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

**FREDERICK CARL NEIDHARDT**

May 12, 1931 – October 7, 2016

Frederick Carl Neidhardt was born on May 12, 1931 to Adam Fred Neidhardt and Carrie (Fry) Neidhardt and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Fred enjoyed a long and distinguished career in academic science, driven by his interest in the study of life. He completed his precollegiate studies in public schools, crediting strong public support for public education with preparing him for an academic career. He received a bachelor's degree in biology from Kenyon College and a Ph.D. in bacteriology from Harvard University. He spent most of his career as a research professor at the University of Michigan, becoming the Frederick G. Novy Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Microbiology and Immunology in the University of Michigan Medical School.

His research focused on gene regulation and the molecular physiology of bacterial growth. He was the first scientist to employ temperature-sensitive mutants in essential functions to analyze gene regulation in studies of bacterial physiology, and he is credited with establishing the field of microbial proteomics. He served as editor-in-chief of a treatise on the cellular and molecular biology of *Escherichia coli*, the most studied cell in biology, which is commonly known as “*EcoSal*”.

He discovered that his gift and calling to service and administration matched his gift for research. He served for fifteen years, beginning in 1970, as the fourth chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and he went on to serve as associate dean for faculty of the Medical School and then as University of Michigan's vice president for research. In these roles, he fostered the recruitment of women and minorities to the faculty and facilitated the development of a mentorship system for junior faculty. Fred's leadership in microbiology was recognized with numerous awards and honors, but he regarded them as of no account except as mementos of the joy of a career in science.

Fred married Elizabeth (Tish) Robinson in 1956, and the couple had two children, Jane Neidhardt and Richard Neidhardt. Fred and Elizabeth divorced in September 1977. Fred later married Germaine (Geri) Chipault, a clinical social worker who taught peer conflict management to teachers and students in grade schools in Ann Arbor and elsewhere in Michigan, and the couple had one son, Marc Chipault.

Fred was raised in the Presbyterian tradition. He was confirmed in the Presbyterian church out of a desire to please his maternal grandmother, and he participated in the Presbyterian church and taught Sunday school there while married to Elizabeth. Nevertheless, from an early age he was deeply troubled by the conflict he perceived between scientific knowledge, traditional Christian myths, and Christian theology's attempts to explain the natural world. This led to an existential crisis in his young adulthood. He took solace in existentialist philosophers, modern Christian

theologians, and the biography of Ishi, the last known survivor of the Yahi Indian genocide in California, who had lived alone in the wilderness area north and east of San Francisco for years before coming to a small town north of San Francisco in 1911. Fred took to heart Ishi's testimony to the values of honesty, loyalty, and self-sufficiency, which the surrounding culture appeared to have lost, and Ishi's observation of the lack of wisdom despite abundance of knowledge in American non-Native culture.

At times, Fred considered himself an atheist. For over thirty years, albeit with reservations, Fred worshiped at St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor and became part of that community. He gave his second wife Geri and his son Marc much credit for his renewed interest in his spiritual life. However, he read the Book of Common Prayer critically and, of the Thirty-nine Articles of Faith in the book, "threw out all except one and a half."

After the death of his wife Geri, he undertook a period of deep reflection. The result was a leading to join the Religious Society of Friends. He found the Quakers to be a spiritual home where he could develop his ethical insight and sense of the numinous free from intellectual restrictions, and in their company he began to travel a journey of spirituality, humanistic ethics, and social concern. He began attending Ann Arbor Friends Meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan in the spring of 2006, and was welcomed into membership on March 18, 2007. He served on their Peace and Social Concerns and Environment and Social Concerns Committees.

He transferred his membership to Pima Friends Meeting on February 15, 2009. While there, his gifts came into full force. He served on the Peace and Social Concerns, Nominating, and Membership and Marriage Committees of Pima Monthly Meeting. He bore a particular testimony against torture, which led him to work with the American Friends Service Committee in Arizona against torture and solitary confinement, to convince Pima Friends Meeting to join the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), and to serve on the NRCAT Participating Members Council as Pima Meeting's representative.

