

Documents in Advance
Intermountain Yearly Meeting
June 2017

Part II. Memorial Minutes

Mariagnes Aya Medrud, Boulder Meeting

Janet Kilby, Boulder Meeting

Patricia Palmer, Pima Meeting

Memorial minute

Mariagnes Aya Medrud

Mariagnes Aya Medrud, born April 9, 1925, passed away peacefully at home in Boulder, Colorado on April 7, 2016. She was the daughter of Joseph Kozo Uenish and Kane Uenishi. She grew up in Seattle, WA until age sixteen when she and her family, together with all Japanese-Americans on the West Coast, were removed to internment camps. She ended up with her mother and sisters in Idaho, at camp Minidoka. Aya's identity and mission in life were formed by life in the camp where Japanese-Americans experienced indignity and injustice. Subsequently she committed herself to a life of community service with a focus on social justice and empowerment for communities of color.

After the war her family relocated to Utica, NY and Aya attended the Traphagen School of Design where she learned drawing and painting. In 1948 she joined the Civil Service to work with the US Army occupation forces in Japan. While in Japan, she married her life partner, Nelder "Med" Medrud, an officer in the US Air Force. For fifteen years they and their two sons, David and Mark, lived the life of a career Air Force officer and family. Aya took college courses whenever she had the opportunity.

Med retired from the Air Force in 1963, during the Vietnam War. He got a job at the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the family moved to Boulder. Aya enrolled at age thirty-eight at the University of Colorado, and, as a dedicated pacifist, was in the middle of the anti-war protests. She finished her Masters in Fine Arts and taught in the Boulder Valley School System for eighteen years.

In 1977 Aya became a member of Boulder Meeting. She served on many committees in Boulder, Regional, and Yearly Meetings. She dedicated much of her energy to the American Friends Service Committee, serving on the AFSC Board for three terms, on the Corporation from 1977 to 2003, and on the Committee to Review the Affirmative Action Plan, among others. She also clerked the National Asia Pacific Program and co-clerked the North Central Regional Office.

Aya inspired the Boulder Meeting and became the leader of the Meeting's summer program at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. She taught art and music and arranged for musical instruments and painting supplies. A project she helped start at Pine Ridge has resulted in the Oglala and Lakota Community College, which now has a branch on all the eleven Pine Ridge communities.

At the same time, she was also fully active in the Boulder community. As a former teacher in the BVSD, Aya's concern was to integrate multicultural youth into the community. She served for many years on the Multi Ethnic Action Committee of the school district. Once Aya retired from the BVSD, she began volunteering as Co-Director for the Rosa Minoka-Hill Fund with her husband, Med. The Rose Minoka-Hill Fund provided scholarships for Native American students to attend preparatory schools.

Aya also served on a number of key Boulder boards and commissions and founded the Boulder Asian Pacific Alliance (BAPA) and continued to be active with BAPA, which coordinates the Boulder Asian Festival. She was a key supporter of the development of the Asian-Pacific Association of Longmont.

Aya lived her life faithful to the commitment to social justice she made as a teenager in the Minidoka camp. In her later years, Aya battled her Parkinson's disease with dignity, grace and continued compassion for others. Her leadership and vibrant spirit will be greatly missed.

Aya is survived by her husband Med Medrud, her sons, Mark Medrud of Santa Fe, NM and David Medrud (wife Marla), of Boulder, CO, her granddaughter Sarah Medrud Jelinek (husband Ethan) of Hayden, ID and grandson Erik Medrud of Hayden, ID.

A memorial service to celebrate Mariagnes Aya Medrud life was held on June 18, 2016.

Memorial Minute

Janet St Clair Kilby

Janet Kilby, born July 8, 1954, passed away peacefully at home in Boulder, Colorado on September 19, 2016. She was the daughter of Barbara Louise and Jack St Clair Kilby. She was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. When she was four, her family moved to Dallas, where she spent the remainder of her childhood. After attending the University of Denver and spending two years in Taos, New Mexico doing intensive spiritual work, Janet settled down on an organic peach farm in Palisade, Colorado. Janet was devoted to improving the well-being of others, whether family and friends or the indigent poor and victims of domestic violence. Not only concerned with people, she was an environmentalist and beekeeper involved with healing the natural world. Janet brought compassion and maintained a spiritual approach to all her relationships—at home, in society, at Boulder Friends Meeting, and with nature.

While living in Palisade, Janet raised her three daughters and embarked on a career shaped by her interest and commitment to social work. She strived to improve the lives of the underserved in Mesa County. Her work at the Resource Center resulted in the creation of safe housing for victims of domestic violence; she also raised money to meet the needs of teenage mothers. For almost 20 years, Janet served on the Board and volunteered for Child and Migrant Services, where her efforts led to the first new housing ever constructed in Mesa County for migrant farm workers. She became the executive director of the Marillac Clinic, a clinic for the uninsured in Grand Junction. Over the course of her ten year career at the clinic, she grew the number of staff positions from eighteen to seventy. At the same time, medical services were expanded and eventually included mental health and dental care. She was instrumental in setting up a system whereby prenatal care was made available for all women in the county, regardless of ability to pay. In recognition of her vision and contributions to establishing integrative care, she was awarded posthumously the Wingspread Award by the Collaborative Family Health Care Association. In short, her understanding of the conditions for human well-being and social justice coupled with her talents as an organizer and administrator led to significant change and the establishment of human services that continue to assist the community.

