

## **Memorial Minute for Anne Sagel Holzner** **November 9, 1931 – July 31, 2018**

Anne Holzner, a beloved, longtime member of Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, was a woman of great warmth and genuine concern for others. Throughout her life, Anne radiated *joie de vivre* and an openness to new experiences. She also gave generously to innumerable causes and charities with the common thread of helping people and advancing justice.

Anne grew up in Gary, Indiana, where her curiosity and lifelong love of nature were kindled by her father, a doctor who specialized in radiology when X-ray technology was new, and her mother, a botanist and naturalist. On outings in the Indiana sand dunes under the loving guidance of their mother, the family were fascinated by tadpoles, butterflies, caterpillars, birds, and the wonders of nature.

She attended Carleton College and then the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where she developed a deep commitment to service and non-violence. At Madison she met Burkart Holzner, an exchange student from Germany, whom she married in 1955. Their three children, Steve (1957–2013), Dan (born 1961), and Claire (born 1964), all attended Meeting and its First Day School.

Anne's Quaker life actually began at an AFSC work camp in Washington, DC, during a summer break from Carleton College. David Ritchie, who began the concept of Quaker work camps, became her mentor while they rehabilitated housing for the poor. It was there that she had her first experience of a Quaker meeting for worship. Anne participated in a second work camp a couple of years later in a Chicago mental hospital. There she learned about the field of mental health, and her appetite for sociology and psychology developed.

Anne earned a master's degree in social work at the University of Pittsburgh and worked for over 30 years as a social worker and psycho-therapist. She concentrated on a variety of women's and family issues, such as the Maternal Addiction Project, which worked to prevent emotional disturbances in young children. Anne was a psychotherapist at St. Francis Hospital and later at the Whale's Tale, a women's and children's residential home. In 1990 Anne helped to found Sojourner House in East Liberty, a women's residential drug and alcohol treatment center. In 1991 she joined the Northern Southwest Community Mental Health Center, where she did individual and group therapy for adults with varying mental health issues. Later she worked for some years as a psychotherapist at Mt. Washington Psychiatric Services.

At the same time, Anne became an active member of the Meeting, where she spent many years as a teacher of middle and high school-aged youngsters and worked towards the Quaker principles of peace and social justice. For example, during the Vietnam era and later, she counseled would-be conscientious objectors through the Meeting Peace Center. When the Meeting received funds in 1987 for the purpose of "feeding hungry children," Anne co-clerked the committee formed to determine how the funds would be disbursed. She described Quakerism as "a practical religion that could act as an everyday guide," especially valuing Friends' principles of simplicity, nonviolence, and social justice.

Several years after Anne and Burkart were divorced in 1981, Anne married Samuel Prellwitz, an engineer with US Steel and also an active member of the Meeting, under the care of the Meeting. After Sam's death in 1999, Anne continued working as long as she could, even after she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. In the last few months of her life, Anne was very well cared for by the staff at The Oaks, Westminster Woods, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, just a five-minute drive from the home of her daughter Claire. Anne is survived and deeply missed by her children, Dan (Richmond, California) and Claire (Huntingdon, Pennsylvania); her twin brother, David Sagel, and his children Jack, Anna, and Judy, as well as their mother Dorothy; and her sister, Sally Polinski, along with her children, Linda and Adam.

Anne will be missed as well by all who knew and loved her.