Frederick Neidhardt died October 7, 2016 in Tucson, Arizona of injuries from a fall following a long period of neurodegenerative illness. His first wife and all of his children survive him, as does his sister Carol Karsner. His second wife preceded him in death on January 23, 2006. A celebration of his life was held at Academy Village on October 11, 2016. His ready wit, good humor, and sense of ethics and compassion touched all who knew him. He will be missed tremendously.

## Memorial Minute for Bob Eastburn

Bob Eastburn was born in Wilmington, Delaware May 17, 1946. His mother was a Quaker and although she didn't attend Meeting often, Bob acquired a sense of what it meant to be a Quaker that would guide him throughout his life. Bob married Elise Foy in 1968. They would have celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at the end of January.

Through their life together they attended several Quaker Meetings. The first was Appoquinimink (DE) Monthly Meeting which was under the care of the Wilmington (DE) Meeting. It was quite small, consisting of two couples, including Bob and Elise. They also attended Fort Meyers (FL), Third Haven (MD), Santa Fe (NM) and others, finally landing in Flagstaff in 2002. Shortly after coming to Flagstaff they transferred their membership from the Wilmington Meeting to Flagstaff Meeting. It was here that they really started to learn in more depth about Quakerism. Although Bob didn't have much training as a Quaker he had lived as one through his life. He valued the community here and regretted that his Parkinson's disease kept him from participating more fully in the life of the Meeting.

Bob graduated from the University of Delaware with an undergraduate degree in geology. He then graduated from a Delaware community college with a degree in industrial engineering. Bob and Elise then moved to Illinois so that he could pursue his master's degree in agronomy. This pursuit was interrupted when his stipend was terminated due to his professor's move to Israel.

While they were in Illinois, Elise worked as a nurse's aide. One of the nurses she worked with told Bob that Elise really should be a nurse. When she tried to enroll in nursing school she was told that as a married woman she would be a corrupting influence on the pure young women learning to be nurses, so she was not allowed to enroll. Bob decided that she should be a nurse so they left their life in Illinois and returned to Delaware where Elise became a nurse. Bob got quite a bit of criticism for giving up his career so his wife could also have a career. To him it just made sense because they were equal.

On their return to Delaware, Bob went to work at the University of Delaware in agriculture and agronomy. While working he decided to continue his pursuit of a master's in Agronomy which he was able to attain. During his work he used his industrial engineering skills to make one of a kind equipment that was need for experimental research. After discovering that the work he was doing might be weaponized by the CIA, he resigned.

Bob had an abiding love of tools and how to use them to make things that people needed and to repair things instead of throwing them away. For example, a veterinarian friend who was prohibited from posting a sign identifying her business. Bob's solution was to make metal silhouettes of a horse, a cat, a dog, and a parrot that he installed on her lawn.

Bob and Elise didn't have any children of their own, but they were given the opportunity to help a good friend whose daughter sees the world through an ADHD perspective. Her hyperactivity was a strain on her parents so Bob and Elise took her in and helped her learn to deal with the world. She resided with the Eastburns three different times while she was growing up. These shared times brought them so close that both Bob and Elise came to see her as their daughter.

Due to his Parkinson's, Bob's loud and boisterous way of speaking was interpreted by some as anger; however he was a kind, gentle, humorous and loving man. Bob Eastburn passed away in Elise's arms at the Winslow Campus of Care on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## **Memorial Minute for Paul E. Wehr**

Paul E. Wehr was born March 1, 1937 and passed away peacefully at home in Boulder, Colorado on November 17, 2017. The son of Julian and Julie (Laubinger) Wehr, Paul grew up in rural Vermont and Connecticut with his parents, brother, sister and three grandparents. He was raised with a deep sense of responsibility to pacifist ideals, hard work, and nature. Based upon this foundation, Paul built a life committed to Quaker values of peace, connectedness, environmental stewardship, and community service. He combined his life experiences and service in peace and environmental work with an academic career focused on the pioneering fields of peace, conflict management and social movement theory. Thus guided by this wholistic approach, Paul actualized his ideals in all aspects of his life and created new avenues for understanding and building just and peaceful communities.

