

Memorial Minutes

Don Chenoweth

1940 - 2019

Don Chenoweth had been an integral part of the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting since he retired as a professor of political science and Russian culture and moved from Oklahoma to Champaign in 1998. Don was a happy willing participant in multiple aspects of our Quaker community. He remained uncommonly forthright, optimistic and life-affirming while suffering through two bouts with lymphoma, chemotherapy regimens, and an autologous bone marrow transplant. His determination to survive and his zest for life may have led to his outliving his doctor's predictions by many years.

Don was a valued participant on several Quaker committees. He shared his good sense and knowledge of Quakerism during his stints on the Ministry and Oversight Committee. Long committed to libraries, Don regularly served on our library committee and used and circulated its books. (He was also on the Champaign Library Foundation Board when the present public library was built.) He enjoyed volunteering in First Day School and particularly loved reading to the younger children. On Advancement Committee he liked planning activities, especially game nights which he happily participated in with his beloved wife, Roma. He and Roma were welcoming hosts and engaged members of Quaker 8 dinner groups, including one that stayed together well past its end date.

Don will be remembered especially for his many years as a cheerful greeter at Meeting for Worship each Sunday, a job he loved. We miss his anchoring presence in Meeting for Worship. Don always sat in the same spot on a bench against the south windows; he meditated for many years on an ash tree on our property as it lived, while it slowly died, and later on its absence. The tree inspired his poetry and his ministry, ministry which often expressed gratitude. He shared that poetry with us at the annual Stone Soup Supper and Talent Show for our emergency fund, an event he relished.

Don's bluntness was a signal characteristic, as one Friend notes. She remembers that when she barely knew Don, she met him in a snowstorm at a demonstration in front of the courthouse. He stopped her, looked her dead in the eye, and said, "I was diagnosed with cancer today." Another Friend remembers him, during his last weeks of life as his cancer was spreading, declaring, with cheerful equanimity, "I'm a goner."

One source of Don's good cheer was the gratitude he felt for all those who supported him throughout his bouts with illness. He gratefully took strength from the Meeting for Healing held by Rochester Friends in his room the night before his transplant operation at Mayo Clinic. He found comfort in the Meeting for Healing held by U-C Friends during his stay at Meadowbrook. Above all he was sustained by Roma's love and care and by his many pleasures in life. He ran with the Second Wind Running Club, even after his transplant, and swam regularly. He found joy in painting, writing poetry, and putting together large LEGO

constructions when he and Roma spent time at her legacy farm. He loved reading, especially hard-boiled detective fiction. He was a huge fan of the University of Illinois Women's Volleyball team, rarely missing a home game. He and Roma regularly attended music and dance concerts and plays in Chicago and in town. His life was a rich one and we will miss his kind, cheerful, and sustaining presence.

William (Bill) Dawson

1931-2019

William "Bill" Dawson a long time member of Lake Forest Friends Meeting passed away on September 8, 2019 at Haven Hospice in Gainesville Florida. He was 88 years old. Bill was born on August 9, 1931 in Muscatine, Iowa to Agnes (Stewart) Dawson and Ralph Gerard Dawson. Soon after his mother, Agnes, was stricken with rheumatoid arthritis – a condition that would leave her bedridden for the rest of her life. Bill was 13 months old when he and his mother went to live at the Hopkins family farm in Granville, Illinois a few miles north of the Illinois Yearly Meeting meetinghouse. He grew up on the farm, cared for by his cousin Joel Hopkins whose sons were like Bill's younger brothers. Bill provided care for his mother until her death in 1979.

Bill received a BS in Education from Eastern Illinois University in 1953. He served as a teacher in the Army in Poitiers, France for two years. Following his army service, Bill moved to Chicago and began a career in life insurance underwriting. He joined Allstate Life Insurance Company six months after its formation in 1957 and was transferred to Allstate's Menlo Park office in 1961. That same year he married Maureen "Mo" Kratzke on September 2. They lived on the west coast until promotions at Allstate brought them back to Chicago in 1965.

Bill and Mo raised their three sons (Stewart "Mac" Dawson, Paul Dawson, and William "Bill" Dawson) in a house on Round Lake. Their home become the perfect place to host extended family, friends from work, and Quaker meeting. Thanksgiving and Fourth of July were regular big events on the lake. This suited Bill well because he truly enjoyed being with people. He was known for his wit, bright smile, and good nature. The family moved to Libertyville for the boys' high school years. Though still hosting Thanksgiving, these years centered on attending high school athletics of their sons.

