephone, and central heat, and moved there permanently. However, they retained and used their wood cookstove for some 35 more years.

During the 1970s, Arthur and Kate participated in peace activities in Vermont. They were founding members of Wilderness Friends Meeting and later the Black River Coop. Arthur also served as president of the Black River Historical Society in Ludlow for a few years.

In the year 2001, with health failing, Arthur moved to a small local nursing home where he lived, with only two interruptions, until his death on August 19, 2009

—WILDERNESS MONTHLY MEETING, NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Gordon Mervin Browne, (1923-2009)***

Gordon's greeting was legendary. A wide smile lit up his face and spread to a sparkling welcome in his eyes. The warmth and openness of his reception radiated at once acceptance and expectation, engaging friends across the spectrum of the Quaker family. "I had the distinct intuition," wrote a former colleague of Gordon's, "that he served as sort of pastor to the entire Quaker western hemisphere."

The faith that fairly shone from Gordon was central to his being. After youthful years of restless seeking, he found his spiritual home among Friends. His life attested to the love, labor, joy, and grace that can flow from a life grounded in the power of the Spirit. From his home meetings in Evanston, Illinois; Cape Cod, Massachusetts; Plainfield and Peacham, Vermont and throughout New England

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Yearly Meeting to the global arena of Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC), Gordon companioned and challenged Friends in witnessing to the Light Within. Typical of Gordon's exuberant faith was his advice to Plainfield Friends as they struggled with the question of whether or not to proceed with the construction of a meetinghouse. "Don't build it too small!" he declared.

Even as Gordon found resonance and affirmation in Friends' traditions, he sought to learn from others' experiences. "As long as the love of God and humanity are central, differences should lead us to search for inclusive truth, not to conflict," he advised in a letter to his granddaughter. It was in this spirit that he strove to achieve full partnership of Latin American Friends in the FWCC Section of the Americas. His encouragement and support were also a valued catalyst in promoting leadership roles for women, within the Religious Society of Friends and beyond, in their chosen professions.

Gordon's plumb line for peace and justice, which had in part drawn him to Friends, led him, with his wife Edith, to take part in many pioneering initiatives not always popular and at times costly. Concerns such as race relations, draft counseling, refusal to pay taxes for war, and suing the federal government when they sought to collect undue penalties were all outward signs of Gordon's inward experience of the Divine. In these matters, as in meetings for business, Gordon followed his moral compass, expressing his views plainly, eloquently, perhaps with a touch of humor, while, in tone and discourse, demonstrating his friendly regard for those of differing views, treating them with exquisite cordiality. He and Edith would report with relish the amiable relationships that developed at times through their exchanges with tax collectors.

Gordon liked to say that he had four careers: secondary school teacher and coach; freelance writer; college professor of literature; and Quaker work. His service among Friends included two years on the staff of the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), eight years as Executive Secretary of FWCC Section of the Americas, clerk of New England Yearly Meeting and board member for numerous Quaker organizations. Gordon's pamphlet, *Introduction to Quakers*, is a mainstay in many meetings and, among other writings, will carry on his legacy in continuing to welcome and challenge Friends and inquirers.

Gordon was a recorded minister in Friends tradition, and his public ministry was treasured as it arose in meetings for worship

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and in speaking at Friends' gatherings. Grounded in his deep personal faith, Gordon often drew on poignant personal stories of those he encountered to illuminate glimpses of the Divine principle in action. In a quieter ministry, he was mentor to many. Gordon worked on meeting committees and projects with the same exuberance with which he traveled the globe. He and Edith were instrumental in the renewal of Friends' meetings on Cape Cod. When the Browne family joined together as neighbors on "the Hill" in Peacham, the worship group and Plainfield Meeting were witness to the deep regard and love the Browne family held for each other and for their multi-layered understanding of Friends' culture and process. Gordon's legacy is a river both deep and wide.

Gordon was born in St. Louis, Missouri, graduated from the St. Louis Country Day School and Harvard College, and did graduate work at Washington and Northwestern Universities. He and Edith Carlton were married from 1945 until her death in November 2001. They had six children, fourteen grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. In his last years, he and Patricia Ballou became devoted companions. Before he and Edith moved to Kendal at Hanover, Gordon served on Kendal's Board. From the time they took up residence at Kendal, he was an active member of the community, serving for a time as president of the Residents' Council.