During his time as a college and as a graduate student, Paul laid the groundwork for his pioneering work that combined peace and justice activism and scholarly analysis. Paul's bent for social engagement found an outlet in Quaker sponsored service. His initial encounters with Quaker service work included volunteering with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) projects in European work camps and then in North Africa with French Algerian war refugees during the early 60s. The experience of working with Quakers and others dedicated to refugee relief and peacebuilding amid war and its aftermath, provided Paul with the focus for his PhD thesis at the University of Pennsylvania. His first teaching position was at Haverford College where he set up a Center for Non-Violent Conflict Resolution and taught innovative courses that often provided social service internships in the local community. While engaged in this work, Paul met Kenneth and Elise Boulding and Gilbert White, Quakers and scholars committed to promoting the emerging interdisciplinary field of peace and conflict studies. These relationships led, in the early 70s, to Paul's being hired as a sociology professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Paul's career at CU spanned four decades where he continued to weave scholarship with hands-on service work in social activism. His pathbreaking research was the groundwork for publications and inventive courses in social movements, conflict management and environmental sociology. These afforded his students unique experiential learning opportunities such as nonviolent participation in the protests at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons production facility during the 80s and with Colorado communities challenged by social change and environmental degradation. Along with the Bouldings, he helped to create CU's Peace and Conflict Studies Program (still ongoing) which provides alternative approaches to analyzing war, peace and social justice.

Paul received numerous awards for his creative ideas and pioneering scholarship as well as in recognition of his many personal "peacemaker" contributions that benefitted countless individuals and organizations. These include the distinguished Robin Williams Award granted by 'the Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section' of the American Sociological Association. The Denver AFSC presented Paul with their annual Jack Gore Memorial Peace Award and most recently the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center awarded him the Elise Boulding Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifelong commitment to creating awareness about and promoting Peace and Nonviolence Learning.

Paul's environmental ethic was another element of his approach to living a holistic life. Concern for environmental sustainability and conservation of resources was an essential part of his scholarship and teaching. Paul took this concern one step further in the 1970s by building an eco-friendly home using solar energy and implementing a wise and limited use of resources. In addition, his deep love of nature led to his purchase in 1972 of land in DownEast Maine where he built a cottage and spent summers. This retreat nourished his soul and became a haven for friends and relatives to gather and experience the beauty of the coast. Recently he and his wife donated the wooded acreage and shore access to the National Wildlife Federation to ensure that this land would be preserved in its natural state for generations to come.

An essential aspect of Paul's life was his involvement with Quakers. He became a member of Boulder Friends Meeting in the 70s and remained a faithful attender for the rest of his life. Weekly worship grounded him to serve the Meeting in any number of ways including clerk of the Meeting, member on the Oversight and Membership Committee, and long-time member of the Peace and Justice Committee. Paul continued his involvement with the AFSC, serving for many years as Boulder Meeting's liaison with the Denver office of the AFSC. For decades, Paul stood at the Meeting's weekly silent vigil for peace on the Boulder mall and he and his wife Christiane (Griffin-Wehr) ran the grocery card program which earned thousands of dollars for the Denver AFSC each year. Paul not only demonstrated the Quaker practice of service, but he also had a gift for connecting to others through kindness and compassion. His warm smile conveyed a heartfelt welcome for each person as a distinct and valuable individual. In this and many other ways he helped to create community, the core of Quaker faith and practice.