Bill and Mo joined the Lake Forest Friends Meeting in 1975. Bill became an important part of the life of the community. He had a quiet way of leading which served the meeting well when he was clerk. He was comfortable listening to how to proceed when working with others as he demonstrated when he assisted another member in constructing cabinets for the Illinois Yearly Meeting kitchen. He regularly took care of mowing the lawn at the Lake Forest meetinghouse, sat near the fireplace in winter making sure sparks were quickly extinguished. He served as a mentor to children growing up in the meeting. Again it was his quiet manner which made him approachable.

Bill retired from Allstate in 1996. He was widely recognized for his handling of the most complex cases. Bill and Mo fully enjoyed retirement. They moved to Ashland, Oregon. Bill volunteered for fire watch and hiked in the mountains around their home. He took

classes at Southern Oregon University's Life Long Learning Institute, attended Oregon Shakespeare Festivals, and made many friends.

Living in the West fed one of Bill's lifelong endeavors – the driving vacation. A master of the open road (though not always a master of the gas gauge), he loved to go on extended road trips. As a result of these trips, Bill and Mo visited all of the lower 48 states. They moved to Gainesville, Florida at Thanksgiving 2011 to be close to family.

A Celebration of a Life well lived was held at Lake Forest Friends Meeting November 23, 2019. Interment was in Granville Cemetery, Granville, Illinois.

Joel G. Erkenwick

1946-2019

Joel G. Erkenwick was born on August 8, 1946 in Chicago, Illinois to Mary Lou Erkenwick (nee Sharp) and Herbert Erkenwick. He had a younger brother, Robert B., with whom he stayed close his entire life. Joel graduated from Lane Tech High School in 1964 and Wheaton College (IL) in 1968. He was drafted after graduating from college and became a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, serving in southern Vietnam in 1970. After some time, he refused to carry his own weapon, which almost got him court martialled. He returned to Chicago in 1971 and completed the core curriculum for a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Illinois. He worked at various businesses in the Chicago area. He also did contract teaching work for the Chicago and Evanston public schools.

Joel met his wife Jane (nee Lehman) in the 1970s, and they married on July 2, 1977. They had two sons, Aaron (born 1982) and Gideon (born 1984). After periods at LaSalle Street Church in Chicago and the Unitarian Church of Evanston, Joel joined the Evanston Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in 1989. Joel recalled that he heard a presentation about the Quakers at the Unitarian Church and said, "I would like to check those people out!" to which someone responded "The real thing is right down the street." Joel quickly bonded with Evanston Friends. Participating actively in the life of the meeting, he served on several committees. He was loved for his good nature, loving and positive attitude, and his unique and joyful messages during worship.

Joel had a lively sense of humor and a zest for life, despite serious health problems the last three decades of his life. He was a three-time kidney transplant recipient, and was on dialysis four times the during course of his life. He also developed multiple myeloma and Parkinson's disease. Yet his desire for life was unstoppable. He never played the victim. He was an extremely loving and dedicated spouse and father. He loved community and helped to grow community wherever he was.

Joel lived in St. Louis the last nine years of his life, where he worshiped with the St. Louis Friends. Joel died on August 30, 2019. His family and friends gathered for a celebration of his life at Evanston Meeting on November 2, 2019. His family placed Joel's ashes in the Memorial Garden of Evanston Friends Meeting.

Charlie Haines

1939 - 2019

Charlie Haines was a kind and gentle man. He was very proud of his two daughters, Karen and Marie, and a devoted husband to his wife Carolyn. They were married for 58 years. He died in December of 2019.

Charlie was a birthright Quaker, growing up in Medford Monthly Meeting in New Jersey. From kindergarten through high school graduation, he thrived at nearby Moorestown Friends School, gaining a Quaker education for which he was grateful his whole life. He then attended Earlham College in Indiana, where he studied mathematics and physics, and where he met his wife Carolyn. He obtained his MS and PhD in Applied Mathematics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, and later settled in Rochester, New York, with his young family. He had a long career of 35 years in academia, teaching, writing, and administering, mostly at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). After an extended period with the Baptist Church, the family turned to Rochester Friends Meeting, where they all became members. There, Charlie was active for many years on the finance committee, where he put his analytical skills to good use; a fellow member remembers him as “a deep keel” there.