At the end, Gordon offered an inspiring addendum to a lifetime of witness. As Alzheimer's disease began to take its toll, he accepted the difficulties with grace, responding positively to the sense of the family and staff when it came time to move from his apartment to the Health Center. He remained serene in his new surroundings. No longer able to recall friends' names or to follow a train of thought, his habitual warm regard for others, touch of humor, appreciation, and captivating smile continued to give joy to others.

—PLAINFIELD MONTHLY MEETING, NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Eloise Houghton, (1920-2008)***

Eloise Houghton's life was dedicated to her husband, her family, and the pursuit of a more equitable, compassionate society. The energy and character which she focused on these activities were remarkable. With fierce dedication and eloquence, she pursued these commitments with a vibrant passion that never wavered; her life was extraordinary.

She was born November 24, 1920. As a child, her family moved frequently. Her parents, immigrants from Hungary and

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Czechoslovakia, cared for the needs of various Baptist ministries throughout Texas and the Northeast United States. These years nurtured a deep concern with social injustice and anchored a strong religious and moral foundation.

While teaching at Syracuse University, she met Proctor, and a love affair began that lasted over 63 years. This love was so wide and deep that it inspired many of those who knew her. Her dedication to her children Bruce, Glen, Laurel, and Mark was no less intense. As a lover of nature, she led her family into numerous outdoor activities, from exploring the tidal pools of Cape Cod, to Audubon Society Field trips and Museum of Science classes.

While strongly aware of the difference between right and wrong, an open-minded thread of mystical and philosophical inquiry ran through her life, leading her and Proctor to the Quaker faith. She appreciated that it honored the seeker. Eloise realized that in a complex world full of ambiguity, there was a need to question oneself and one's conclusions in an ongoing quest for wisdom. She believed with all her heart that there was the light of God within every human being, and that we could find it in one another through love and compassion.

In Cambridge Meeting, her light shone through in many ways. She is remembered as a cheerful, enthusiastic, and thoroughly committed member whose infectious smile and sense of fun touched us all. Faithfully concerned about children and their religious education, she made special efforts to offer vocal ministry for the children's benefit when they were present. Her intellect, energy, and sensitivity inspired admiration and gratitude in those who worked with her.

Those who encountered her as a community leader and lifelong activist were often inspired by her example. Passionately opposed to bigotry and war, and with a powerful gift for honest, persuasive public speaking, she spoke from her heart, determined to contribute whatever she could to make her community and the world a better place. Her efforts to improve the human condition led to her involvement with a variety of organizations, including Church Women United, the American Friends Service Committee, for which she served as fundraiser, the Boy Scouts of America, the League of Women Voters, and Newton Community Development Foundation for low-income housing projects. For New England Yearly Meeting, she served on the Moses Brown School Board of Overseers and was for many years the clerk of New England Friends Home Committee.



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During the 1960s and 1970s, she directed the Committee on Responsibility, bringing war-injured Vietnamese children to the United States for treatment, one of whom lived with her family for two years.

Those who came in contact with Eloise, whether the dry cleaner, the grocer, or the mayor, felt a vitality and caring concern that were completely genuine. Her character had little room for cynicism, and in her service to humanity, she was a stranger to fatigue. Her passion, vision, humor, generosity, and exemplary leadership will be sorely missed.

—FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***William How, (1950-2009)***

We give thanks for the life of William How, and for the ways in which the Divine Life worked in and through him, for joy, for encouragement, for healing, for wonder, for truth, and for the building of community—the community of his Friends and friends, but also in his neighborhood, and more widely still through his clinical social work. Friendship and community were among Bill's great gifts.

Bill was born on May 23, 1950 to Archibald B. How and the late Jean Porter How. His father was an officer in the US Coast Guard. As a result, the family moved often but they had an extended posting at the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, while Bill was in high school. He developed a love for the ocean, mountains and nature, becoming an avid backpacker who hiked, kayaked, and canoed throughout New England on solo journeys and with his friends and family. The outdoors was an early and consistent source of spiritual connection for him. He found peace and solace there and in later life often used experiences above timber line to describe his experience of God.

Bill attended Wesleyan University, and for several years after college worked at Eastern Mountain Sports, becoming a store manager. His commitment to the emotional and physical well-being of others, perhaps first visible in his work at Connecticut Valley Hospital during college, developed into a calling which drew on and challenged his intellectual, emotional, and spiritual gifts. Bill became a childcare worker at Saint Ann's Home in Methuen, Mass. This work engaged him deeply and resulted in his return to school for his Masters in Social Work at Simmons. Bill was known for the clinical depth of his work and his perceptive and extensive record keeping.