Paul is survived by his wife Christiane (Griffin-Wehr), her family (Curtis, wife Nicole, and daughter Allie), daughter Kirsten (Ron, son Alexander), sister Jeanine (Lawrence Jones, children Mark, Juliet), sister-in-law Nancy (children David, Paul, and Jennifer), niece Leah and eight grandnieces and nephews.

A memorial service to celebrate Paul E. Wehr's life was held on December 16, 2017.

## **Memorial Minute for Ruth Corwin Meyer**

Ruth Corwin Meyer, a birthright Friend, died May 11, 2017, in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Born September 21, 1933, in Rochester, New York, she was the only child of Elizabeth and George Corwin, founders of the Wilton Connecticut Monthly Meeting. Ruth began piano lessons in grade school with a teacher who told her parents she had no aptitude. Fortunately they found a more insightful teacher. Ruth went on to study piano and French horn at the Conservatory at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, and graduated in 1955. She earned an M.A. in music at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and received a Fulbright in 1957 to study at the Mozarteum Academy for Music and the Performing Arts in Salzburg, Austria. At the Mozarteum Ruth met Martin Beat Meyer, a Swiss student of conducting. They were married under the care of the Wilton Friends Meeting, and on completing their studies, lived briefly in Switzerland, then in the United States.

After their divorce in 1965 Ruth moved to Boulder to begin a doctoral program in musical arts at the University of Colorado. Her first teaching position was at the Oberlin Conservatory, having been invited to replace her own professor, Jack Radunsky, for the 1969 fall semester. Finishing her degree in 1970, Ruth taught piano for two years at Western Colorado University in Gunnison. There she became a close friend of oboist Forest Cornwell, his wife Jessie, and their three children, a relationship that endured and flourished through the years. Later, the family moved to Montana and Ruth to Portales to chair the piano department at Eastern New Mexico University, but she visited many summers and at Christmastime. They became her adopted family.

At Eastern Ruth taught piano, piano pedagogy, and piano literature and also ran the piano preparatory department. With her colleagues, violinist Katherine Thayer and cellist Art Welker, she played for several years in a Trio. An outstanding teacher, Ruth always treated her students with patience and great respect. She cared for them as individuals: if they were struggling financially she found a way to help them earn money. They would sometimes live or travel with her. For many of them, her teaching was an “incomparable gift.”

Upon retirement in 1989, Ruth moved to Rio Rancho, NM, where she continued to teach pedagogy and piano to area teachers. She also tutored math at a local middle school. A brain aneurysm in 1994 abruptly changed Ruth's way of living. Losing her short-term memory ended her independence but did not dim her buoyant, warm, generous spirit. When her assisted living facility closed, Brenda Oates, the manager, invited Ruth to live in her Paradise Hills home where she became part of a vibrant extended family. Nor did Ruth lose the ability to play music that she already knew or to learn new pieces. She and her friend Janis often played and performed four-hand compositions. Also, her joy and appreciation of live classical music remained strong.



Along with Ruth's devotion to music and her students was her lifelong commitment to the Religious Society of Friends. Growing up in the Wilton Meeting, she attended First Day School and took part in many Young Friends activities. To celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday--"a gift to myself" Ruth called it--she took leave in order to live and study during the 1983-84 academic year at Pendle Hill, the Quaker educational community in Wallingford, Pennsylvania. For Ruth this was a meaningful new experience. She often spoke about her teacher, Dyck Vermilye, who made a lasting impression. Ruth's bequest to Pendle Hill reflects its deep spiritual influence. In February 1990 she transferred her membership to Albuquerque Monthly Meeting where she contributed a quiet steady presence, coming to meetings of the Peace and Social Concern Committee, enjoying third Sunday potluck lunches. Ruth played at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Albuquerque Meeting and bequeathed the Corwin family Bible to the Meeting.

She is survived and remembered by her friends, many of them former students. A joyful memorial meeting to celebrate Ruth's life was held at the Albuquerque Friends Meeting House on July 15, 2017.