He was widely regarded by those who knew him as an incredibly smart man with great integrity, character, and generosity of spirit. He was unusual for men of his generation in recognizing the gifts and contributions of women. His cousin Bruce Haines wrote: “Charlie grew up in a household in New Jersey with two generations of women who were independent and garnered respect as partners in life and their communities. His mother was an accomplished mathematician, as well as a full community member, and his grandmother was a recorded Quaker minister ... and I will say that he channeled his grandmother as to his gentle but clear touch.”

His colleague at RIT Donna Cullen wrote: “I interacted with Charlie [for decades]. I appreciated his intellect. Perhaps more importantly, I appreciated his integrity, character, and willingness to work with generosity to all team members. He sought the best for his students and faculty with a masterful, gentle spirit that brought out the best from those around him. Even if ultimately a decision didn't go your way, you knew that Charlie heard you and respected your input. He encouraged excellence and respected it in others. These qualities were so greatly appreciated during an era where women were discounted, especially in science and computing. Perhaps it was his wife and daughters who were instrumental in showing him how vital a role women can play. Charlie was one of the good guys, a joy to work with, a smile to cherish, and a consummate professional.”

After he retired from RIT, he and Carolyn decided to move to central Illinois to be closer to their daughter Karen, with some urging from her and her sister. They came together to Quaker Meeting and, with daughter Karen and family, enjoyed attending the Stone Soup Supper. More recently they transferred their membership to our meeting. When Carolyn's health declined, they moved to an independent living facility, where Charlie continued to care for her, faithfully and loyally, even willfully, sometimes to the point of ignoring his own needs. During that time, Charlie joined a mutual support group, led by a member of our meeting, for men who were caring for wives with dementia. He was an avid participant, always present for the other men, and willing to share his own feelings. Ultimately, Carolyn's

health declined to the point where she needed to live in a separate facility (on the same grounds) with 24-hour care, where Charlie continued to be a loving presence in her daily life. He was then able to again attend the U-C Friends Meeting for Worship. He became a faithful regular who often and generously sacrificed his own worship time so that he could offer rides to and from meeting for older members who were unable to sit for the entire hour.

We will all miss Charlie's genial curiosity about others and his kind and gentle manner.

Elizabeth Mertic

1934 - 2020

Elizabeth Wold Mertic lived life fully as a Friend. A natural leader and elder, she served with integrity instead of splash and with humility instead of self-aggrandizement. Her strong faith showed in her work, whether among Friends around the world or growing vegetables in her garden. She was a familiar sight at yearly meeting, with a big smile under her straw hat.

As a mentor, Elizabeth was nurturing and direct. She taught us Quaker process because she had such a good understanding of it. She lived the testimonies without having to think about them. Her writing and our memories of things she said are straight-forward and not-complicated.

Until she gave the Plummer Lecture to Illinois Yearly Meeting in 2008, we didn't fully understand that Elizabeth had a difficult childhood that shaped her as an adult. Her parents struggling to make ends meet, she moved around the Midwest many times in her early years. She had difficulty transitioning from school to school which made it hard for her to make friends. Yet she developed a sense of empathy to injustice in the world. She once wrote: "I have gradually moved toward the goal of growing more peaceful with myself which will help me live peacefully with the rest of humanity."

Elizabeth was introduced to Friends when she was a student at the University of Wisconsin. She met Francis Hole at an outdoor gathering of peace organizations on the anniversary of Gandhi's death. Francis handed her a pamphlet about Madison Friends Meeting and she started attending. Later, she lived with a family at 57th Street Meeting while working for Barrington Dunbar at the Newberry Avenue Settlement House. She was attracted to the peace and social concerns work of Friends, and she was happy to feel she was an equal in the meeting. She said, "Peace is part of living [and] being actively involved in the community."

Elizabeth and her husband, Don Mertic, joined 57th Street Meeting and raised their three children in that community. Nurtured by the meeting, she took on leadership roles, including Recording Clerk, Treasurer, and Presiding Clerk. In 1989, with her children grown, Elizabeth and Don moved to Lake Villa, Illinois, and she transferred her membership to Lake Forest Friends Meeting. She immediately became active in the meeting. The founding members of the meeting had begun to move on and she became part of a rising leadership group at the meeting. She served wherever she was needed. She participated in a Shalem

nurturing group with her peers for over 12 years. She brought to the meeting a tireless leading to work against injustice as well as a wry sense of humor.