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In his eighteen years with the Department of Children and Families in Framingham, Mass., he helped build an office characterized by teamwork and deep commitment to ongoing growth of service. He was a perceptive, reliable, and effective mentor to many colleagues over the years, and at his memorial service, some of them testified to his impact on the quality of social work for families across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As his spiritual life grew and deepened over the years, Bill characteristically drew on it in his work in a practical yet courageous way. He always tried to ground his work in the Spirit. Even in the midst of removing children from an unsafe home he would continually ask himself, "What does God want me to do, right now?" He was open with his co-workers about his search for guidance and a sense of Divine presence in the midst of demanding casework. By the same token, he used his knowledge of trauma and healing to guide individuals, meetings and New England Yearly Meeting in dealing with a number of difficult issues and conflicts, and gave so fully of his gifts and wisdom that his friends sometimes felt the need to protect him from his own generosity of spirit.

Bill met Nancy Shippen in 1979. She introduced him to Quakers and he joined Friends Meeting at Cambridge, where they were married in 1982. Their marriage was a great source of joy and companionship, and built on such mutual respect and understanding that it was a source of encouragement for their friends and meeting. They took intelligent care of each other's spiritual growth as well as other aspects of their relationship, and their friends felt them grow in their knowledge of each other "in that which is eternal," and to take delight in it.

In 1987, Bill and Nancy adopted Bharat from India. Two years later, they traveled to India and adopted Pauravi. Bill and Nancy created a warm, lively, and welcoming home for their children and friends, "a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God became more real to those who lived there and those who visited there."

In 1989, a desire for a more intimate spiritual community led Bill and Nancy to begin attending the fledgling Fresh Pond Allowed Meeting and they were among the original members when Fresh Pond was set off as an independent monthly meeting in 1991. Bill served variously as clerk of the meeting, clerk of the Meeting for Ministry and Counsel, and clerk of the Child Care Committee. He served on countless support and clearness committees as well as

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several committees dealing with conflicts in the meeting. In every meeting he attended, he would take a notebook out of his black backpack and take detailed notes, whether or not he was the official recorder for the meeting. He understood how time and stress can change memory and how many details only become important upon later reflection.

Bill had a growing patience with, and appreciation for, the place of “not knowing.” He was willing to sit in that place where the questions have been asked but the answers have not yet emerged. This could be trying to others, but he was committed to the idea that in difficult and complicated situations, all should be heard in their own voice, and he knew that some of what must be heard may be felt before people are able to put it into words. The combination of deep listening, trust in God’s guidance, intense observation, and reflective recording, together with his many other gifts, equipped him to serve widely within the local and yearly meetings, seeking to help people work through conflicts in a prayerful, honest, and loving fashion. This included working for many years with New England Yearly Meeting on issues of child safety from sexual abuse.

Bill had a long-standing concern for the acceptance and celebration of gay and lesbian people. He exercised creative, loving, patient, and persistent leadership within Fresh Pond Meeting as Friends explored the many issues raised by the question of same-sex marriage. When the acceptance of gay men and lesbian women arose as an issue in connection with the Yearly Meeting’s relationship with Friends United Meeting, Bill led Ministry and Counsel in taking up the issue and worked tirelessly to help Friends stay honest and keep step with our Guide.

Bill served for four years as clerk of Ministry and Counsel for NEYM. When his term ended, Bill bought a kayak, looking forward to having time once again to spend in the peacefulness of nature. He also enrolled in the Way of Ministry program of the School of the Spirit, wanting to explore how he might be called to new ways of traveling in the ministry himself and not as a companion. He was, instead, called on to make a different journey. In January of 2009, he was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. The calmness and resignation with which he accepted this unexpected blow was a powerful witness to those who knew him. He set about putting his affairs in order and was not afraid to talk about his own death—and so enabled others to explore their feelings. Even so, he might also say, “I don’t want to talk about my condition, I want to discuss the

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prophets.” He especially wanted to be with his children and with Nancy.

As his disease progressed, he and his family were supported by an extensive network of people from Fresh Pond Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, his colleagues, and his neighbors in Acton—all of the communities where he was beloved and where he had made such an impact. He died at home on June 9, 2009, in the presence of family and friends, as he had wanted.