After moving to Boulder in 2007, Janet attended Friends Meeting there. Previously she was part of a Quaker worship group in Palisade that was under the care of Boulder Meeting and later she attended Mountain View Friends in Denver where she became a member. Her deep spirituality enriched the Quaker community. Through her service on committees, her relationships with Friends, and her spirit-led and eloquent spoken ministry, Janet enhanced the spiritual life of the Meeting. She gave two spiritual journeys, the first in 2009. The second, in 2013, dealt with her approach to healing from her first cancer and was particularly compelling.

Poetry, prayer, and the natural world all called to Janet in a powerful way. She was at home in nature and saw the natural world as being intrinsically connected to the spiritual world. Nature was her church.

Led by this deep love of nature, Janet in recent years became involved in efforts to restore balance and harmony to the life cycles of plants and bees. As part of the movement Bee Safe

Boulder, Janet helped to organize neighborhoods to stop using the harmful pesticides that are killing bees and causing bee colony collapse. She enjoyed helping people with gathering swarming bees and setting up hives. In addition to local education and organizing she reached out to form the Earth Coalition that brings together various groups to address this crisis in the ecosystem. In honor of her dedicated work, the Bee Safe Earth Janet Kilby Memorial Award has been created.

A friend said of Janet that she embodied the principle of “love thy neighbor” as she looked for the best in everybody. Janet valued all her relationships with people, especially with her family and friends. Her spirituality allowed her to connect with people at a deep level, a gift that enriched all the lives that she touched. She faced her final months with courage and continued compassion for others. She is survived by her loving husband Rick Healy, and daughters Caitlan Moore (husband Jed), Marcy Cameron, and Gwen Cameron, step children Dan and Emily (Dana), grandsons Liam, Rhys, and Brooks, sister Ann, and nieces Erica (Abe) and Katrina.

A memorial service to celebrate Janet St. Clair Kilby’s life was held on November 12, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Marie Pois, Boulder Friends Meeting

Pima Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Tucson, Arizona

PATRICIA BOUGHTON PALMER
December 30, 1932 – December 24, 2015

Patricia was born on December 30th, 1932, to Spencer and Amy Boughton Palmer and was raised in Kingsport, Tennessee. Patricia wedded Dr. Antoine A. Nassar of Beirut, Lebanon, and raised four children in Albion and Brockport, New York. She earned a doctorate in counseling from the University of Rochester in addition to degrees from Boston University (MEd.) and Rockford College (B.A.).

For over forty years Patricia worked with people dealing with a life-threatening illness, especially cancer. Patricia underwent treatment during several bouts with cancer. The last of these led to her death on December 24, 2015 a week before her 83d birthday.

She served with the Simonton Cancer Center (California) as a senior teacher and director of training. In 2012, she co-founded the Hekademos Mind-Body Medicine Foundation offering programs, counseling, and education in South Africa, the Netherlands, and Tucson. Hekademos teaches tools and techniques to help people access the self-healing powers of nature and cognitive-behavioral therapy.

Prior work included a private psychotherapy practice (Rochester), Acting Director of the Counseling Center SUNY Brockport, Associate Director of its Mature Adult Program and Founding Director of Orleans County's (NY) first Headstart Program and Mental Health Association Chapter.

Patricia devoted countless years to the volunteer organizations she held most dear: serving as Board Chair for Habitat for Humanity (Rochester), working in community development for the Peace Corps (Bulgaria), serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children (Tucson) and serving as a facilitator in the Elder Circle community (Tucson). Patricia's legacy of loving service endures in the lives of all who were blessed to have known her.

Spiritually, Patricia sought and gave enrichment through the Religious Society of Friends. She was an attender of long standing at the Rochester (NY) Monthly Meeting. There she ministered to the spiritual needs of many, especially those faced with debilitating and terminal illness. Rochester Meeting also provided a clearness committee for Patricia when she grappled with her leading to become a Peace Corps volunteer. In 2006, after moving to Tucson to be closer to her children and grandchildren, she found her spiritual homes at Pima Monthly Meeting and at the Tucson Upaya Sangha, a Zen Buddhist fellowship. Patricia became a member of PMM in September 2009 and was a Trustee from 2012 to 2015. Patricia served on the Ministry and Oversight Committee from 2009 till 2015 where she provided counsel, wisdom and compassion in support of individuals and issues as they arose. She was instrumental in drafting our Policies and Procedures for Keeping Children Safe and was a vital and loved presence in the life of the meeting.

Patricia was photogenic, as can be seen in a dramatic shot of her skydiving at 81, and she was frequently behind the camera taking fine pictures. She patiently convinced many members and attenders at PMM to sit and smile for the camera as she helped compile a Picture Supplement to the Pima Meeting Directory.

Patricia is survived by her four children: Spencer (Leann) Nassar; Peter (Shannon Leu) Nassar; David (Jasmin) Palmer and Jennifer (Rick) Dohr, her sister-in-law, Nancy Palmer, seven grandchildren and six beloved nieces and nephews. Her parents, her sister, Audrey Moore, and her brother, John Palmer, preceded her in death.

A Celebration of Patricia's Life was held at Pima Monthly Meeting on February 13, 2016. It was attended by her large family, Meeting and spiritual friends from Tucson and friends and colleagues from near and far. The memories of Patricia's wisdom, warmth and light will continue to sustain us in our community's work and friendships.

"An astonishing truth: Focused awareness and attention to feelings
without judgment is always transforming - and always in a positive direction."
Patricia Palmer