Elizabeth's leadership went beyond Lake Forest Meeting to include Illinois Yearly Meeting. In 1994, she became aware of the Friends World Committee for Consultation and started to travel to FWCC events as the ILYM representative. Her understanding of Quakers extended to other branches, and she was drawn to these new openings. She started taking on leadership roles in FWCC, including Clerk of the Section of the Americas in 2002. Her trust in God's presence at meetings for business was her greatest asset.

When her marriage to Don ended in 2001, Elizabeth learned to lean on the meeting and others for spiritual support. In her new life, she started to go on many adventures. In addition to traveling for FWCC, she also went on trips to places like Machu Picchu, China, and Iran. On a trip to Syria, she learned of the Iraqi Student Project, and with her usual empathy, she started to help bring Iraqi students living in Damascus to colleges in the United States.

Elizabeth had many accomplishments in her life. We remember her most for her simplicity, integrity, and tremendous energy for the Religious Society of Friends. She wrote in her Plummer Lecture: "Many days I walk in my neighborhood and enjoy the flowers, trees, grasses, puddles, blue sky and my heart overflows. At the rise of meeting for worship I often feel joy upon seeing the smiling face of a child entering the room and spotting his daddy or mommy."

Eloise Piper

1939-2019

Artist Eloise "Ellie" Piper, a long-time member of Pittsburgh Friends Meeting and active Friend in La Jolla and Northside Friends Meetings, died on July 15, 2020 after a long battle with cancer. Ellie was an artist author and educator. Her paintings, batiks, and dolls were featured in numerous solo and group shows and are in a number of permanent collections including the Library of Congress, museums, and in business and residential collections throughout the world. She received numerous awards for her work and taught art in public schools, private art centers, and colleges. She authored and illustrated seven books including *Sewing and Sculpting Dolls* and *Batik for Artists and Quilters*.

Ellie was born on December 8, 1939 in Ocala, Florida, the 2nd daughter of Martha Buck and James Fort. Her sister, Joyce Elizabeth, had been born 20 months before. From the age of three, Ellie saw herself as an artist: "That was what defined me, making art." She said being creative and artistic was how she survived a peripatetic upbringing. They moved frequently, living in various homes, even the YMCA for a time, as her mother worked to support them, while earning a PhD in Social Work.

Ellie experienced her own schooling as a "tedium of studies." An inquisitive and creative child, her questions about God challenged the religious milieu about her. She was not sure there was a God. In an autobiographical story, she describes discovering a high school science book in a garbage can at the age of nine: "Now – miracle of miracles – a book that held the answer and the answer was Molecules! Those shimmering, dancing particles that metamorphosized into shape, and air, and water – Molecules, wiggling through the heavens,

through the universe, up to the Big Molecule— then back to earth again to take the shape of cats and cars, kings and kerchiefs, moles and mountains, why...even my sister was made of molecules.”

Ellie married twice, first to Jonathan Piper and then to William “Bill” Zinner. She had three children, Carolyn, Megan, and Aaron. Ellie joined the Pittsburgh Meeting of the Society of Friends in the 1960’s, following her mother who discovered Friends first. Ellie’s art during her early career included elaborate batiks, many of which were framed by her then husband Bill.

When Ellie’s son Aaron was 10 years-old he was killed tragically after being hit by a car while in Yellow Springs, Ohio, attending Carolyn’s graduation from Antioch College. A tree was planted in his memory in the front yard of the meetinghouse. Ellie never transferred her membership from Pittsburgh Meeting feeling her tie to Aaron there felt so strong. Ellie moved to the San Diego area so she could assist her mother Martha, who was active in La Jolla Friends Meeting well into her 90’s. Ellie was very connected to the arts community in San Diego, as a painter and teacher.

For over 35 years Ellie found a home in La Jolla Friends Meeting, a source of serenity for her. As a writer and a poet, she served on the Communications Committee, helping to publish the meeting’s newsletter. Ellie was a well-loved member in La Jolla Meeting, often ministering to members there, writing notes when people were ill or experiencing difficulties. After she became ill, the meeting supported her through many treatments, until her care became too difficult to manage in her home.