In closing, we must record that when we remember Bill, we remember his infectious laugh — sometimes even infecting himself, to the point that he couldn’t get to the punch line of a joke for laughing so hard. He loved to play, with children, with adults, and with joyful groups of all ages. He played with words. He played with wild images and crazy combinations of foods like mustard on ice cream. He loved music and dancing. He relished life in all its forms and knew that behind it all moved the love of a mysterious, present, reliable God. How much we miss him!

—FRESH POND MONTHLY MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Heather Moir, (1928-2009)***

Heather was born in Welwyn Garden City, England to “Jack” Edgerton St. John Catchpool and Ruth Allason (Wilson) Catchpool. In 1957, she married John A. Moir and together they had five sons, two of whom predeceased Heather. Her ashes were buried in the North Sandwich Friends Meeting North Sandwich Burial Ground, June 27, 2009.

Heather was a birthright member of the Religious Society of Friends. For thirty years, she was a member of Miami Friends Meeting (Florida) and active in Southeastern Yearly Meeting, including a stint as Clerk of the Yearly Meeting. When she and John moved permanently to Chocorua, New Hampshire she transferred her energies to serving New England Yearly Meeting, in particular the North Sandwich Friends Meeting, where she became our resident elder, acting as clerk for three terms and mediating many difficult situations. While she never put herself forward, she always stepped up.

Her primary Friends outreach organization was the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) and she ably served as clerk of the worldwide body as well as the Section of the Americas. She attended many worldwide meetings of the FWCC and enabled others to do so through generous anonymous donations. Widely

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sharing her resources, Heather subsidized the ministries and spiritual journeys of many people and supported many charities. Locally she gave generously of her time and money to the Tamworth Community Nurse Association and the Community Food Center.

First Day after First Day Heather arrived early to open our meetinghouse, sitting in silence if she were alone, or joining in conversation when others were present. If she wasn't in Meeting for Worship it was generally because she was at a gathering of another Friends group on the quarterly, yearly, or international level. She knew everyone, remembering names of seldom seen colleagues, greeting everyone with affection and a gentle joy. Child attenders were cherished, and she was known to say, "The sounds children make during meeting for worship are sacred." During social time, Heather was often to be found in quiet serious conversation with members, attenders, and visitors alike, her advice sought after and prized.

Heather had an earthy sense of humor, joyously sharing risqué limericks and many of the lists of malapropisms and funny sayings that circulate on the Internet. Trained as a science teacher, she was always eager to learn and to share what she learned. She marveled at nature, relishing the time a bear and two cubs circumnavigated the meetinghouse.

A deeply spiritual woman who radiated a calm and peaceful goodness, Heather taught by example and by calling out the best from everyone. Making allowances for our weaknesses, she patiently nurtured our nascent strengths. She resisted getting mired in negative emotions and she eschewed gossip even when it seemed innocuous. Slow to take offense, Heather was able to forgive the most personal attacks, graciously proffering and accepting apologies and helping everyone involved to use the roiling circumstances for spiritual growth. While her death has deprived us of her constant presence, she left behind a spirit of conciliation and love that will not be easily set aside, lost, or forgotten.

Heather's mother, Ruth, had a saying that spoke to Heather: "Hard as I may try, my practice may not always match my precepts, but I will not water down my precepts to match my practice." In Heather Moir, we had the privilege of knowing someone whose practice was in line with her precepts, though her sense of humility would never have allowed her to make that claim.

—NORTH SANDWICH (NH) MONTHLY MEETING, DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING

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## *Eleanor Butler Perry, (1916-2010)*

Westerly Friend Eleanor Butler Perry was born on March 18, 1916, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She lived a mindful and purposeful life and died peacefully on Monday, February 15, 2010, at the age of 93. Eleanor is survived by her husband of 67 years, Charles Perry, three sons, their spouses, five grandchildren, one step-grandson, and three great-grandchildren.

