

Memorial Minute
For Louise Luckenbill
Nov. 19, 1936-Nov. 17, 2020
Approved Jan. 16, 2021

Louise Luckenbill died on November 17, 2020, at Kendal in Oberlin, Ohio.

Louise was born on November 19, 1936 in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, United States. She was the daughter of Fred E. and Anna G. (Mengel) Luckenbill.

Louise received a Bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in 1958 and she completed postgraduate work at Washington University, St. Louis in 1961. Louise received her Doctor of Philosophy from Brown University in 1964.

Louise was a research instructor at Brown University Medical School, a Science fellow at Hubrecht Laboratory, Utrecht, The Netherlands and an assistant professor at Smith College. She then went on to instruct at Harvard Medical School and in 1977, Louise became the first woman basic scientist hired by the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine to teach medical students. Louise also had a continuing professional relationship with the Marine Biology Laboratory of the University of Chicago in Woods Hole, MA, where she spent many summers as a lab and library researcher. In addition to having a keen intellectual mind, Louise was a talented artist and was particularly interested in the marriage of science and art, which she actively pursued up until a few weeks before she passed.

Louise was drawn to Friends during her years teaching at Ohio University and became a member of Athens Monthly Meeting in 1981. Upon her retirement from Ohio U. Louise transferred her membership Sandwich Friends Meeting on Cape Cod in 2001.

Following her marriage to Oberlin classmate Harvey Culbert in 2009, Louise joined Harvey at the Kendal Retirement Community in Oberlin, OH. They split their year between Cape Cod and OH. She became deeply involved with Oberlin Meeting during the months of the year when she and Harvey were in Oberlin and became a Sojourning Member of Oberlin Meeting. Even though she spent many months each year on Cape Cod, Louise co-clerked the Ministry and Nurture Committee in Oberlin Meeting. She carried a deep concern for the quality and depth of the Meeting's worship. She faithfully participated in monthly Meetings for Healing and Friendly Bible Study. She led a number of discussion groups for Meeting members and attenders, including one focused on The Book of Joy by the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas C. Abrams. She also led a multi-session workshop for Quakers and other Kendal residents on both Rex Ambler's book "Light to Live By"; 2002, and Ambler's 2013 Pendle Hill pamphlet "The Light Within, Then and Now"; 2013.

During the final months of her life Louise adapted to both worship and study groups held virtually. She had a deep sense of her spiritual center and wanted to have a variety of Quaker volumes at hand during this time of letting go.