

Memorial minute for Kirk Burns Roose

(July 12, 1946 – April 27, 2018)

Kirk Burns Roose, 71, an attorney, tennis player, activist, and barbershop harmony aficionado, died peacefully at home in Oberlin, OH on April 27, 2018, after a long illness.

Kirk was born in New Haven, Conn., and spent much of his childhood in Oberlin. He attended Swarthmore College — where he met Diana Wickes, who would become his wife of 49 years — and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. In 1980, after a stint on the East Coast, they returned to Oberlin, where he started his own law practice, specializing in Social Security disability law.

A member Oberlin Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) since 1990, Kirk and his wife and sons brought new life to the Meeting in the 1990's when membership was limited to a few adults and college student attenders. Kirk served Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM) on a committee tasked with creating guidelines to insure the safety of children and adults during LEYM events. He remained politically active throughout his life, with special concern for issues of social and economic justice. Early in his career, he worked for Ralph Nader's Center for Study of Responsive Law, as a lawyer for the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, and an attorney for the Fair Share Housing Center in Cherry Hill, N.J.

He enjoyed playing tennis and walking along the shore of Lake Erie. He is survived by his wife Diana; his sons, Carl and Kevin; his mother, Gretchen; and his siblings, Tina, Deborah, and Paul. His father, Kenneth D. Roose, died in 2016.