One neighbor of thirty years, speaking at her memorial service, noted Chuck and Eleanor's strong love for each other. In the last year of her life, a local newspaper featured Chuck and Eleanor in an article about their "Everlasting Love." The reporter noted that after 67 years they could still be found singing "Let me Call You Sweetheart" to each other. The two were eager to share their secrets for a lasting relationship, and for several years they worked together leading marriage enrichment workshops in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

At the memorial meeting, daughter-in-law Rachel spoke to Eleanor's love of reading and intellectual pursuits, as well as her many spiritual leadings. Eleanor was a librarian for Butler Hospital in Providence and later was the head librarian at the Friends Center in Philadelphia for many years. When the new Friends Center Was first opened, she built a substantial resource library almost from scratch. She delighted in finding books that people wanted to read. Eleanor was always ready to engage in intellectual discourse; she pursued a deep and abiding interest in the relationship between religion and psychology. She was devoted to her work on the Friends General Conference journal *Inward Light*, which she and Chuck edited for several years, helping many to realize the hidden parts of themselves.

Eleanor was clear and rooted in her beliefs for justice, and, in the 1960s, she and Chuck participated in the Civil Rights movement, assisting African-American families in their efforts to move into Philadelphia neighborhoods where they faced discrimination. In 1989, Chuck and Eleanor retired from Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, to Westerly, Rhode Island. It was then that Eleanor transferred membership to Westerly Monthly Meeting, where Chuck's family had worshipped for generations. For many Westerly Friends, Eleanor was a model of forthright concern for the world and loving acceptance for all.

We will all remember her welcoming smile and, when grandson Ethan spoke of his last image of Eleanor, it was fitting that he

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described her reaching out from her wheelchair to dance with her great-granddaughter Charlotte.

—WESTERLY MONTHLY MEETING, RI-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING

### *Finley Perry, (1917-2009)*

Finley Perry, a beloved founder and elder of Wellesley Friends Meeting and a lifelong member of New England Yearly Meeting, died on August 17, 2009 at the age of 92. A devoted husband and father, a hardworking and diligent attorney, a man who led by example rather than rhetoric, he was a role model for us, the kind of Quaker we aspire to be.

Finley was born on July 15, 1917, the son of Arthur and Rebecca Perry, both of whose families had been Quakers for generations. He grew up in the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, the Wilburite branch of New England Friends, also known as the smaller body, which his grandfather and then his uncle, Henry Perry, clerked. Finley's father and paternal grandfather were investment bankers, as were two of his uncles, but Finley knew as a boy that he wanted to attend law school. He graduated from Harvard College in 1938 and entered Harvard Law School.

When the United States entered World War II, Finley journeyed to Philadelphia, hoping to work for the American Friends Service Committee. While there, he met a Quaker soliciting workers for the Office of Price Administration, which controlled prices and rationing. He served there until the war ended, thus participating in the war effort in a way that could satisfy his conscience.

Meanwhile Finley met Sylvia Stokes at a party. Actually, he had known her for a long time, for his uncle and her aunt were married. They courted while she was a student at Vassar College and married upon her graduation in 1944. What a marvelous couple they made! Sylvia loved to talk (and people loved to talk with her), while Finley was more reserved. Despite their different personal styles, their friendly presence was a blessing to all who knew them. They had four children: Finley Jr., Sandy, Faith, and Tom.

Finley joined the law firm of Johnson and Clapp and practiced there for forty-two years. He worked in probate law, trusts, wills and estates, and personal income tax law.

Finley and Sylvia attended Friends Meeting at Cambridge for a few years after the war, but, living in Dover, found it a long commute. Meanwhile some Friends in the Wellesley area had not been attending Cambridge Meeting during the war due to gas rationing.

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After some fits and starts, in 1951 they began to build a meeting in Wellesley. They were encouraged to do so by George Selleck, the executive secretary of Cambridge Meeting, and Seal Thompson, the spiritual leader of Wellesley Friends. In 1958, Wellesley became a monthly meeting. Finley and Sylvia were enthusiastic participants in these activities and offered leadership whenever asked.

Wellesley Meeting purchased the property on Benvenue Street in 1965 and in the 1990s raised funds for a new meetinghouse. Finley helped lead the effort to raise funds for these endeavors and helped plan the new building. Meanwhile he served the meeting as presiding clerk, treasurer, and member of Ministry and Counsel. Finley and Sylvia moved into their rambling house in Dover in 1959 and were pleased to offer it as the site of Wellesley's annual party welcoming the end of the school year. Sylvia and Finley believed they should attend every event at Wellesley Meeting, thus serving as something of an anchor for us.