In 2015, Ellie moved to Chicago to live with her daughter Carolyn, son-in law Dan and granddaughters, Dylan and Hannah. Carolyn connected her with innovative cancer treatment at Northwestern Hospital. Not expecting to survive four years when she came to Chicago, Ellie nonetheless lived an active life around her illness, continuing to paint in small frames, ushering plays with Carolyn and her family, and traveling to visit friends in Pittsburgh and California, all the while juggling her treatments. She attended Northside Friends Meeting where she became a pillar member of a women’s coffee group and served on the care committee for the meeting clerk’s difficult illness. She used her exceptional writing skills to co-author the annual State of the Meeting report. Ellie’s approach to living creatively and joyfully despite her illness was an inspiration.

Alice Peterson-Hertz

2018-2019

It is with great sadness that the South Bend Friends Meeting received news of Andrew Peterson-Hertz’s daughter’s death. Andrew is a non-resident member of the South Bend Friends Meeting. He and his wife Géraldine live in Nantes, France with their son Lucien and their daughter Alice until her death on October 27, 2019 at the age of a year and a half.

The South Bend Friend’s Meeting has extended condolences to Andrew and his family and share their sorrow. We hope that the healing Light will bring them resolution for their grief and peace to their lives.

Nancy G. Wallace

1950-2020

Nancy Gene Wallace, 69, died of lung cancer on March 31, 2020, at her home in Chicago, Illinois. Nancy was born in Evanston, Illinois on July 30, 1950, the fourth of five children. After high school, she briefly attended Lake Forest College and the University of Illinois before heading to Las Vegas where she spent several years as a croupier. She returned to college and received a Master's Degree in Liberal Studies from St. John's College in 1983 and an MBA in Accounting from DePaul University in Chicago in 1987.

Nancy became a Certified Public Accountant in 1988 and was hired by Shimer College to serve as financial controller and faculty member. There she met David Shiner, a fellow faculty member who served as her colleague and mentor for two years. They later became friends, then began dating. They were married in the summer of 1993. Nancy believed that was the best decision she ever made. Professionally, after leaving Shimer she served a national organization as controller, then spent 16 years as a consultant to nonprofit organizations until her retirement in 2018.

Nancy and David began attending Lake Forest Meeting in September of 1993. It was there that they both became convinced Friends, David becoming a member in 1995 and Nancy in 1998. At Lake Forest Meeting they spent twenty years of service on a variety of committees. They moved to Chicago in 2010 and, a few years later, transferred their memberships to Evanston Friends Meeting.

Both Nancy and David had commitments to the wider world of Friends, including Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM). In 2002, Nancy became one of ILYM's representatives to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), a position she held until her death. She served as Clerk of the International Finance Committee as well as in other FWCC positions for many years. She and David attended world gatherings of Friends in New Zealand (2004), Ireland (2007) and Peru (2016). They were a team in their service to Friends. At the time of her death Nancy was still serving on the Religious Education Committee of Evanston Meeting, the Personnel Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting, and as Assistant Treasurer of the FWCC Section of the Americas following four years as Treasurer.

Nancy and David were international in more than their Quaker commitments. Over the years they hosted some 15 international exchange students from Europe, Asia, and South America. They stayed in touch with those students over the years. During Nancy's final days several of them wanted to fly back to tell her in person how much she had meant to them. Artistic creations from those students and friends, as well as from their international travels, delighted Nancy and filled their ever-welcoming home.

Nancy's reach went beyond the Quaker world, stretching to gardening groups, environmental groups, and book groups, as well as others. She brought her commitment to Quaker values and principles to all of those endeavors.

Many people will miss Nancy for the many things she did, but the deeper missing will be for who she was as she did them. Nancy was generous with her time and skills, freely devoting an enormous amount of time to nature conservation, service on non-profit committees, and a variety of Quaker organizations. She was always there for people who needed her.

Nancy was really smart and curious. Her Great Books background implanted an endless hunger for learning. She decided to master Spanish, and continued to take online lessons until the week before her death. She was enthusiastic and upbeat, energetic and vibrant. She was witty, humorous, and had an infectious laugh. She had the amazing and rare gift of speaking with loving directness when situations invited something deeper than the customary Quaker niceness.

Nancy was at home in the world, fitting into whatever circumstances presented themselves, whether sitting on the floor at a gathering or moving through the difficult stages of her cancer treatment. When the doctors had done all they could, she accepted the truth of that situation and turned her attention to caring for David as he cared for her.

Nancy was loved and respected by all whose paths were blessed to walk along hers for a time.