Finley's role in New England Yearly Meeting was central. He attended every session but one after 1945 until he was no longer able to do so. He served as clerk of Permanent Board and the old Executive Council. In the 1950s, he served five years as treasurer at a time when the treasurer was expected to handle all the bookkeeping. He served on the following committees for Yearly Meeting: Finance, New England Friends Home, Friends United Meeting Board of Stewardship and Finance, Moses Brown School and Lincoln School committees, Executive Council, Ad-Hoc Friends Retirement Needs, Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, Friends Camp, Permanent Board, Aging, and Ministry and Counsel. He also served for many years on the board of the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund.

When Finley completed his many tasks for us, we knew he had been thorough and meticulous and had done it right the first time. He was very pleased when Sylvia accepted the position of presiding clerk of New England Yearly Meeting in 1979 and offered her a good deal of support.

Sylvia died suddenly a few days after the dawn of the millennium. Finley soon moved to North Hill in Needham. Finley assured people that nobody ever met a mate there. He had to eat his words when he was discovered walking across the expanse of North Hill to court Mildred Patterson. In 2002, they joyfully married. Mil died in 2005.

Kind, generous, thoughtful, Finley could in a few words cut to



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the nub of a problem and offer a solution. For many younger Friends he epitomized the ideal Quaker and served as a role model. Yet he never called attention to himself and never seemed to need recognition for his substantial achievements. A memorial meeting was held at the Wellesley Friends Meeting house on September 12, 2009. We hope that our lives will honor his memory.

—WELLESLEY FRIENDS MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

### *Ilse Ollendorff Reich, (1909-2008)*

Ilse Ollendorff Reich was born March 13, 1909, in Breslau, Germany, daughter to Georg Ollendorff and Margarete Muhr. She first knew of Quakers at age eleven when she saw the label “Quakerspeisung” on the bags of food provided by the American Friends Service Committee and served to German children after World War I. She remembers the cup and spoon she took to school each day to receive a meal “which saved me from being severely undernourished.”

She had been active among Friends for about thirty years when she moved to Amherst in 1989 to be near her son Peter, transferring her membership from North Easton, Massachusetts Meeting to Mt. Toby. Her particular gifts were those of the elder: openness, focused attention, non-judgmental listening, and discernment. Ilse’s grounded presence in worship was something we could count on every week; her contained vitality quickened the meeting. Her constancy was also evident in her commitment to swimming daily, learning to weave, and mastering email in order to communicate with the rising generation—perhaps her most difficult challenge!

She inspired us not only by her presence, but by the stories she told of her life. Stories were her way of communicating what she knew experimentally. Hers was a down-to-earth spirituality. Her strong sense of facing reality brought out in her an instinct to move toward what was life-giving, always looking for the positive and immersing herself in it. “There’s always something you can learn” conveys her attitude toward life. She did not dwell in nostalgia, and never conveyed bitterness in stories of her escapes during World War II. Living through a hundred years of turbulent history, she brought us a feeling sense of that history; she seemed to be always at the edge of political and cultural movements. In 1933, she fled Germany with her first husband when they discovered he was on a Nazi death list. She fled to New York from Paris in 1939, where she met and married Wilhelm Reich, excited by his focus on the energetic

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component of psychoanalysis. After her divorce from Reich in 1954, she forged her own path but published *Wilhelm Reich: A Personal Biography* in 1969 to give her perspective on this influential twentieth century psychologist.

With their son Peter in tow, she began her studies for a career in education in 1954, earning a B.S. from the University of Hartford in 1960, an M.A. in Childhood Education from Teachers College, Columbia University in 1962, and a Professional Diploma in Teaching Foreign Languages from the same institution in 1965. She taught both French and German in elementary, junior high and high school in Connecticut for seventeen years before retiring in 1974. Her finding Friends in Wilton (Connecticut) Meeting led her to become a member and to take up activities teaching and visiting in Connecticut prisons. Also during this period, she was a representative to Connecticut Friends Council and served on the Prisons Committee of New York Yearly Meeting.

We have felt this same deep sense of commitment in her, both in the life of our meeting and beyond. While at Mt. Toby, she served on Ministry and Worship, on many oversight committees for marriage and clearness, and on the Board of Woolman Hill. In her years in New England, she served on the China Camp Committee, on the New England Yearly Meeting Committee on Aging, and on Ministry and Counsel. She was also active in Friends General Conference, serving on Central Committee and the Publications Committee, and attending FGC Gatherings for twenty years.

In a life of a variety of leadings, she felt one very specific call in 1991, at the age of 82—to attend German Yearly Meeting. Her gifts and her call are described in her travel minute, approved by Mt. Toby, and endorsed by Connecticut Valley Quarter:

*On hearing of the reunification of German Yearly Meeting, she felt a leading to share in the joy of this reunification and to learn about German Quakers by attending your yearly meeting sessions. She hopes to come among you as a loving presence, desiring only to listen and learn how the Spirit moves among you.*

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As she aged, her gift was accepting necessary changes, such as giving up her loom and driving. She showed us how to receive help gracefully and encouraged others to do the same.

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Ilse died on December 19, 2008 in her son Peter and daughter-in-law Susan's home, with them and her grandchildren Nick and Celia gathered around.

MT. TOBY MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Katharine Wolcott Toll, (1913-2007)***

We give thanks for the life of Katharine Wolcott Toll.

Kay grew up in Amherst, Massachusetts, graduated from Wellesley College, attended Katherine Gibbs School, and worked as a staff writer for *The Boston Post* for three years. She then graduated with the first class of Midshipman's School at Smith College and served with the WAVES from 1942-1946. After the war, she was recruited by the United Council of Churches to interview refugees displaced by the war. Her findings were used by churches and synagogues to help those refugees find suitable places to live.

Returning to journalism, Kay wrote and researched extensively, developing expertise in several areas, including military history, oceanographic environmental issues, and solar energy. She published a book about the WAVES and earned her Masters in Social Work from Boston University in 1957.

Her experience with refugees after the war impressed upon her the importance of a central body of accurate information for social service organizations. She also learned methods for obtaining such statistics and was led to found the Boston Social Services Exchange. For a time she worked as a liaison between the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and the office of Governor Francis W. Sargent.

Kay joined Cambridge Meeting in 1953. She was active on many committees and frequently took leadership roles. In the 1960s, Kay served as the interim director of the Hingham Friends Home, which is now called New England Friends Home. She served New England Yearly Meeting as the first clerk of the Ad-hoc Friends Retirement Needs Committee, on the board of Friends Development Corporation, and was a member of Permanent Board and the Committee on Aging. She was active in starting the worship group that became North Shore Meeting.

In retirement, she became a member of Acton Friends Meeting, while also starting a worship group at the Carleton-Willard Village, a retirement community in Bedford, Massachusetts. Kay gave two exhibits at Carleton-Willard from her life. One was a selection of her artwork. The other was a display of some of her work as skiing

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editor for the *Boston Post*, a position she talked the editor into giving her in 1939.

Kay was a strong presence at Acton Friends Meeting until the very last years of her life. Her joyous, inquisitive, and kind spirit brought delight to those who knew her. She was an enthusiastic participant in Second Sunday spiritual sharing, which started in 2000. Her curiosity about others and willingness to share about herself made the time meaningful for all who participated.

After going through an initial period of frustration when she began having difficulty keeping up with conversations, Kay decided she was just “getting slow.” As her memory loss increased and ability for rational thought decreased, she remained mostly cheerful and interested in those around her to the end. We miss having Kay present at meeting along with her niece Rita Toll, who faithfully traveled many miles to accompany Kay at meeting nearly every week for the last years of Kay’s life.

—ACTON MONTHLY MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Rosly Walter, (1923-2009)***

Rosly Walter, dedicated and faithful member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge and <sup>New</sup> England Yearly Meeting, was born on May 9, 1923 to Rosa and Fred Rosskopf. She grew up in Altoona, Pennsylvania, and Luray, Virginia, where her father managed textile factories. She was graduated from Temple University in 1944 with a degree in Chemistry and in 1958, she earned a Masters degree in Education from Radcliffe.

After graduating from college, Rosly worked as a chemist in Cincinnati, New York City, and Cambridge. She met Charlton Walter in fourth grade; in 1947, they were married in a simple ceremony. Their daughters Rosalind and Pamela were born in 1955 and 1956. After receiving her MAT, Rosly taught mathematics in Wayland schools. She subsequently worked at the Education Development Center on such projects as designing elementary science curricula, training Peace Corps volunteers headed to the Philippines and Gambia, as well as advocating for bilingual education and equal access to education resources for Boston’s minority community. In the early 1970s, she moved to the textbook industry, retiring from Silver-Burdett & Ginn in 1992.

Their children remember a happy marriage. They enjoyed their rural Lincoln home, built for them in 1963, next to a brook, where her beloved dogs could roam. In 1991, Pamela and her new husband

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moved home—the house was remodeled so each group could have separate quarters—Rosly was able to help raise two of her grandchildren.

Rosly asked for very little and never complained. Instead, she threw herself into everything, even though she worked full time while raising a family. One friend reports that she always seemed to have the answer to everything. She had a placid disposition and never lost her temper. Always optimistic, she was able to speak to that of God in all those she met.

Friends Meeting at Cambridge knew Rosly as a hard worker who was willing to work on a number of different tasks. She completed them promptly whenever possible and seemed never to make a mistake. She was Martha epitomized.

Rosly joined Friends Meeting at Cambridge in 1961. She served many years on Ministry and Counsel and even more on Finance Committee, of which she was clerk. In addition, she served on Support and Hospitality Committee and the Resident Friend's Advisory Committee, where she clerked the search committees that brought Jonathan Vogel-Borne and Elizabeth Claggett-Borne, and later Hugh and Sirkka Barbour to us as Resident Friends.

Rosly served New England Yearly Meeting perhaps as much as anyone has, always choosing positions that kept her out of the spotlight. She knew who she was and did not need to be the center of attention. She served as recording clerk, registrar, two terms on Permanent Board and Moses Brown Board of Overseers, Personnel Committee, Board of Managers of Permanent Funds, Finance Committee, and Ministry and Counsel. When an elder, she served for many years on the staff of Junior Yearly Meeting, bringing, one old JYMer reports, as much joy and exuberance as staffers thirty years her junior. Finally, she enjoyed driving elders to committee meetings; she and Louisa Alger would solve all the problems of the Yearly Meeting as they traveled together. Later she would accept rides from others, who were able to get to know her in deeper ways than they had.

What a knitter Rosly was! As a girl, she spent time in Switzerland and learned the faster continental style. We gaped in amazement as we watched her knit in business meeting.

She knit countless sweaters for the American Friends Service Committee Clothing Room and served there for decades repairing old clothes. She knit for meeting members as well; she was particularly pleased that, having knit a baby sweater with a big A on

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it for a couple whose child had that first initial, she could see it passed on to another A baby a few years later.

In addition to her knitting and repair work, she served the AFSC on its Executive and Personnel Committees. She had a gift of bringing a committee to unity without imposing her own position. She also had the rare skill of making people feel good about themselves as she told them that AFSC was letting them go.

Rosly lived her last few years in a nursing home, where she welcomed visitors. She died on May 17, 2009. We remember her as a warm, loving, strongly centered person who cared deeply about helping others.

—FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

### *Jane Weaver Westover, (1913-2006)*

Jane Weaver Westover, a member of Acton Monthly Meeting, died in Concord, Massachusetts on October 29, 2006 at the age of 93. Jane was born in Morgantown, West Virginia. After receiving a college degree in French with a minor in music, she trained as a professional soprano in Austria. In the 1950s, she sang as a principal soprano soloist at Riverside Church in New York City.

While living in New York, Jane met Huston Westover. They both became interested in the Religious Society of Friends because of its testimonies, especially the peace testimony. They each joined Friends in the late 1930s and were married in 1941. Jane and Huston attended a meeting held at Riverside Church and, occasionally, meetings downtown.

Jane was active in Acton Preparatory Meeting and an initial member of Acton Monthly Meeting when it became independent from Friends Meeting at Cambridge in 1965. Jane was involved in many aspects of Acton Monthly Meeting during the periods she and Huston lived in Acton and Concord: clerk in 1989-90, member of the Religious Education Committee, member of Ministry and Counsel, and Librarian, in which role she confidently reorganized the Acton Meeting library. During their time in New England, Jane and Huston helped found and participated in the New England Yearly Meeting Committee on Aging.

Jane is remembered for her service as librarian at the West Concord Public Library. She played piano for the Christmas pageants when Acton Meeting met at the Acton Woman's Club, and autoharp at carol sings, including at a nearby prison. Jane had both a feistiness and an elegant presence.

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During meeting for worship or afterwards, Jane often shared topics and questions she found in the course of her reading. She was always reading and engaging in the world of ideas, especially on peace and social justice, from her own questioning Quaker perspective.

—ACTON FRIENDS MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING